**Alliance Board Teleconference – March 15, 2012**

**Participants**

*Alliance Board Members:* Chris Brown (Chair), John Gregory (Vice Chair), Majid Jaridi (Treasurer); Yervant Terzian, Mary Sandy, Peter Schultz, Angela DesJardin, Terry Shehata

Others:Joe Danek (TIG), Elizabeth Armstrong (VSA), Chris Koehler (ExComm), Jobi Cook (NCSG)

*Not participating:* Jaydeep Mukerjee, Jack Higginbotham, Steve Ruffin, Dick Henry,

**Congressional Visit Follow-Up**

During recent SG Congressional visits (Spring Meeting), the original approach was to ask Members to send letters of support to the CJS House/Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Chair and Ranking Member. SG Director feedback:

* Some Members preferred ‘Dear Colleague Letters’ and that they would be willing to start the letter.
* Many Members preferred to submit their own programmatic requests.
* Some states willing to write letter of support but without any dollar amount included.
* In TX and AL, the whole delegation sends in one request as a state.

Mary Sandy indicated that Chairman Wolf (VA) would accept any form of support. Board agreed to keep original approach.

**FY13 Request Amount**

Chris Brown brought the Board’s attention a conversation he had with NCSU’s Federal Affairs Representative (FAR). The FAR indicated that we should have been better off asking for the FY11 amount of $40M versus $45.5M. VSA/TIG recommended that the SG request be at $45.5M and the Board acknowledged that this was an appropriate amount.

**SG Funding Survey**

All SG Directors were sent a funding survey (administered by Erica Miles at NYSG) to assist the Alliance in better understanding the flow of NASA funding to consortia. This information has been compiled (in excel format) and clearly shows that funding delays are rampant across all consortia (it was noted that other federal programs are having the same issues). The goal is to share this information with Diana Simpson, staffer on the House Appropriations Committee.

Yervant Terzian stated that before information was released to Ms. Simpson, the following should be considered:

* Remove all state identifying features
* Include a summary of what this data means

The Board agreed that these things be addressed prior to release to Ms. Simpson.

ACTION: Compile data and remove state identifiers. Develop a draft narrative to explain data and implications to SG.

Who: Joe Danek (TIG) will draft narrative; SG Directors (VA, NC) will review narrative

Status:

**Bolden’s Testimony before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation**

See complete testimony here:

<http://nasawatch.com/archives/2012/03/nasa-budget-tes.html>

It is important to note that SG was mentioned in Bolden’s comments; an Ohio Senator was distressed to see the NASA Education budget so low – she understood that reductions needed to be made, but not happy that such significant cuts were made to NASA Education.

There is a hearing next week and VSA/TIG noted that anyone could testify (deadline to submit names is 3/16); testimony is limited to 4 minutes but anyone can submit written testimony of no more than 5 pages. Written testimony due March 22.

ACTION: Develop a SG written testimony to give to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Include data on STEM and K12 education.

Who: Joe Danek (TIG) will draft narrative; Mar Sandy will provide Joe Danek with presentation that has data

Status:

**2012 Transition Meeting**

Yervant Tezian provided a list of possible dates for the 2012 Transition meeting:

July 19-20 (ideal date)

July 5-6

July 26-27

Attendees would include new Ex-Comm members as well as Alliance and Foundation Chair. There were conflicts on all dates so it was decided that Yervant would select the date that best fits within the Ex-Comm’s schedule.

**Alliance Resignation**

Yervant Terzian is resigning from the Alliance Board effective June 30, 2012. As newly-elected Chair of the Ex-Comm, Yervant will continue to participate in the Alliance telecons and Board meetings as an Ex-Officio member. The Alliance Chair (Chris Brown) can appoint someone to serve in Yervant’s seat until a vot can be held at the next National Space Grant Director’s meeting

ACTION: Alliance Chair will appoint someone to fill the Board seat that is being vacated by Yervant Terzian, effective June 30, 2012.

Who: Chris Brown

Status:

Telecon adjourned at 4:00 pm

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