Friday, September 14, 2007

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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW

Both the House and Senate had abbreviated schedules this week because of the funeral of Rep. Paul Gillmor (R-OH), remembrances of the events of September 11, 2001, and observance of the Rosh Hashanah holiday. The House held no votes after Monday; the Senate recessed on Wednesday after approving its version of the FY08 Transportation appropriations bill (S. 1789).

Both chambers will return to session on Monday, September 17, but the Senate will hold no roll call votes until Tuesday. The Senate is scheduled to resume consideration Monday afternoon of the FY08 Defense authorization bill (H.R. 1585). The chamber also is expected to complete action next week on a bill to reauthorize a law that allows District of Columbia high school graduates to receive in-state tuition at public universities nationwide (H.R. 1124) and might consider a District of Columbia voting rights bill (S. 1257).

The House next week will consider housing legislation (H.R. 1852) and possibly bills relating to terrorism insurance (H.R. 2761), paper receipts for electronic voting (H.R. 811), and reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (H.R. 2881).

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS PONDER LENGTH OF AN FY08 CONTINUING RESOLUTION  NEW

With fiscal year 2008 a few weeks away and none of the FY08 appropriations bills enacted into law, House and Senate Democratic leaders are debating the length of a stop-gap funding
resolution for federal programs beyond September 30. *CQToday* reports that House leaders are considering a continuing resolution (CR) to last through either November 2 or November 9, with Senate leaders leaning toward a November 16 date. However, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has left open the possibility of extending the session to Thanksgiving, with the option of resuming unfinished work in December.

The House has passed all 12 of its appropriations bills, and the Senate has passed four, but none of the measures has been conferenced between the House and Senate. According to *CQToday*, Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) said that leaders have not decided whether any bills will be completed before October 1; the President has threatened to veto several funding bills because Congress would provide $23 billion more in overall FY08 discretionary funding than the President requested in his budget.

**SENATE DEFENSE SPENDING BILL WOULD CUT S&T FUNDING BELOW FY07 LEVELS—INDIRECT COST CAP NOT INCLUDED**

The FY08 Defense appropriations bill approved September 12 by the Senate Appropriations Committee would provide $11.64 billion for science and technology (S&T) programs at the Department of Defense (DOD), a cut of $1.68 billion, or 12.6 percent, from the FY07 level. However, this funding level is $871 million, or 8.9 percent, above the Administration’s request. S&T programs include defense-wide and military service funding for 6.1 basic research, 6.2 applied research, and 6.3 advanced technology development.

The measure does not include the House provision to cap indirect cost reimbursement rates on basic research grants at 20 percent.

For 6.1 basic research, the bill would provide $1.561 billion, a $2.7 million, or 0.2-percent, cut from the FY07 level of $1.563 billion, but a $32.9 million, or 2.1-percent, increase over the Administration's request of $1.43 billion. Applied research (6.2 programs) would receive $4.65 billion, a $675 million, or 12.7-percent, cut from the FY07 level of $5.33 billion, but a $297.5 million, or 6.8-percent, increase over the Administration's request of $4.36 billion. Advanced technology development (6.3 programs) would receive $5.43 billion, a $1 billion, or 15.6-percent, cut from the FY07 level of $6.43 billion, but a $440.6 million, or 8.8-percent, increase over the Administration's request of $4.99 billion.

The breakout for 6.1 basic research and 6.2 basic research across the services is as follows:

- Army 6.1: $354.1 million, a $11.8 million or 3.2-percent cut from FY07;
- Army 6.2: $899.5 billion, a $304.3 million or 25.3-percent cut from FY07;
- Navy 6.1: $491.0 million, a $0.7 million or 0.1-percent cut from FY07;
- Navy 6.2: $778.1 million, a $7.8 million or 1-percent cut from FY07;
- Air Force 6.1: $403.9 million, a $4.7 million or 1.2-percent cut from FY07;
- Air Force 6.2: $1.13 billion, a $29.4 million or 2.5-percent cut from FY07;
- Defense-wide 6.1: $312.1 million, a $14.6 million or 4.9-percent increase over FY07; and
- Defense-wide 6.2: $1.85 billion, a $33.4 million or 1.8-percent cut from FY07.

The bill also would fund the National Defense Education Program/SMART Program at the Administration's requested level of $44.4 million, an increase of $25 million above the FY07 level of $19.4 million.
A further breakout of the appropriations levels for accounts of interest to research universities, including the University Research Initiative accounts, is available on the AAU Web site at: http://www.aau.edu/budget/08DODTable.pdf.

Overall, the committee approved $75.39 billion for Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E). This is a reduction of $568.4 million, or 0.7 percent, from the FY07 level, but $268.9 million, or 0.4 percent, above the Administration’s FY08 request.


EXECUTIVE BRANCH

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT’S EXPORT CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HOLDS FINAL MEETING; AAU AND COGR SUBMIT COMMENTS

AAU and the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) submitted comments September 10 to the Commerce Department’s Deemed Export Advisory Committee (DEAC) which is developing recommendations for revising deemed export control policies pertaining to dual use technology.


The Department created DEAC in May 2006 after its leaders rejected recommendations by its Office of Inspector General to expand requirements for universities to obtain export licenses for international students and faculty to conduct certain fundamental research. The Committee held the last of its six meetings September 10 in Washington, D.C. Committee Chairman Norman Augustine, retired CEO of Lockheed Martin Corporation, said the panel expects to complete its report and recommendations in about two months, well ahead of the original deadline of the end of the year.

Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez said at the session that it is critical to find a balance in export control policy that allows the U.S. to attract the best scientists and researchers from around the world and also protects national security. General Brent Scowcroft, former national security advisor to George H.W. Bush and co-chairman of the National Academies’ Committee on Scientific Communication and National Security (CSCANS), told the panel that he thought the U.S. has lost is way on export control policies. Unlike the Cold War era, he said, today’s export control policies must be focused on ensuring that the U.S. “stays ahead in key areas of science and technology, not in trying to keep other countries behind.”

The meeting of the DEAC followed the Committee’s initial kick-off meeting held in Washington last September and four regional meetings, three of which took place on university campuses (Georgia Institute of Technology, MIT, and the University of Chicago).

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT PLANS COMPETITIVENESS SUMMIT ON SEPTEMBER 18
The Department of Commerce will host a “National Summit on American Competitiveness” on Tuesday, September 18, in Washington, D.C. The all-day meeting will “convene the nation’s premier leaders of business, government, academia and the research community” to discuss four areas key to U.S. economic leadership: “the role of the private sector; education and workforce issues; energy independence; and partnerships in innovation.”

Among the confirmed speakers are Craig Barrett, Chairman of Intel; G. Wayne Clough, President of the Georgia Institute of Technology, and John Marburger, Director of the White Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Members of the public are invited to attend the summit, but places are filling up quickly. The session also will be simulcast on the Web. Additional information about the summit, including how to register to attend the summit or participate in the Web cast, is available at: http://guest.event.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=7a553b1f-a93e-4f99-bba1-1790d2dee2f9.

OTHER

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS ON INDIRECT COST REIMBURSEMENT POSTED ON AAU WEB SITE

Three documents regarding the indirect costs of university research have been posted on the AAU Web site. All can be viewed on the general Costs of Research page at: http://www.aau.edu/research/costrese.cfm.


Two additional documents deal with competitive research at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The first piece contains excerpts from the July 2004 report of a USDA task force chaired by William Danforth, former chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis, which focuses on the negative impact of the indirect cost cap on competitive USDA research. The excerpt document is available directly at: http://www.aau.edu/research/Rpt_USDA_IDC_07-04.pdf.

The full report from the USDA task force can be viewed directly at: http://www.aau.edu/research/Rpt_USDA_IDC_07-04.pdf.

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