

DRAFT**SPACE GRANT ALLIANCE – MINUTES – 10/23/04
SHERATON PASADENA HOTEL**

Brent Bowen opened the meeting at 9:05 AM.

Brent announced that all the slides used during the meeting would be posted to the password-protected members area of the Alliance website. These provide detailed background not included in the minutes.

Brent noted that he had taken the Alliance Chairmanship provisionally, when John Gregory stepped down to assume leadership of the Director's Council, and that Brent's position on the Alliance Board would need to be confirmed by vote of the members, held later in the meeting.

Brent has had the Alliance incorporation documents reviewed by an attorney, who has suggested some helpful modifications.

Alliance treasurer Majid Jaraiedi presented his report. 17 consortia had not yet paid 2004 dues. Most have promised to pay within the year. Those who have indicated they are unable or unwilling to pay will not be permitted to vote on Alliance business or elections.

Brent reviewed the current (FY'05) Space Grant budget situation. The President's request had \$19.1M for Space Grant, but the House appropriations committee language has \$28.2M. The language specifies a total of 40 "designated" states with annual budgets of \$575k. Workforce development funds are included in the core grants rather than held for separate competition. A maximum of \$1M is for Headquarters administrative expenses.

Pat Hynes reviewed the current status of the Alliance five-year plan. Her planning committee included John Wefel, Bill Hiscock, Eileen Yingst, and Jaydeep Mukherjee, with participation from Joe Danek, Brent Bowen, and John Gregory. The committee suggests some minor changes and updates to the existing planning document. The most significant is a change in wording which rationalizes consortium budget increases as "network enhancement." This addresses concerns congressional staffers had with the prior use of the term "extension." It is understood that a principal means of "network enhancement" would be the addition of new affiliates. The overall goal of the five-year plan remains to eliminate the two-tiered budget system and create a base budget of \$750,000 for all consortia by 2010.

Joe Danek was optimistic that congress would ultimately approve the House language and budget. States with key members would be contacted to focus near-term efforts to retain the \$28.2M.

Discussion from the floor turned to the 18.5% cuts to consortia budgets announced earlier by Diane DeTroye and Brad Weiner. The cut was attributed to the impacts of "Full Cost Accounting" (FCA) on administrative support budgets, as well as \$500k reallocated from Space Grant to the NASA Faculty Fellowship program. A number of members felt the reallocation set a bad precedent for using the Space Grant budget to fill gaps elsewhere in the Education Office's programs. Impacts of FCA were difficult to decipher, because of lack of data from NASA on exactly what it was currently spending on administration and consortia budgets. Brent asked if the membership would like the Alliance Board to consider asking for a congressional inquiry into the specific reasons for the cut. During discussion caution was urged, to clarify the exact nature of current

expenditures on Space Grant before involving congress. A motion to authorize the Board to initiate a process to examine NASA reallocations of the Space Grant budget was passed by a large majority, with one vote “no.”

Elections for new Alliance Board members were supervised by Ken Dewitt and Bill Gerard. There were no nominations from the floor. Four members were elected: Brent Bowen, Lisa Brown, David Bartlett, and Jean Teasdale.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted

David Bartlett, Board Secretary