CONTENTS

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW
BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS
Senate Sends House Its Original FY10 Funding Bill without Education Funding  NEW
Organizations Urge Education Funding in FY10 Supplemental Bill
Work on FY11 Appropriations Continues  NEW
Senate Committee Approves FY11 Funding for NSF and NASA  UPDATED
Senate Committee Approves FY11 Energy Funding Bill  UPDATED
House Appropriations Subcommittee Adds Funds for NEH  NEW
OTHER CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES
Senate Panel Marks Up COMPETES Bill  UPDATED
Senate COMPETES Bill Includes Positive Language on Public Access
House Science and Technology Committee Approves NASA Reauthorization  NEW
EXECUTIVE BRANCH
Webinar on IT Aspects of Participating in STAR METRICS Program Now On-Line

CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW

The House and Senate did not meet today.

The Senate will return to session on Monday, July 26, and consider legislation regulating federal elections (S. 3628).

The House also will reconvene on July 26. Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said that the House next week will consider several bills under suspension, as well as two FY11 appropriations bills: Military Construction-VA and Transportation-HUD. The two appropriations bills would be the first FY11 funding bills considered on the floor. The House may also consider Senate amendments to the FY10 wartime supplemental funding bill (H.R. 4899). Majority Leader Hoyer said the House could be in session next Saturday, July 31, in order to complete necessary work before the August recess.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

SENATE SENDS HOUSE ITS ORIGINAL FY10 FUNDING BILL WITHOUT EDUCATION FUNDING  NEW
The Senate on July 22 voted to send back to the House the version of the FY10 wartime supplemental funding bill that the Senate first approved in May (H.R. 4899). Before doing so, the Senate rejected by a vote of 46 to 51 the House-approved version of the measure that included $23 billion in additional domestic spending, including $10 billion to avert cuts in public school jobs and $4.95 billion to address the Pell Grant shortfall.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer on Thursday reiterated his intention to get the supplemental completed before the August recess.

**ORGANIZATIONS URGE EDUCATION FUNDING IN FY10 SUPPLEMENTAL BILL**

A group of 186 education organizations and institutions, including AAU, re-sent a letter to all members of the Senate on July 20 urging them to include education funding in the FY10 supplemental appropriations bill. Specifically, the letter asked that the measure include $10 billion to avert public school layoffs and $4.95 billion to cover the current Pell Grant shortfall.

The original letter with 92 groups and institutions signed on was sent on July 15.

**WORK ON FY11 APPROPRIATIONS CONTINUES**

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees continued work on their FY11 bills this week.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has now reported out six of its 12 FY11 appropriations bills. The Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, which originally had been scheduled for subcommittee markup this week, will now be considered in subcommittee on Tuesday, July 27. None of the Senate bills has been considered on the Senate floor.

The House Appropriations Committee has marked up—at least at the subcommittee level—10 of its 12 FY11 appropriations bills. Of the two remaining bills, Defense will be considered in subcommittee on Tuesday, July 2, while there is yet no public schedule for consideration of Financial Services. Also on July 27, the full committee will consider the Agriculture and Homeland Security funding bills. As noted above, the full House is scheduled to consider the Military Construction-VA and Transportation-HUD bills next week.

**SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES FY11 FUNDING FOR NSF AND NASA**

The Senate Appropriations Committee on July 22 approved the FY11 bill that funds the National Science Foundation (NSF) and NASA. The measure provides less funding for NSF than the House bill, but it includes the same funding for NASA provided in both the House bill and the Administration request.

Earlier on July 21, the committee corrected a press release on the July 20 subcommittee markup that showed funding for NSF as $50 million below the approved mark.
According to the updated committee press release, the bill marked up by the Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Subcommittee—and affirmed by the full committee—funds NSF at $7.35 billion, which is $427 million above the FY10 level. The NSF funds include $6 billion for Research & Related Activities, $155 million for research equipment and facilities, and $892 million for education.

The Senate bill also would provide $19 billion overall for NASA, the same as both the House bill and the Administration’s FY11 request. NASA Science would receive $5 billion, which is the same as the Administration’s request and $535 million above the FY10 level. While the House bill summary shows an appropriation of only $4.7 billion for the science portfolio, the total for science actually is $5 billion because the subcommittee placed labor costs for science under Cross Agency Programs.

For the consolidated category Aeronautics and Space Technology Research, the Senate bill would provide $904 million, which is $17 million above the House figure but $196 million below the Administration’s request. (NASA’s FY11 budget called for combining Aeronautics and Space Technology Research.)

SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES FY11 ENERGY FUNDING BILL  UPDATED

The Senate Appropriations Committee, also on July 22, approved its FY11 Energy and Water funding bill, providing 28.35 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE), including $5 billion for the Office of Science. The Office of Science funding is $112 million above the House subcommittee-approved level and $108 million more than FY10, but $109 million less than the Administration’s request. The bill also provides $200 million for ARPA-E, $20 million below the House level.

The House Appropriations Committee has not scheduled a full committee markup of its subcommittee-approved bill.

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ADDS FUNDS FOR NEH  NEW

In its markup on July 22, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee added $9 million to the President’s FY11 request for both the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment for the Arts. The measure would fund each agency at $170 million, which also is $3 million above the agencies’ FY10 levels. AAU will provide programmatic details when the subcommittee releases additional information.

In his prepared statement, Subcommittee Chairman Jim Moran (D-VA) said:

“Before concluding, I want to mention the investments we propose for the cultural agencies supported by this bill. These increases recognize the value we place, as a Nation, on our artistic and cultural heritage. We have included $170 million for each of the Endowments. This reflects a combined increase of $5 million above 2010 and more than $17 million above the request…”
OTHER CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES

SENATE PANEL MARKS UP COMPETES BILL   UPDATED

The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on July 22 approved by voice vote its portion of the America COMPETES Act (S. 3605), with three-year authorizations for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The authorization for DOE Science is expected to be added in a manager’s amendment on the Senate floor.

During the mark-up, the committee adopted 20 amendments to the bill, including a substitute amendment that reduced the funding levels by 10 percent for NSF and NIST. Among the amendments adopted is one that would require the Commerce Department to study the U.S. economy and innovation infrastructure, including an assessment of the nation’s economic competitiveness. Within one year of completing the study, the Department would be required to develop a 10-year national innovation and competitiveness strategy.

SENATE COMPETES BILL INCLUDES POSITIVE LANGUAGE ON PUBLIC ACCESS

The Senate COMPETES bill includes a provision (Sec. 103) creating an Interagency Public Access Committee. The current provision omits earlier problematic language that required the Public Access Committee to show that “the specific objectives and public interest being addressed” by any federal public access policies coordinated under this provision “are not or could not be met by the private sector.” The omission of this language places the Senate provision in substantial agreement with the House version and would strengthen federal public access policy, effectively incorporating key recommendations of the Scholarly Publishing Roundtable report.

HOUSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE APPROVES NASA REAUTHORIZATION   NEW

The House Science and Technology Committee on July 22 approved a three-year authorization bill for NASA by voice vote. The measure (H.R. 5781) has several differences from the bill approved by the Senate Commerce Committee on July 15, most notably, the manner in which it addresses and funds commercial crew transportation carriers. The House bill would authorize $50 million for commercial cargo development in FY11, while the Senate bill would authorize $300 million. According to published reports, House Science and Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN) believes the House and Senate can resolve their differences over support of commercial crew transportation.

Both bills recognize the importance of earth science and observation missions, robust support for space science research, and continued support for aeronautics research and technology development.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH
In order to better document the outcomes of federal investments in university research, the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health are working with campuses to develop the STAR METRICS partnership.

Since one of the greatest barriers to campus participation is readying information technology (IT) systems, the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) at the National Academies of Science held a webinar on July 15 to answer campus questions about the IT requirements for participation.

The full recording and PowerPoint slides from the webinar are now available on the FDP website in the Announcements section. Campus representatives who view the recording and slides and still have questions are encouraged to contact the FDP webinar organizers at 202-334-1495.

End of document