

NATIONAL SPACE GRANT ALLIANCE BOARD MEETING – OCTOBER 27, 2005

A joint meeting of the National Council of Space Grant Directors Executive Committee and the Boards of the Space Grant Alliance and foundation was convened at the Kennedy Space Center. John Gregory opened the meeting at 10:10 AM and turned things over to Brent Bowen, Chair of the Alliance, who was participating by conference call.

Brent asked the VSA/TIG representatives, Joe Danek and Carrie Booth who were also on telecon, to summarize the situation in Washington. They reported that the Senate appropriations committee had budgeted \$29.55M for Space Grant in FY'06 and that a reconciliation conference with the House committee was to take place on or about November 3. They were hopeful that the House would agree to the Senate number, and there was a possibility of an increase of an extra ~\$1M above the Senate figure. House and Senate Authorization committees were also considering reauthorizing NASA, with a figure in the House for Space Grant of \$24M, and no specific figure in the Senate, but language directing NASA to “continue its investment in Space Grant, EPSCoR, and Explorer Schools.” No conference has taken place and there is a possibility the reauthorization will be postponed to a future year. They responded to a question about the rumored reorganization of the NASA Education Office by saying it was premature to speculate on any outcomes.

Majid Jaraiedi gave the Treasurer's report. He projected ending the current Alliance FY in the black by ~\$25-30k. He is still concerned about a number of non-dues paying consortia, a list of which he distributed. He reported that the audit of the Alliance books for 2001-2004 was satisfactory with only minor comments. Copies of the audit reports were distributed. Majid is transitioning the bookkeeping to “Quickbook” software, which should make future record-keeping and audits easier.

Brent, acting on behalf of the Nominating Committee, distributed the proposed ballots for board members and officers. There were no changes made to the ballots, to be voted by the full membership on Saturday.

Counsel Bassel El-Kasaby gave a report of the legal status of the Alliance. He found the audit to be satisfactory from his standpoint. Although the auditors recommended annual, or more frequent, future audits, Bassel said there was no legal requirement for this, and recommended checking on the guidance in the District of Columbia, where the Alliance is incorporated: probably no more frequent than every 1-2 years. The Alliance corporate tax-free status is in order and in compliance with regulations in DC. He is suggesting some minor by-laws changes.

John Gregory closed the joint meeting with a brief discussion of the status of a VSA/TIG newsletter, to give Directors and others periodic Washington updates. He suggested that the newsletter be planned for November or December, to allow reporting of near-term developments in the appropriations and authorization processes.

[Return](#)