**National Space Grant Alliance Board of Directors Telecon Meeting**

**March 28, 2011**

**Participants**: Chris Brown, Jaydeep Mukherjee, Mary Sandy, John Gregory, Angela De Jardins, Dick Henry, and Terry Shehata. **Guests**: Carolyn Fuller

**Approval of Alliance Board Meeting Minutes for March 1, 2011:** Dick Henry moved to approve the minutes. Mary Sandy seconded the motion. All voted in favor

**FY 2012 Options on Dear Colleague Letter: (Carolyn Fuller and Chris Brown)**

Carolyn Fuller reported to the Board that she was keeping an eye in what others are doing on the Hill. Based on her observations, she mentioned that there are 4 possible options for the Dear Colleague letter.

1. Go full steam ahead. Present letter consistent with previous letters. ($45.6 million plus language)

Pros: Requests a minimum need

Consistent with previous request

Provides guidance to NASA

 Cons: May not be realistic in current environment

 May secure far fewer signatures

1. Letter with general support language but no number

 Pros: May be better received in House

 May secure more signatures

 Cons: Does not direct NASA

 Does not seek to protect current funding

1. Letter with “not less than FY 2008 levels”

 Pros: Supported by some House Republicans

 Cons: Would result in agreeing to a reduction

d.   No letter

 Pros: No general publicity on a request

 Cons: Forego opportunity to make case

Carolyn mentioned that there should be a minimum of 60 or 70 signatures from the House side, otherwise it is not worth doing a letter. She also added that other than NIH no Dear Colleague letters have been circulated. Chris Brown told the Board that after discussions with Carolyn the best option was to go ahead with the present draft of the Dear Colleague letter using the authorization language which asks for $45.6M

**Possible FY 2012 letter to House and Senate chairs and ranking members from SG Directors:**

Chris Brown mentioned that if there were not enough signatures on the Dear Colleague letter then we should send a letter signed by as many Directors as possible to the House and Senate Chair and Ranking members. He then circulated a draft of the letter.

**FY 2011 Continuing Resolution – in preparation for follow-on vehicle to April 8 CR.**

Carolyn Fuller told the Board that the current CR is ending on April 8, 2011. She added that she is not inclined to do a lot more now.

**Action Items and Assignments**

* Carolyn will send the House Dear Colleague letter to Mary Sandy and Dick Henry
* Carolyn will send last year’s signed Dear Colleague letter to Dick Henry, Mary Sandy and Chris Brown

**Next telecon is Thursday, April 21 at 3 pm eastern. Call 866 390 5250, code 783 2281 #**

Telecon adjourned at 4:40PM