FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 28, 2012

AAU COMMENTS ON HOUSE FY13 BUDGET RESOLUTION

AAU COMMENTS ON HOUSE FY13 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Following is a statement by Hunter R. Rawlings III, President of the Association of American Universities, on the FY13 budget resolution approved by the House Budget Committee and under consideration by the House of Representatives today.

The Association of American Universities, an association of 59 leading U.S. public and private research universities, believes that Congress needs to address our nation’s fiscal problems in a balanced way and ensure that federal dollars are spent wisely. Spending wisely includes making sure that the nation continues to invest in its future by placing a high priority on such areas of spending as research and education.

The House FY13 budget resolution is intended to reduce budget deficits, but it does so in a way that threatens vital national investments in medical and other research and in education. The measure targets domestic discretionary spending for deeper long-term cuts than even the Budget Control Act requires, and this is the part of the budget where these critical priorities are housed.

While a summary of the budget mentions the importance of research, the budget itself does nothing to guard research and education funding from broader cuts. And with respect to the student aid programs that help make college possible for millions of students, we are concerned about the proposed cuts that could have an impact on low-income students. In addition, it is critical that Congress take steps to ensure that the scheduled increase in the maximum Pell Grant to $5,635 takes place.

The Bowles-Simpson report and other fiscal reform plans have made it clear that we can, and should, take strong steps to reduce long-term deficits and debt while preserving, and even strengthening, the nation’s investments in research and education. We believe that is the path Congress and the Administration should follow.

# # # # #

The Association of American Universities is an association of 59 U.S. and two Canadian research universities organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate and professional education, undergraduate education, and public service in research universities.

Please visit us at www.aau.edu and follow us on Twitter at @AAUniversities.