

Board of Directors of the National Space Grant Alliance

Minutes of the March 19, 2003, Meeting in Crystal City, Virginia

Presiding: John Gregory convened the meeting at 8:15am.

Participating: Lisa Brown, Bill Hiscock, John Gregory, Sam Durrance, Pat Hynes, Richard Hackney, Jean Teasdale, Richard Henry, Brent Bowen, Mary Sandy, Brad Weiner, John Gardner, Mike Wiskerchen, Bill Byrd, David Downing, Peter Sukanek, Yervant Terzian, John Wefel, Terry Shehata

Consultants: JoeDanek, Colette Marchesini-Pollock, Carri Booth, Dina Katsev

Non-members Present: Chittaranjan Sahay (CT Director), Jack Higgenbotham (Interim Dir. OR), Susan Brew (AZ).

Overview and Announcements

Congressment Boehlert and Mark Udall (CO) will co-author the House "Dear Colleague" letter.

Colette handed out state packets for Hill visits, and discussed them, including the talking-points sheets, our justification for the request, biographies of the Congress, and a contact sheet (one page per state). She announced that she would later discuss current budget climate -- it will be a tough year, and it is very important to say how the increase will make a difference.

Carri said that the deadlines for budget requests will be April 15 this year. Some may have had individual requests due March 15. We need to ask them to sign the "Dear Colleague" letter for a \$29.8M appropriation. We're not asking for individual letters at this point. We will need a Director to testify before the House subcommittee. The Senate will not have a hearing, but we will submit a letter of testimony. We should follow up with thank yous for the visit, and any materials they asked for. Carri discussed the content of the Powerpoint handout, including the concept of how the additional money will be used.

In the current year, we must get specific language with an amount. There is nothing explicitly stated in the President's budget regarding Space Grant or a budgeted amount.

John Gregory discussed the five-year plan draft. It is internal only, as a planning document, and not for external distribution. The Alliance Board has approved the plan, and it will be presented to the Alliance this afternoon. In summary, we propose to eliminate the two-tiered funding system, and to have two funding levels that are competitively based, to implement an extension award system, and to increase total funding over the next five years. The proposed extension awards are meant to address the needs of states with large populations, possible special projects, and leadership of programs that benefit many states.

Fowler Amendment

Wallace Fowler has proposed an amendment that would add a population accommodation award component in the base awards to allow programs to reach larger populations.

Board Motion

The Board recommends the plan in principle and will ask at the Alliance meeting for acceptance of the principle by the membership. It will then study the population amendment issue involving the 9 largest-population states, and bring it for a vote by the membership at the Fall meeting. The motion was unanimously adopted by the Board.

Executive Session

The Alliance Treasurer's report was given by Pat Hynes. We have to either cut expenses or find a way to get everyone to pay dues. Currently, our income and outflow do not match. The problem is that not everyone is paying dues.

The Board meeting adjourned at 10:35am