STATEMENT ON SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FY14 ALLOCATIONS

Following is a statement by Hunter Rawlings, President of the Association of American Universities, on the Senate Appropriations Committee’s approval of subcommittee allocations for FY14 spending bills.

On behalf of our 60 leading public and private U.S. research universities, I want to commend Senate appropriators for approving FY14 spending allocations that protect the Senate’s ability to sustain key investments in the nation’s future. Investments in areas like scientific research, education, and infrastructure are key to long-term economic growth, job creation, and global competitiveness, and we cannot afford to let them be squeezed out by the arbitrary sequestration that grows more constricting the longer it is kept in place.

We were disappointed in the decision in the House not only to embrace sequestration but to place nearly all of its burden on domestic discretionary spending. The extraordinary cuts under the House spending allocation that will be required in key investments are a recipe for national decline – not the kind of decline that occurs suddenly, but one that strikes gradually over months and years. Such cuts are creating an investment deficit, one for which our children and grandchildren will bear the burden, in fewer jobs and a lesser quality of life.

We call on both parties in Congress to come together with the President of the United States to forge a long-term agreement that addresses our investment deficit as well as our long-term budget deficits.

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The Association of American Universities is a nonprofit association of 60 U.S. and two Canadian preeminent public and private research universities. Founded in 1900, AAU focuses on national and institutional issues that are important to research-intensive universities, including funding for research, research and education policy, and graduate and undergraduate education.

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