National Space Grant Alliance Meeting

Portland, Maine

0ctober 15, 2010

**Space Grant Alliance General Body Meeting Agenda**

* Chairs Report
* 2DC Alliance Meeting update from VanScoya Associates
* Special recognition, consideration of proposed by-laws amendment
* Treasurer’s report
* Next step/discussion
* Other old business
* New business

**Chairs Report**

* Sandy reviewed the Alliance organizational purposes, the FY11 budget request, and the current members of the Senate and House appropriations committees and Commerce Science Justice Subcommittees.
* She expressed appreciation to members for their work on the Congressional Dear Colleague letters. In the House, the letter was sponsored by Michael Capuano, (D), Massachusetts and Roscoe Bartlett, (R), Maryland. The letter carried 63 signatures. In the Senate, the letter was sponsored by Blanche Lincoln (D), Arkansas and Bill Nelson (R), Florida. The Senate letter carried 21 signatures.
* Sandy reported on recent activates. She provided Congressional testimony on behalf of the Alliance before the Commerce, Justice Science Subcommittee in April. The Alliance Board is working a national Space Grant presentation for upcoming advocacy meetings. A letter requesting support from the Commerce Science Justice Subcommittee was sent on June 18 and signed by all Board members. A copy of the letter was provided to the membership. The Alliance Board actively tracked all 2010 – 2011 Space Grant awards and noted the NASA administrative cost increase. Sandy also reported on frequent communication with the Chair of the Council of Space Grant Directors and cross participation of the Alliance and Council chair’s in each other’s respective board meetings. Sandy noted that the Board unanimously voted to set a goal of developing a two-year reserve fund for the Alliance to ensure continuity considering variation in arrival of dues payments. There is a plan to again provide an updated fact sheet on the National Space Grant program in advance of the March meeting in DC.

The climate in Washington is getting more difficult with issues with the economy political polarization. We are definitely in a period of change. Sandy stressed the need to build awareness of our program with the NASA Administrator and Deputy Administration as well as the need to work with newly elected federal legislators to help them understand the value of our programs in each state and nationally. She noted that the Board would continue to look for Executive Branch opportunities to brief on the national program and its impacts. Plans for the Alliance activities for our 2011 Washington, DC meeting include: Alliance Board meeting is on March 1, 2011. Alliance general meeting and Hill visits on March 2. Council meeting from March 3-5, 2011.

**Minutes from Washington DC 2010 Meeting**

Jack Higginbotham moved to accept the minutes, Richard Henry seconded. All in favor.

**Change in By-laws**

* Mary described a discrepancy in the by-laws.
* Change in Article IV section1 member and section 1 general authority. Peter Sukanek moved to accept the changes, Yervant Terzian seconded. All in favor. [Jaydeep, could you please be sure that the bylaws are updated to reflect this! You might want to add some more detail on this or attached the handout for the record.]

**Sandy provided special recognition to states that had a number of signatures on the Dear Colleague letters.**

* Michigan, Arkansas, Florida, Maryland, Illinois, Minnesota, Montana, New York, West Virginia and Connecticut.

**NSGA Elections**

Nominations were accepted from the floor. Mary Sandy nominated Terry Shehata and he accepted the nomination.

**Presentation by Carolyn Fuller (VSA)**

* Talked about the FY 11 Appropriation Bill.
* This year there was a NASA Authorization bill (S3729) presented to the White House on September 30, and passed into law. For FY11, NASA Education budget level is at $145.8M and Space Grant at $45.6M
* FY 2012 Budget Outlook
  + 2011 Presidents budget had 3-year freeze on discretionary spending
  + FY 12 OMB seeking 5% agency reduction.
  + Talked about a number of changes in the 112th Congress

**Presentation from Joe Danek**

* Advice to SG with regard to the present climate changes.
* Suggestion to move down from workforce to STEM education
* Talked about funding documents to shape SG future
  + PCAST report
  + DOE STEM strategies
  + Race to the Top
  + Educate to innovate
  + STEM teacher Initiatives
  + America COMPETES Act
  + College Completion Initiative
  + Community College Initiative

**Treasurers Report**

* Majid Jaraiedi gave an update on the 2010 alliance dues.
* Audit Report January 1 2009 for December 31,2009 in compliance with accepted accounting principles
* Majid talked about the Alliance reserve and the cash at hand and the need to have two year’s worth of reserve funds.

**NSGA Election Results – Bill Garrard**

New members are Angela Des Jardins, Paul Johnson, Peter Schultz, and Terry Shehata [Question, was Pat Hynes re-elect ed??]

**No new or old business**

Meeting adjourned at 5:30PM