**Alliance Board Teleconference – February 17, 2012**

**Participants**

*Alliance Board Members:* Chris Brown (Chair), John Gregory (Vice Chair), Jaydeep Mukherjee (Secretary); Yervant Terzian, Dick Henry, Mary Sandy, Peter Schultz, Angela DesJardin, Terry Shehata, Steve Ruffin,

Guests*:* Carolyn Fuller (VSA), Joe Danek (VSA), Elizabeth Belton (VSA), Chris Koehler (ExComm), Jobi Cook (NCSG)

*Not participating:* Jack Higginbotham

**Welcome – Chris Brown**

Chris introduced Jobi Cook, Associate Director of NCSG to the group. She will be taking minutes of the Alliance meetings while Jaydeep takes a leave from Secretarial duties.

**President’s Budget for 2013**

NASA’s budget:

* $144M for NASA
	+ $100M for NASA Education
		- $24M for Space Grant

Other federal education agencies saw an increase to their 2013 budgets (DoEd, NSF, DHS)

* OMB/OSTP drivers for these increases/cuts (NASA education didn’t contribute as much to direction of administration?)
* COSTEM report:
	+ Federal education initiatives to focus on the following:
		- Underserved populations
		- Pre/in service educators
		- Undergraduate programs (targeting 1st/2nd year students)
	+ Reduce number of funded STEM programs (redundancy)

**Hill Strategy – Spring 2012**

What should the NSGA ‘ask’ be? Options for discussion:

* $45.6M (same as last year)
* $40M (FY11 appropriated level)
* $45.6M plus language that to suggest that “this increase comes with an equivalent increase to the NASA Education budget”

Chris Brown working with Diane to obtain current data to incorporate into fact sheet

Discussion:

* Should avoid using the term “increase”
* Recommended that NASA tie-in left out – if NASA Education increase not approved that may mean SG is not increased
* Recommended that Board work with subcommittee staff so that language can be incorporated
* Important to emphasize that SG is a Congressional program first, not necessarily a NASA program
* What are consequences if SG receives $45.6M and NASA Education remains at $100M?
	+ According to Leland Melvin (during phone conversation between Chris Brown/Koehler, “we (NASA Education) would be broken”; office would be ineffective in achieving metrics in education
	+ Some on Board felt that Leland may be less likely to work with SG if this happens (cuts to NASA Education were made at level above Bolden – Leland did advocate for all NASA Education programs, including SG)

Summary:

* Ask will be $45.6M with allocation language for states
* First paragraph of NSGA fact sheet needs to include NASA Education
* During Hill meetings, point out that SG is part of NASA Education ; we want credit for our advocacy of NASA

Action: Modify 2012 NSGA Fact Sheet to reflect recommendations of the Alliance Board

Who: Chris Brown

Status: Done

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm

*Minutes submitted by Jobi Cook of the NC Space Grant*