

Board of Directors of the National Space Grant Alliance
PRIVATE
Minutes of the February 27, 2002, Meeting in Washington, DC

The meeting was convened at 9:00am ET at the offices of VSA/TIG in Washington, DC.

Participating Members of the Alliance Board of Directors: John Gregory (Chair, presiding), Bill Byrd, Richard Hackney, Bill Hiscock, Andy Klein, and Brad Wiener. Members Participating via Telephone: Fred DeJarnette, Jean Teasdale, and Aileen Yingst.

Participating from VSA/TIG: Carri Booth, Joe Danek, and Carolyn Fuller.

1. Approval of the Meeting Agenda and the Minutes of the January 16, 2002, Teleconference

The Board approved the agenda for the meeting, as outlined below, and approved the minutes as read.

2. Financial Report

The Board received the Treasurer's Report for December 2001, prepared by Jean Teasdale, Treasurer. The current balance, after expenses, as of December 31, 2001, was \$33,664.98. As of that time, 46 states had paid dues for 2001. Eight states had paid ahead of time for 2002, providing some income ahead of expenses. All invoices have been paid on time.

3. Foundation Update and Issues

Foundation Chair Bill Byrd discussed several issues before the Foundation. The Foundation may provide a means for helping NASA manage some programs related to Space Grant. It may need to grow and have some staff support to handle funding and management of such programs. There is need for Space Grant Fellows at HQ to help with management of the Space Grant program. Most pressing is Diane's need for an assistant.

The Board noted that getting help for Diane should be a priority for the Alliance. The Board requested that a letter from the Council request the help of the membership in quickly recommending persons who would be interested in and qualified for the position.

4. Discussion of Implementation Plan for the FY'02 \$5 Million Space Grant Augmentation

The Board noted that the distribution announced by NASA is consistent with the request of the Alliance. The proposed distribution is outlined below, and a more-detailed description is being provided to the Alliance membership by way of an Alliance Newsletter being sent by John Gregory.

\$1,000,000	Competitive Upgrades (4)
\$3,500,000	Competitive Workforce Development Supplements (36-52 @\$70-100K/state)
\$ 200,000	Space Grant Fellows (2) to link with Centers
<u>\$ 300,000</u>	Space Grant Program Staff (2)
\$5,000,000	Total

5. March Meeting

The Board considered issues that need to be discussed at the March meeting in DC, including:

- a. A report on the successes of last year, including the \$5M funding increase
- b. Details of implementation of the \$5M funding
- c. Report and advice from VSA/TIG
- d. Discussion and consensus on plan for new money being requested for FY'03
- e. Plan of approach for this year's Hill visits

In preparation for the Hill visits, the Board in consultation with VSA/TIG planned for appropriate resources as follows:

- a. Carri will ask states with VA-HUD-IA Subcommittee members to bring Space Grant students with them for the Hill visits.
- b. Carri will provide the membership with updated lists of key committee memberships and of current staff contacts for each congressional office.
- c. Carri has been working with the offices that signed the "Dear Colleague" letters last year in order to have letters and

- co-authors for us to take around with us on the Hill for asking staffers to get members to co-sign.
- d. The National Space Grant Alliance brochure from last year will be updated and reprinted, with copies provided at the March meeting for us to take to the Hill.
- e. Other materials in support of the selected targeted applications for the new funds will also be provided.
- f. Directors will be asked to prepare the usual 1-pager describing their program for their staffers, plus any other materials that they may find useful for the Hill visits.
- g. The national Space Grant statistical update will be requested from HQ.

6. FY 2003 Budget Review and Discussion

The representatives from VSA/TIG reviewed and discussed with the Board the FY'03 NASA Budget request and the Education Division budget component. The request for Space Grant included in the President's budget request for NASA is \$19.1M, which is down by \$5M from the \$24.1M budget appropriated for FY'02.

7. Report from VSA/TIG

The representatives from VSA/TIG discussed with the Board suggestions for congressional strategy and relationships with the NASA program. The discussion culminated in the Board recommendations concerning the funding target and strategy for the FY'03 budget request, described below.

8. Funding Target and Strategy for 2003 Budget

The Board decided that the funding request for FY'03 should be \$28M, which is consistent with the amount authorized (but not appropriated) for FY'02, and is what was requested for FY'02. The requested \$28M would be an increase of \$3.9M over the FY'02 budget of \$24.1M. The President's budget rolls Space Grant back to \$19.1M, so our request is for an increase of \$8.9M over the President's request. Relative to the President's budget request of \$19.1M, we need \$5M to sustain the upgrades and workforce development activities initiated under the FY'02 budget and an additional \$3.9M for new initiatives that we must be able to justify and sell on the Hill.

The Board proposes that the strongest and most sellable plan for the \$3.9M is:

- a. \$1.35M to facilitate 6 competitive upgrades
- b. \$2.55M to permit states to participate in a national program of student space mission opportunities, to be designated as the National Student Satellite Program (NSSP)

The NSSP would include a wide spectrum of student space mission possibilities, including Citizen Explorer, CubeSat, balloons, sounding rockets, etc., in a national program with all consortia participating at their own appropriate levels, learning from and assisting each other, consistent with the goals in the Space Grant planning document. Information describing some existing opportunities is available at:

<http://ssp.arizona.edu/sgsatellites/downloads.html>

<http://ssp.arizona.edu/sgsatellites/programs.shtml>

Descriptive information will be available for use in the Hill visits.

The Board proposes the Foundation as the mechanism for coordinating the NSSP activities. Board members emphasized that help is available for states to put together a working operation, which could ultimately include a sequence of projects at various levels (balloons, satellites, etc., described as "crawl, walk, run, and fly"). The purpose is for students to design, build, fly, operate, and analyze -- providing a unique opportunity to take students through this entire cycle. It is a student-run enterprise, with faculty serving as mentors. The money would go largely to the students, plus some to support the mentors. It provides a full experience for students, which contributes greatly to workforce development. It could also be an avenue for utilization of some workforce development funds.

9. Lunch

10. Space Grant Strategic Plan and Future Plan

The Board briefly discussed the plan that is currently being developed, noting that it will be important as a basis for requests for funding increases.

11. Miscellaneous Issues

The Board discussed some possibilities for going beyond incremental funding increases and looking toward major increases

for the future. We need to consider what it will take to be different and to present a credible case that we are different from other programs and can do unique things. We need to bring other money to the table, which along with managing projects for NASA through the Foundation would help NASA support our requests. Partnerships with businesses can help, too. Some potential avenues mentioned as funding sources include congressional re-direction to Space Grant of funds from fines in the aerospace industry. The precedent of the Morrell Act for Land Grant giving something of value (the land) suggests re-working Space Grant legislation to include the granting of something of value by NASA, such as some ISS resources and access to space lift capabilities (rather than launching ballast). The possibility of requesting a review of Space Grant by the Space Studies Board of the Academy was suggested as a possible means of gaining credibility with OMB to ameliorate the sporadic funding issue.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10pm ET.

Draft minutes prepared and submitted by Richard Hackney, Secretary