

Board of Directors of the National Space Grant Alliance

Minutes of the June 26-27, 2003, Meeting at Moffett Field, California

Members Present: John Gregory (Chair), Bill Byrd, Fred DeJarnette, Bill Hiscock (*ex officio*), Richard Hackney, Richard Henry, Pat Hynes, Mary Sandy, Yervant Terzian, John Wefel, and Brad Weiner.

Consultant: Joe Danek

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Chair John Gregory convened the Alliance Board of Directors meeting at 1 pm.

FY 03 Budget

We were successful in keeping the \$5M markup for the second year, in a difficult year (post 9/11). Except for EPSCoR and Space Grant, every earmark was taxed by Congress. The upgrade money for the three new designees has been put in place. The workforce component has not yet been decided.

FY 04 Budget Request

Our request is for \$29.8M, compared with the present budget of \$24.1M, and the President's request that includes (presumably) \$19.1M. NASA did not break out Space Grant as a separate item in the President's budget. The Alliance has sent a letter to representatives on the appropriations subcommittee asking that they specify an amount, and not just an increase, for Space Grant. Also presented was a draft of proposed wording for inclusion in the bill, including a statement of purpose for the funding.

Our proposed FY 04 budget includes \$5M for upgrades and workforce development, and \$5.7M for up to 7 new upgrades and an added \$50,000 for each phase II state. The idea of "extension" grants was discussed, as a basis for distributing the added funds in line with contextual needs of individual states, as proposed by the states. It could include funding for states to take the lead in developing national programs in which others can participate. An important issue is how to address the needs of the large-population states. The corresponding section of the Five-Year Plan will be revised and brought to the membership for a vote of acceptance at the Kansas meeting in Fall 2003.

Joe Danek described the situation on the Hill at the present time. It's a very tight year for all programs in the federal appropriations. The bills are being marked up at a fast pace (7 in the House already, with 6 left). We expect VA-HUD-IA will be marked up in the House around July 16, with the Senate following within a week or two. We have a large number of signers on the dear colleague letters. However, the bills thus far have not been giving substantial increases in appropriations (e.g., 2% for education), with no earmarks included in the bills. They're basically following the President's budget, with opportunities in conference for adding earmarks. We have to be prepared to really move in the next two weeks. VSA will be asking those with key players to help with critical contacts. Several board members volunteered to call the critical directors to insure that the contacts are made.

Authorization Bill

The Board agreed that the Five-Year Plan is the basis of our request for inclusion in the authorization bill. The work on the bill will probably come much later in the year, after the Shuttle issues are resolved.

Proposal for Self Evaluation

Pat Hynes proposed that each Board perform a self-evaluation. The Board voted not to do so.

The Board meeting adjourned at 4:15pm

(continued on Friday, June 27, 2003)

Friday, June 27, 2003

John Gregory re-convened the meeting at 1:15pm.

Actions Needed for Mark-up

John Gregory asked volunteers to remind directors who have members on the VA-HUD-IA appropriations subcommittees, and to be sure that contacts are made just prior to mark-up.

John provided a list of the members who signed the dear colleague letters. There may be logistical problems affecting the number of signatures that can be collected in a narrow window by the staffer who coordinates the effort.

Treasurer's Report

Pat Hynes reported on the status of dues payments: 33 have paid, 5 are not going to pay, and there remain 14 states from which to collect. Based on payment and expense assumptions, we will have a balance of about \$13,000 at the end of the year. With no new payments, there would be a deficit of about \$19,000. Pat asked for assistance with calling directors who need to be encouraged to pay dues.

Review of the Alliance Contracts with VSA/TIG

Pat led a discussion of evaluating our contractors. We have not requested activity reports. The Chair has the responsibility for communications of policy with VSA/TIG. We should ask for a report in order to be able to assess the work and to represent it to the membership. That should be in the statement of work. It is the Board's responsibility to communicate to the membership the services and effectiveness of the contractors.

A motion was passed unanimously to have the Board form a committee of three to evaluate VSA/TIG and report its recommendation to the Board. The committee will be appointed by the Chair. The appointees are Mary Sandy (chair), Elaine Hansen, and Brad Weiner. The Board expects a short written report evaluating the work of VSA/TIG for the Alliance and making recommendations. VSA/TIG will be asked for a report on their work in August.

The Alliance Board meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

Draft minutes by Richard Hackney, Secretary