**Alliance Board Teleconference – April 21, 2011**

**Participants**

*Alliance Board Members:* Chris Brown (Chair), John Gregory (Vice Chair), Majid Jaraiedi (Treasurer), Mary Sandy (Past Chair); Yervant Terzian, Angela DesJardin, Terry Shehata, Paul Johnson, Dick Henry

*Guests:* Carolyn Fuller (VSA), Joe Danek (TIG), Chris Koehler (ExComm)

*Not participating:* Jaydeep Mukherjee (Secretary), Peter Schultz, Pay Hynes

**FY 2011 Budget Update**

CR passed by House/Senate; President signed

* ~$145M for NASA Education
* Agencies must submit operating plan within 30 days; NASA will most likely follow FY10 operating levels (though not in writing)
* Problem: not enough $ for minority programs at authorized level (~$12M short); no $ for new initiatives

(Mary Sandy – per someone in NASA Education)

Funding will be same for Space Grant in FY11 and will honor authorization language ($45.6M); Rep. Wolfe (VA) asked her to keep his office informed if SG comes up short this year so they could take a look at NASA spending plan allocation

(John Gregory – per Chris Koehler)

Funds for Space Grant has not been released to Stennis (for base funding); no problems with SG FY10 progress reports; NASA should move quickly with funding release because of pending programs (Carolyn)

**FY 2012 Budget Plan**

Lobbying activity has been put off because of CR; now that budget has passed need to shift gears within the next two weeks and identify DCL sponsors and obtain signatures and have ready for Congress ( will be in session for a month before summer recess)

(Mary Sandy) Due to a lack of response from Rep. Bartlett’s (MD) office, Rep. Scott (VA) drafted letter himself and sent out to Chairs and Ranking Members in the House; need another Democrat sponsor, perhaps Rep. Capuano (MA)

**ACTION 1:** DCL and Obtaining Sponsors

* Carolyn Fuller will review Chris Brown’s edits to House DCL
* Carolyn Fuller will send Chris Brown the final House and Senate DCLs
* Chris Brown will send DCL letter to Raji (MA) and ask her to make initial contact with Rep. Capuano’s office
* Chris Brown will next send DCL to Dick Henry (MD) and ask for him to follow up with Rep. Bartlett’s office

**STATUS:**

Recommended number of signatures on DCL: House: 70-80 signatures

Senate: 25-30 signatures

Need to develop a Space Grant Director’s letter to accompany DCL to demonstrate nationwide support for the SG Program; this letter would be sent to Chair/Ranking Member

Diane’s presentation from DC showed current data on the number of Affiliates in the SG network: 52 state-based consortia comprise the National Network and involve 987 affiliate partners which include 652 institutions of higher education, 87 industries, 83 governmental entities (Federal/State/Local), 76 museum/science centers, and 89 other local partners.

**ACTION 2:** Carolyn Fuller will develop a draft SG Director’s letter after the DCL sponsors have been identified and send to Chris Brown

**STATUS:**

**Strategic Plan**

Two version of the strategic plan were emailed to Board members prior to telecom; 2003 version and 2010-15 version

It was suggested that the Board not think too far into the future. However it was noted that it was very important to have a short list of people to be on our “team” and broaden our advocacy efforts to other agencies (OMB, OSTP)

Chris Koehler shared:

* The only way for the SG budget to increase is for the Office of Education (OE) budget to increase. We need to consider pursuing ways to weave OE into the message we bring to the Hill.
* In FY11, OE programs divided into 5 “buckets” – funds can be moved within each bucket but NOT between buckets.
* In FY12, OE programs will be divided into 2 “buckets” – (1) Space Grant/EPSCoR, and (2) all other programs; SG is becoming more and more recognized in OE as a prominent program.

**Alliance Board Telecon Schedule for 2011**

Next telecon set for Thursday, May 19 at 3 pm eastern.

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