AAU COMMENTS ON EXPECTED COMMERCE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ON DEEMED EXPORT RULES

Following are statements by AAU Interim President John Vaughn and comments by Carnegie Mellon University President Jared L. Cohon and Yale University President Richard C. Levin on this week’s anticipated announcement by the Department of Commerce that it will establish a Deemed Export Advisory Committee.

John Vaughn:

The nation’s research universities are encouraged by the Department of Commerce’s anticipated announcement that it will establish a Deemed Export Advisory Committee to evaluate current deemed export policies and to recommend further steps related to recommendations by its inspector general (IG) on deemed export regulations.

It is important that export control policies protect national security. We are particularly pleased that the Department has set the goal of ensuring national security without disrupting vital research taking place on the nation’s university campuses. The original IG recommendations would not only have disrupted research but would have been tantamount to hanging a sign in our university laboratories saying “Top International Talent Not Welcome.”

President Bush has stated very clearly how important he believes it is for our universities to attract the best talent from abroad, and it is important that the nation’s regulation of research reflect that view. It is clear that the Commerce Department officials considering this issue share the President’s priorities. Under Secretary David McCormick in particular is to be commended for the deliberative and non-prejudicial process he has undertaken to determine how to address the Commerce IG’s recommendations.

We continue to believe that the exemption from deemed export rules that has consistently been granted for fundamental research should remain intact and that this exemption must apply as well to the tools and technologies essential to the conduct of that research. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the Commerce Department to ensure that the nation’s deemed export regulations protect national security and ensure that the world’s best talent is allowed and encouraged to participate openly in the basic university research that is so important to our nation’s long-term economic and national security.

Jared L. Cohon:

I am pleased that the Department of Commerce plans to form a Federal Advisory Committee to review the technical and policy issues relating to export controls. This country’s global leadership
in technological advancement has been driven in significant part by the presence here of scientists, engineers, and students who were born elsewhere. It is important that we consider carefully any restrictions on fundamental research conducted in our universities by foreign nationals as their contributions continue to promote our national economic welfare.

I am especially grateful to Department of Commerce Undersecretary for Industry and Security, David McCormick, for his leadership on this very complex issue. I look forward to working with the Undersecretary and the Committee in their consideration of the questions that must be resolved regarding deemed export control policies.

Richard C. Levin:

I am encouraged that the Department of Commerce is convening a panel of experts to make recommendations on federal export controls policy. Undersecretary McCormick deserves praise for recognizing that restrictions that have the potential to impede fundamental research should be considered with great caution. Research, after all, is the driver of American industrial competitiveness, and vital to our national security.

*Presidents Cohon and Levin co-chair AAU’s Task Force on Export Controls.*

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