STATEMENT BY AAU PRESIDENT ROBERT M. BERDAHL ON
FISCAL 2007 FUNDING BILL APPROVED BY HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

America’s leading research universities commend the chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the congressional leadership for producing a Fiscal Year 2007 funding bill that helps address the nation’s competitiveness challenge.

This measure not only makes needed investments in key research agencies – particularly the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Department of Energy’s Office of Science – but also raises the maximum Pell Grant for low-income students for the first time since 2002.

Given tight budgetary constraints, these increases required very tough choices, but they reflect a growing consensus that America’s long-term economic competitiveness, our national security, and our quality of life depend on renewed investments in basic research and in educating the next generation of leaders in every field. The House and the Senate should give this legislation their overwhelming approval.

# # # # #

The Association of American Universities (www.aau.edu) is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering.