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# AAU WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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## CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE *NEW*

The House was not in session today because of the Democratic policy retreat. The Senate met in an effort to complete work on its version of the economic recovery package (see item below).

Assuming the Senate finishes its economic recovery bill (H.R. 1) by this weekend, the focus in Congress next week will turn to the House-Senate conference on the measure. Democratic leaders hope to move a final package through Congress in time for the President to sign by the end of next week, in advance of the week-long Presidents Day recess.

Along with a possible conference agreement on H.R. 1, the House next week is expected to take up a Senate-passed lands bill (S. 22) that would expand national park and wilderness areas.

CQToday reports that the Senate's schedule next week is less clear, but the chamber may take up confirmation of more of the President's Cabinet and other nominees.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said Tuesday that the House would put off floor consideration of the FY09 omnibus appropriations bill until after the Presidents Day recess. The omnibus package is needed to sustain funding for agencies and programs in the nine unfinished FY09 appropriations bills that were bundled into the FY09 continuing resolution (CR), which expires on March 6. (Three FY09 bills are already funded for the entire fiscal year: Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans-Military Construction.)

## BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

### SENATE CONTINUES WORK ON ITS ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE *UPDATED*

The Senate continued work today on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (H.R. 1). Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) had hoped to move to a final vote on the

bill last evening, but decided to give a bipartisan group of Senators one more day to develop an amendment to reduce overall spending in the Senate bill.

The group of Senators, led by Ben Nelson (D-NE) and Susan Collins (R-ME), has been trying to negotiate an amendment to cut spending in the Senate bill by about \$100 billion, with the goal of attracting additional Republican support as well as shoring up support from conservative Democrats.

At this writing, the language of the amendment is not available, but CQToday reported this afternoon that the amendment's provisions might include zeroing out the entire \$1.4 billion added for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and cuts in NASA and school construction. Additional funds might be provided for defense operations and procurement, state and tribal assistance grants, and environmental cleanup.

Following Senate approval earlier this week of additional spending and tax cuts, the Senate measure is now estimated to cost about \$940 billion. The House-passed package totals about \$819 billion.

Reid has said that if it becomes clear that the Senate is just "spinning our wheels," he will file a cloture motion to cut off debate and move to a final vote on Sunday, February 8. CQToday reports that with Democrat Edward Kennedy (D-MA) still out of town for health reasons and unlikely to be able to vote, Majority Leader Reid will need at least three Republican votes to reach the 60 votes that would avoid a filibuster and approve the bill.

In the House, fiscally conservative "Blue Dog" Democrats wrote to House Democratic leaders on February 5 urging a "redoubled effort" to cut non-stimulative provisions from the bill.

At this writing, the Senate has acted on two amendments of significant interest to the university research community. These are:

- \$6.5 Billion Added for NIH. The Senate on February 3 approved by voice vote an amendment by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$6.5 billion. This raises the NIH total in the bill to \$10 billion.

Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) withdrew a similar amendment that would have offset the increase for NIH by cutting \$6.5 billion from the state fiscal stabilization fund in the bill. After the Senator withdrew that amendment, he gave his support to the Harkin amendment, which did not have the offset.

- Cut in NASA Science Funds Rejected. The Senate on February 4 defeated by a vote of 32-65 an amendment by Senator David Vitter (R-LA) to cut spending, including \$500 million for global climate change at NASA.

## **OTHER**

### **INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CELEBRATION AN OPPORTUNITY FOR HILL VISITS ON TITLE VI**

Next month, campus international education officials and a number of university presidents and chancellors will come to Washington, D.C. for a conference to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

Title VI, which authorizes the international education programs funded through the Department of Education.

Members of the CFR may wish to use the conference as an opportunity to meet with their campus international education colleagues and to arrange visits on Capitol Hill to discuss the importance of Title VI programs to their faculty and students.

The Title VI meeting and celebration will be held March 19 to 21 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Capitol Hill at 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW.

Additional information about the conference is available at: <http://titlevi50th.msu.edu/>.

**AAU ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER 2009 STUDENT INTERNSHIPS**  
*NEW*

AAU has openings for two college-student interns in its Washington, D.C. office for the summer 2009 semester.

These are unpaid positions, with a focus on science and higher education policy. Depending on their university, students may be able to receive college credit for their work at AAU. Internship opportunities are not limited to students from AAU-member universities.

The application deadline for summer 2009 internships is Monday, March 9.

Additional information about the AAU intern program, including comments by previous interns, is available on the AAU [website](#).

This information has been sent to intern coordinators at AAU-member campuses.

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