**National Space Grant Alliance General Body Meeting**

**Washington, DC**

**March 2, 2011**

The meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chair, John Gregory on behalf of the Chair, Chris Brown who could not attend the meeting

**National Space Grant Alliance General Body Meeting Agenda**

* Chair’s Report
* Approval of D.C. Alliance Meeting Minutes
* Update from Van Scoyoc Associates and The Implementation Group
* Treasurer’s Report
* Other Old Business
* New Business
* Adjourn

**Fall 2010 Minutes**

Peter Sukanek moved to accept the minutes, Pete Schultz seconded the motion. All in favor

**Treasurers Report**

Majid Jaraiedi gave an update on the 2011 dues

* As of February 28, 2011 32 states have paid the dues
* 2010 collected due $223,801
* Collection Rate 95%
* Balance in check account $ 187,0000

Mike Wiskerchen moved to accept the Treasurer’s report. Motion was seconded by Wally Fowler. All in favor

**Chairs Report by John Gregory**

* Alliance Board of Directors (list)
* Alliance Organizational Purpose
* FY 11/12 Budget picture
* In FY 2011 Funded in CR (Expires 3/4/11) $45.6 M
* Talked about building advocacy with your congressional delegation locally through frequent communications with legislative offices – newsletters, press releases, good news, impact data, etc.; by inviting legislators and staffers to your key events; and by personal visits in their district, when possible.

**Briefing by VSA and TIG – Carolyn Fuller and Joe Danek**

* Talked about composition of Congress including house control
* Uncertainty
* Historic wins for Republicans in the house
* Strong Republican gains in the Senate
* 84 New Republican members, 9 new Democratic members
* Spending reduction plan by Republicans which was a return to 2008 funding level
* Fiscal year 2011 status; Continuing Resolution (CR) through March 4, 2011
* NASA 21012 budget and the Education budget
* NASA proposing to change budget structure

John Gregory listed 6 things to consider for the Hill visit

* Thank your Reps for their consistent support over the years. History: Each year NASA lowballs SG, and Congress increases the level. (For EPSCOR states, the same applies).
* What is Space Grant? Use the NSGA Fact Sheet to make some key points. Emphasize innovative STEM education and workforce development needs to maintain US technology leadership in a competitive world. Mention 1:1 matching using State resources. New members need to understand the program.
* Show them what you do in your State (and in their districts) with the money. Show specific programs, colleges, high schools to give local color.
* What are the risks to this program in the current fiscal environment? Facts are: Congress appropriated $45.6M for SG in FY 2010; Congress authorized $45.6M for FY 2011 and 2012 for SG. However, if Appropriations bills do not have a line item for SG, NASA may revert to their own requested level of $28M (2011) and $26.7M (2012). This is a reduction of over 40%.
* What would this mean? Student programs and student numbers would be cut proportionately. Cuts would be magnified by the 1:1 matching funds also lost to the program.
* What are we asking? That we be left at the 2010 enacted levels as also authorized. That specific language be included in the Bill, directing NASA to fund SG at these levels.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Jaydeep Mukherjee