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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW

The House remains out of session and will reconvene next Tuesday, January 15. The Senate is not in session but continues to convene periodically in pro forma session to block recess appointments by the President. The Senate will reconvene for the new session on Tuesday, January 22.

The President’s State of the Union address is scheduled for Monday, January 28, with the release of the FY09 budget scheduled for the following Tuesday, February 4. Office of Management and Budget Director Jim Nussle said in a January 9 press release that, for the first time, the budget will not be printed. It will be released only in electronic form, on www.budget.gov. The “E-Budget” will be fully searchable and available for downloading. The OMB press release is available at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/pubpress/2008/010908_budget.html.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

UNIVERSITIES ASKED TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR NEW DOD FACULTY FELLOWSHIP RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Department of Defense (DOD) is soliciting applications for a new National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellowship (NSSEFF) program, in which designated fellows will receive research grants of up to $3 million over five years to conduct basic, unclassified research in topics of interest to DOD.

Universities are asked to nominate distinguished faculty scientists and engineers for the fellowships by Tuesday, January 22, with formal nominations and white papers to be submitted until February 21. The “intent to nominate” letters are not binding on DOD, the university, or individuals, but are requested for planning purposes. AAU encourages institutions to participate.
The agency announcement for the program is available at: [http://www.nps.edu/research/documents/BAA-08-001.rtf](http://www.nps.edu/research/documents/BAA-08-001.rtf).

The Department expects to select up to 10 fellows each year through a competitive evaluation of the scientific and technical merit of their white papers and proposals. Fellows, who must be U.S. citizens who have earned their doctoral degrees within the last 25 years, will receive up to $3 million in research funding over five years in annual increments of up to $600,000. Although fellows’ research will be unclassified, they will be required to obtain security clearances in order to review classified material that might be needed to inform the objectives, approach, and conduct of their research.

**OTHER**

**AAU AND COGR REVIEW DEEMED EXPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Staff of AAU and the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) continue to examine recommendations for modifying federal deemed export control policies made by the Secretary of Commerce’s Deemed Export Advisory Committee (DEAC) in its report of December 20.

As reported previously ([http://www.aau.edu/publications/WR_12-21-2007.pdf](http://www.aau.edu/publications/WR_12-21-2007.pdf)), the report urges the Secretary to simplify regulations that have been placed on university research and foreign-born researchers to protect sensitive military technologies. The panel says that existing regulations should be replaced with a streamlined set of rules for “trusted entities,” that the list of controlled technologies should be reviewed annually, and that previous recommendations to create cumbersome and unnecessarily restrictive measures should be rejected.

Tobin Smith of AAU and Robert Hardy of COGR made a presentation on January 10 at a meeting of the Federal Demonstration Partnership. They outlined the DEAC recommendations and described the associations’ initial views on the report. Their presentation is available on the AAU Web site at: [http://www.aau.edu/research/FDP_DEAC_Rpt_01-10-08.pdf](http://www.aau.edu/research/FDP_DEAC_Rpt_01-10-08.pdf). Information about the Partnership is available at: [http://thefdp.org](http://thefdp.org).

Along with reviewing the committees’ positive recommendations as discussed above, the two presenters pointed out recommendations in the report that are not consistent with changes suggested by the academic community. A major concern is the proposed seven-step process by which the Department would decide if an export license should be granted, particularly that it might include an initial judgment about an individual’s overall national loyalty. The DEAC report also rejects the higher education community’s position that classification should be the primary means by which information is restricted, as well as the community’s view that the visa system should be the sole means for screening foreign students and scholars prior to conducting research.

The two presenters said the associations will continue their efforts to express the higher education community’s appreciation for the report and support for its many positive recommendations. They noted that several recommendations of concern could be addressed by the Department not only in its decisions as to which to accept but also in how it implements those to which it does agree.
AAU staff will work with members of the AAU Deemed Export Advisory Committee over the next few weeks to develop a formal AAU response to the report, as the Secretary of Commerce considers which, if any, of the DEAC recommendations to implement.

AAU JOINS AAAS IN WEB SITE ON S&T ISSUES IN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

AAU has joined with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in developing a Web site to serve as a science and technology (S&T) resource for the 2008 presidential candidates and to provide the S&T community and others with the candidates’ positions on S&T issues. The site, “Science & Technology in the 2008 Election,” includes news updates, links to the candidates’ S&T statements and positions, reports, surveys, and events.


AAAS PUBLISHES ANALYSES OF FY08 R&D APPROPRIATIONS, INCLUDING R&D EARMARKS

AAAS has published on its Web site a summary and analysis of the final FY08 appropriations for research and development (R&D), as well as a summary of the R&D earmarks in the federal research agencies.


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