

# **Board of Directors of the National Space Grant Alliance**

## **Minutes of the February 7, 2003, Meeting in Washington, DC**

**Participating:** John Gregory (presiding), Richard Hackney, Pat Hynes, John Wefel, and Brad Weiner. Via Telephone: Bill Byrd, Bill Hiscock, Mary Sandy, and Yervant Terzian

VSA/TIG: Joe Danek, Carolyn Fuller, Carri Booth, Colette Marchesini-Pollock, Dina Katsev, and Andrea Boldon.

The meeting convened at 9:10am.

### **Review of Budget for FY03**

The conference is scheduled for Monday, February 10. If not successful within the week, then there will probably be a continuing resolution through the end of the year

### **Action Plan for FY04 Budget**

NASA's request for Education is \$26M for the new programs (\$2M Educator Astronaut, \$13M Explorer Schools, \$9M Scholarships for Service, \$2M for Explorer Institutes), out of \$78M for non-minority education programs. Of this, \$52M covers Space Grant, EPSCoR, and all other programs, but is not broken out. The request also includes \$92M for minority programs, plus \$55M to come from the Enterprises.

We don't know what the NASA budget includes for Space Grant. There was no detail in the posted budget (now withdrawn because of Columbia). It is likely that it is \$19.1M.

We have \$29.7M for FY04 in the Five-Year Plan draft. Carolyn says it's OK to go for it, but it will be very difficult. FY04 will be very difficult anyway, because under Republican control it can be difficult to get more than the President's request. The key is to show how we are unique in all of this, particularly emphasizing higher education and workforce development. Joe mentioned that NASA is identifying areas of workforce deficiency, and that we might be able to specifically address those needs.

The Board decided to request \$29.7M for FY04 with the justification to be based on the five-year plan.

### **Adjustments to the Five-Year Funding and Implementation Plan**

The intended audience is the Directors, for acceptance as a long range plan, determining where we want to go. Then, we need to prepare another for presentation of our case. How about working with Code N? We need to have our agenda presented to the new NASA administration as soon as it's appropriate. We should try to get Diaz and Houston to attend the March meeting in DC.

John Gregory summarized the state of organization of NASA's Code N. Adena Loston is AA for Education, and Angela Diaz is Deputy AA. Below her is Clifford Houston, a Deputy AA for Education, in charge of all programs except for the Educator Astronaut Program (which reports at the level above him). Below him are three managers, K-12, Higher Education, and Informal Education, none of whom is yet named.

The Board and Joe Danek together edited the drafts of the Five-Year Plan and the "Backgrounder."

Board members commended Joe Danek and John Gregory for an excellent job in preparing the first draft of the plan.

### **Executive Session**

The Board went into executive session during lunch to discuss financial issues. Bill Byrd and Pat Hynes will draft a questionnaire relating to performance of VSA/TIG to solicit input from the Directors.

After the executive session working lunch, the Board meeting reconvened with participation by VSA/TIG.

**Financial Issues**

The Alliance is having a problem making income exceed expenses. We could either increase our income or decrease our expenses, or a combination thereof. The Board noted to Joe Danek that we may be perhaps 10% behind on our obligations this year, but we won't know for some time. We asked VSA/TIG to estimate possible reductions in services and corresponding retainer costs. We need to do our best to collect the dues, and we can also consider asking the members to raise the dues.

**Materials for Presentation to Directors in March (18-22)**

The request for FY04 will be \$29.7M. \$24.1M will facilitate programs and workforce development. The increase will facilitate competition for 7 new upgrades and provide 3.5M for competition to support targeted specific applications in each state. We need to be prepared to answer "Why is this important when we're going to war?" VSA/TIG will draft a call detailing for the Directors what they need to do in preparation for the March meeting and Hill visits.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.