

SPACE GRANT ALLIANCE – MINUTES – MARCH 24, 2004

John Gregory opened the meeting at 8:20 AM.

The objective for the day's two meetings was to prepare for consortia visits with state congressional delegations. A new concern is that in the current FY '04 the requested \$25.325M was appropriated, but the NASA Administrator was holding portions of this and other appropriations which he deemed "earmarks" pending further review of the affected programs. The point was made that the Space Grant appropriation was not technically an "earmark" but a "plus-up" in that the budget line already existed and was only being added-to by congress. Nevertheless it was being lumped with other programs defined by the administrator as "earmarks." The consensus of the Alliance, with advice from Carolyn and Joe, was to mention this situation to the delegations, not in extensive detail, but as a deviation from the customary agency practice of allocating funds as they are appropriated by congress.

Regarding next FY's budget, the action was to request Representatives and Senators to sign the respective "Dear Colleague" letters being circulated, supporting a \$30M appropriation for Space Grant in FY 2005.

There is a possibility of a new congressional Authorization for Space Grant, to update and increase the existing \$28M Authorization. If this occurs the strategy is to ask that the new Authorization match the Alliance budget plan, increasing to \$60M at the end of 5 years.

John adjourned the initial session at 9:25AM.

John reconvened the Alliance at 3:35PM.

In Alliance business:

No minutes were available from the last meeting due to Secretary Richard Hackney's illness (see below). Majid Jaraiedi presented the Treasurer's report (copies of the budget had been distributed at the morning session). In the current year 25 of the 50 Alliance members had paid their dues. Several Directors noted that they customarily waited until the beginning of a new University fiscal year in July to pay their dues, so many will be coming at that time.

A special election was held to replace Board Member Richard Hackney, who resigned due to illness. Yervant Terzian presented one nominee- David Bartlett- and solicited further nominees from the floor. There being none, Bartlett was elected by acclamation. He agreed to take the position of Secretary for the Board.

In preparation for visits to the Hill, John reviewed the 5-year Budget Plan. The principal objectives of the plan, which phases increases to a total of \$60M per year in the 5th year, are to:

- Make all base consortia budgets equal, eliminating the budgetary distinction between Designated, Program Grant, and Capability Enhancement states.
- Incorporate continuing Workforce Development funds into base consortium budgets.
- Provide for special "extension grants" justified by individual Consortia based on large populations served and/or additional needs created by leadership of major program initiatives.

Joe reviewed the rationale for the \$30M request for FY'05, and distributed a one-page written summary for use by Directors.

Carolyn gave an overview of the political/budgetary climate on the Hill. Major factors influencing decision-making are a looming deficit, next fall's elections, increasing partisanship stemming from the elections and major policy disagreements, a short budget session, and the specific budget problems being experienced by NASA.

In consultation with Joe and Carolyn, two tasks were identified for visits with state delegations:

- Request signatures on the "Dear Colleague" letters supporting a \$30M FY'05 appropriation.
- Note NASA's embargo of 25% of the FY'04 appropriation and request help in getting the funds released for use by the program.

John adjourned the meeting at 4:40PM

SPACE GRANT ALLIANCE – MINUTES – MARCH 26, 2004

John Gregory opened the meeting at 1:20PM.

A number of Directors and other state consortium representatives shared experiences of their congressional visits. With regard to the two principal objectives:

- Reaction was generally favorable to the \$30M FY'05 request, but members warned that discretionary spending will be very limited due to the deficits.
- Many members expressed strong opposition to the NASA Administrator's embargo of appropriated funds, and said they would contact the agency to express their feelings.

Joe reported that Mary Sandy's congressional testimony on behalf of Space Grant was well prepared and executed, and was very well received. Mary stated that she also had the impression of a very positive response to her remarks.

John adjourned the meeting at 2:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Bartlett, Secretary