



AAU Research and Education Preliminary Funding Requests for FY10

The Association of American Universities (AAU) is an association of 60 leading public and private U.S. research institutions. AAU focuses on issues important to research-intensive universities, such as funding for research, research policy issues, and graduate and undergraduate education. AAU universities are on the leading edge of innovation, scholarship, and solutions that contribute to our nation's economy, security, and well-being.

- AAU and its member universities commend and support the increased investments in student aid and in scientific research, instrumentation, facilities, and science education that were provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These funds will help spur economic recovery and sustain and create jobs in communities across America.
- The Post World War II era demonstrated that science is best able to provide solutions to health, security, technological, engineering, environmental, and societal problems when the federal government provides stable and sustained funding growth. Predictable growth in federal research budgets helps to ensure that basic research projects can continue without costly interruptions. Such interruptions are costly not only in terms of dollars for science, but also to science itself, its applications, and opportunities for the U.S. to be the leader in fields critical to the technological innovation that drives the U.S. economy and bolsters our national security.
- Stable funding growth helps to attract bright students and retain talented scientists. Without clear evidence of sustained funding commitments to basic research across the disciplines, many talented individuals in science could be lost to other attractive occupations that have little impact on our nation's innovation system and our competitive position in the world.
- In order to sustain the momentum of these investments and strengthen the foundation for future innovation and economic competitiveness, federal student aid and research programs need steady and sustained investment. AAU is requesting such investments in FY10 for the following agencies and programs.

Department of Defense Basic Research

AAU recommends a \$400 million increase for Defense basic research. Within these new funds, \$50 million should be specifically designated to advance DOD energy research and security objectives. AAU applauds the continuing efforts of the Secretary of Defense to emphasize peer-reviewed basic research at the Department. AAU urges support for the Pentagon's multi-year initiative which calls for an increase in Defense 6.1 basic research of \$1 billion over five years, FY09-13. This request is consistent with recommendations made in a September 2007 memorandum sent to Defense Secretary Robert Gates by John Young, then-Director of Defense Research and Engineering. The request also is consistent with recommendations made by the National Academies' 2005 report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*. In addition, AAU supports added funding for Defense 6.2 applied research and other Defense science and technology (S&T) programs, as recommended in the John Young memorandum.

Department of Education Student Aid Programs

AAU encourages Congress to provide increased funding for student aid programs in FY10, including Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, Perkins Loans, Federal Work-Study, LEAP, TRIO, and GEAR UP. Sustaining the nation's economic competitiveness requires that an increasing share of the workforce hold undergraduate or advanced college degrees. Moreover, as the nation's economy worsens over the short term, federal student aid is an important element in its recovery: enabling low-income students to attend college and current workers to retrain for new careers.

Department of Education Graduate Education Programs

AAU encourages Congress to provide \$72 million in FY10 for select Department of Education graduate education programs, including the Javits Fellowship and Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need programs, and the newly created Patsy T. Mink program. Together these programs help cultivate talent across an array of academic disciplines that are vital to our economic recovery. In order to avoid losing several cohorts of young scholars, the nation must make a renewed commitment to graduate education.

Department of Education International Education Programs

AAU urges Congress to provide \$177 million for International Education and Foreign Language programs in the Department of Education for FY10, including the Title VI and Fulbright-Hays programs. An infusion of funds will help address the nation's unmet need for a steady supply of graduates with expertise in less commonly taught languages, world areas, and transnational trends.

Department of Energy

AAU urges Congress to increase the Department of Energy Office of Science budget to \$5.2 billion in FY10, an eight-percent increase over FY09 appropriated funding. AAU also supports providing \$200 million in FY10 for ARPA-E, a new agency with the specific mission of funding high risk, high reward energy research. Both the Administration and Congress have assigned high priority to the development of new energy sources to reduce the impact of carbon fuel emissions on climate and ensure our nation's future energy security. These research investments at DOE—as part of sustained, long-term support—are vital to meeting those national goals. A portion of the added funding should support new and existing university-based energy research and training initiatives aimed at producing critical scientific and technical talent in key energy-related disciplines. This includes support for the Department Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRC) program and funding for the new comprehensive DOE fellowship program authorized by the America COMPETES Act.

NASA

AAU continues to support increased and robust funding for NASA's science and aeronautics research missions. As part of our longstanding support of NASA, we urge Congress to appropriate at least \$18.7 billion for NASA in FY10, which is \$918 million, or 5.2 percent, over the FY09 funding level. Over the past decade, NASA has captivated the public with accomplishments that have revolutionized our knowledge and understanding of earth and space science, the life sciences, and aeronautics. Given the vital scientific, aeronautic, and exploration missions the nation has asked NASA to perform, the space agency needs this significant increase in funding.

National Endowment for the Humanities

AAU encourages Congress to provide the National Endowment for the Humanities with \$230 million in FY10. This funding would help address significant unmet need throughout the

Endowment's core programs, including research and education. It also would support a new competitively awarded graduate student-faculty program. NEH is a vital source of funds for scholars and researchers whose work helps citizens and policymakers alike better understand and address the social, economic, and political challenges facing the world today.

National Institutes of Health

AAU and its member research universities pledge to work with Congress and President Obama to achieve his vision of a doubling of basic research at the National Institutes of Health over 10 years.

Biomedical research funded by NIH and performed at AAU member universities assures U.S. leadership in the life sciences revolution of the 21st century and helps reduce health care costs by ameliorating or preventing disease. By also generating new jobs and new companies, biomedical research will help lead the U.S. out of its current economic slump.

The \$10.4 billion provided to NIH in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will support research and research capacity that will enable research universities to create jobs, pursue scientific opportunities, and advance public health.

NIH funding supports 350,000 jobs directly at research institutions across the country. NIH Acting Director Raynard Kington has testified that each NIH research grant (R01) creates or sustains six to eight jobs. According to the Burnham Institute, NIH funding also leverages \$58 billion in pharmaceutical and biotechnology investment, creating or sustaining another 580,000 private sector jobs.

To continue to create jobs, advance public health, pursue the President's goal of doubling basic research over 10 years, and assure a smooth transition for scientists and research capacity brought online by the Recovery Act, AAU respectfully requests an NIH appropriation of \$32.421 billion in FY10, a \$2.121 billion, or seven percent, increase over FY09.

National Science Foundation

AAU urges Congress to provide at least \$7 billion for the National Science Foundation in FY10, an increase of \$510 million, or 7.9 percent, above FY09 funding. This increase, which is the same as the Administration is requesting, will help ensure a sustained, long-term investment in basic scientific research and STEM education, and will realize the commitments made to NSF in the America COMPETES Act.

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