### AAU Urges Greater Support for Federal Graduate Education Programs in Order to Cultivate the Talent Needed to Help Ensure the Nation’s Health, Security, and Economic Growth.

The nation’s unique system of combining graduate education with cutting-edge research is a core strength of the American innovation system and continued U.S. economic competitiveness. In addition to graduate student research assistantships funded by federal research grants, several federal agencies support top graduate students through graduate fellowship and traineeship programs. A strong federal commitment to graduate STEM education is especially critical to preparing the next generation of highly skilled scientists and engineers. AAU supports the following funding levels for select graduate education programs in FY11:

#### National Institutes of Health
- Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA): $824 million, an increase of $41.7 million, or 5% (including a 6% increase in the stipend)

#### National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program: $27.7 million, a decrease of $17.8 million, or 39.1%

#### National Science Foundation
- Graduate Research Fellowships (GRF): $158 million, an increase of $22 million, or 16%
- Integrative Graduate and Research Training (IGERT): $62 million; a reduction of $7.43 million, or 10.7%
- Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12): $53 million; a cut of $1.5 million, or 2.7%
- RE-ENERGYSE: $19 million (no funding was provided in FY10)

#### Department of Energy
- Office of Science Graduate Fellowships: $15 million, an increase of $10 million, or 200%
- RE-ENERGYSE: $55 million (no funding was provided in FY10)

#### Department of Defense
- National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowships: $40 million, an increase of $1.6 million, or 4%
- National Defense Education Program: $110 million, including funding for the Science, Mathematics And Research for Transformation (SMART) scholarships and fellowships

#### Department of Education
- Jacob K. Javits Fellowships: $16 million; an increase of $6.3 million, or 65%
- Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN): $40 million; an increase of $9 million, or 29%
- Patsy T. Mink Fellowships: $15 million (authorized but not yet funded)

#### National Endowment for the Humanities
- NEW Graduate Student Program: $7.5 million (not yet funded)