June 17, 2004

The Honorable Louise Slaughter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2469 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Shays  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1126 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Leach  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2186 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Slaughter, Dicks, Shays, and Leach:

On behalf of 60 leading public and private research universities in the United States, thank you for your leadership in sponsoring the amendment to H.R. 4568 increasing FY2005 appropriations for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The $3.5 million increase for NEH’s “We The People” program, as provided in the amendment, supports the goal of deepening American’s knowledge and understanding of our national heritage. Research universities contribute to this goal and participate in the program through new scholarship programs, summer seminars and institutes, preservation and access projects, and public programs in libraries, museums, and historical societies, including exhibitions, film, radio, and Internet-based programs.

In light of current constraints on domestic discretionary spending, AAU appreciates your commitment to increase support for the humanities. As the appropriations process moves forward, we encourage your continued efforts to increase funding for the humanities. Thank you again for your leadership and please let AAU know if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Nils Hasselmo, President