



AAU WEEKLY WRAP-UP

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES
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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE *NEW*

The House and Senate met today to complete work on the economic recovery bill (H.R. 1), discussed below. The House has already approved it, and a vote is anticipated in the Senate today as well.

Both chambers will be out of session next week for the week-long Presidents Day recess.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

CONGRESS CLOSE TO APPROVING ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE *UPDATED*

The House earlier this afternoon approved the conference report for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1) by a vote of 246 to 183. No Republicans voted for the bill; nine Democrats voted against it.

The Senate is expected to approve the measure late today.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FARE WELL IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE *NEW*

Student aid and university research fared well in the final economic recovery package. The final bill provides a \$500 increase in the Pell Grant maximum award for FY09 and FY10—the higher House level—and about \$15 billion for the five federal research agencies that AAU tracks.

For additional details, see the updated AAU [side-by-side](#) comparison of the research and student aid provisions in the House and Senate and final bills.

STUDENT AID

Pell Grants. The final agreement provides \$15.6 billion over FY09 and FY10 for the Pell Grant program, the same as the House-approved level. This funding would raise the Pell grant maximum award by \$500 and eliminate the current discretionary and mandatory spending shortfalls in the program.

Federal Work Study. The bill also provides an added \$200 million for Federal Work Study. It does not include the House provision raising loan limits on unsubsidized student loans or the Senate-approved \$61 million increase for Perkins Loan Capital Contributions.

TAXES (See AAU side-by-side for additional details.)

Education Tax Credit. The bill expands eligibility for the Hope tax credit from two to four years for 2009 and 2010 and increases the credit from \$1,800 to \$2,400. The credit is 40 percent refundable, as in the House bill.

RESEARCH (See AAU side-by-side for additional details.)

National Institutes of Health. The measure provides \$10.4 billion for NIH, with \$8.5 billion for research instrumentation and equipment; \$1.5 billion for external and intramural facilities; and \$400 million transferred to NIH from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for comparative effectiveness research.

National Science Foundation. The bill provides \$3 billion for NSF, the same as the House-approved level. Of that total, \$2.5 billion is for research, instrumentation, and facilities modernization; \$400 million is allocated to major research equipment and facilities construction; and \$100 million is directed to education and human resources.

NASA. The measure increases funding for NASA by \$1 billion. This includes \$400 million for climate research, \$150 million for aeronautics, \$400 million for exploration, and \$50 million to help restore NASA-owned facilities damaged in 2008 by natural disasters. The total approximately splits the difference between the \$600 million in the original House bill and \$1.5 billion in the original Senate bill.

Department of Energy Office of Science. The final bill includes \$1.6 billion for energy research and \$400 million for the new DOE Advanced Research Projects Agency. The measure includes no specified funding for advanced computing development, which had been in the original House and Senate bills.

National Institute of Standards and Technology. Among other provisions, the final bill provides \$360 million for construction of research buildings, with \$180 million of that total allocated to a “competitive construction grant program for research science buildings.” A press release from Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) indicates this latter funding is for colleges, universities, and other research organizations.

OTHER

ASSOCIATIONS URGE “BROADEST POSSIBLE ACCESS” TO SCHOLARSHIP
NEW

AAU and three other higher education groups have issued a white paper calling on universities to take a more active role in disseminating the scholarly work of their faculty.

“The University’s Role in the Dissemination of Research and Scholarship—A Call to Action” urges universities to strike a balance between the emphasis in traditional publishing of identifying and rewarding high-quality scholarship and the need to develop “fresh criteria” to judge the many kinds of scholarly work now being done outside of journal articles and monographs.

The [report](#) was issued by AAU, the Association of Research Libraries, the Coalition for Networked Information, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges. An accompanying press release is available [here](#).

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