

MINUTES – SPACE GRANT ALLIANCE BOARD MEETING  
MAY 12, 2006  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

A meeting of the Space Grant Alliance Board was held in conjunction with the all-boards transition meeting, hosted by Bill Gerrard on the University of Minnesota campus.

Chair Brent Bowen called the Alliance session to order at approximately 2PM. Brent, Joe Danek, Carrie Booth, Mary Sandy, and Majid Jaraiedi participated via telecom.

Carrie Booth reported that the House was working on the FY'07 budget resolution, with markup by the SSJC subcommittee scheduled for around June 14. She said select Space Grants may be asked to contact their members to support inclusion of language specifying the use of the \$28.76 M in the President's budget request. There was discussion about the FY '08 budget, and it was decided that the Alliance Board, led by Brent, would take the action of reassessing the Alliance 5-year strategic plan, as a basis for future year budget requests.

There was concern about the slow allocation of FY'06 funds. The Board decided to wait for approximately 1 month before considering contacting congressional delegations, based on assurances given earlier in the day by Diane DeTroye and Carl Person that funds were being expedited.

Majid gave the Treasurer's report (accompanied by a handout). He reported that 29 consortia had paid their '06 dues, slightly ahead of last year's pace. The Alliance's CY'05 tax return has been filed. Of note was that the expenses submitted by VSA/TIG in '05 were only \$2800, down from \$7600 in '04. This was the result of cost control measures undertaken in consultation with VSA/TIG.

Brent reported that he had heard that the thank-you letter writing campaign orchestrated by the Alliance had been well-received on Capitol Hill. He raised the issue of whether the budget request for '08 should include provision for 35 Designated Consortia, or a larger number. Headquarters personnel have said that the number of Designated Consortia is limited by the number of effective, competitive consortia – not budget. Brent will raise this at a future Board meeting/telecom. The Board will also consider whether to appoint a replacement for Shan de Silva on the Board, after he steps down in August, '06.

Brent adjourned the session at 3PM.