



AAU WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE *NEW*

Both the House and Senate were in session today. The House approved the FY10 Military Construction-Veterans Affairs appropriations bill (H.R. 3082); the Senate held no votes.

The Senate will reconvene on Monday, July 13. It will begin consideration of the FY10 Defense authorization bill (S. 1390) and also may take up confirmation of Robert M. Grove as Director of the Census.

The House is expected to continue work next week on the FY10 appropriations bills, beginning with Energy and Water and continuing with Financial Services. CQToday reports that House leaders hope to consider a third spending bill, but have not said which one it might be.

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

PROGRESS CONTINUES ON FY10 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS *NEW*

The House and Senate continue making progress on the 12 FY10 appropriations bills.

The House has now approved seven bills, Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, Homeland Security, Interior-Environment, Legislative Branch, Military Construction-Veterans, and State-

Foreign Operations, with two more approved by the full Appropriations Committee, Energy and Water and Financial Services (both approved this week). The House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee marked up its FY10 bill this morning (see item below). Still pending subcommittee consideration are Defense and Transportation-HUD, which are slated for subcommittee markups on July 13 and July 15, respectively.

The Senate has approved two FY10 appropriations bills, Legislative Branch and Homeland Security, with seven more approved at the full committee level: Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, Energy and Water, Financial Services, Interior-Environment, Military Construction-Veterans, and State-Foreign Operations. Three bills are awaiting subcommittee consideration: Defense, Labor-HHS-Education, and Transportation-HUD.

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE MARKS UP FY10 LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION BILL *NEW*

The House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee this morning approved its FY10 appropriations bill by voice vote, setting the stage for full committee markup next Tuesday, July 14. A [statement](#) by Chairman David Obey (D-WI) says the overall measure includes \$160.7 billion in discretionary spending, which is \$5 billion more than the comparable FY09 level but \$52 million below the Administration's request. (See summary [chart](#) for additional details.)

The measure provides \$31.3 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), an increase of \$941 million, or 3.1 percent, above the FY09 level and \$500 million above the President's FY10 request. Chairman Obey's statement says the bill rejects "the Administration's targeted funding approach" and ensures "that all institutes and centers receive funding to offset biomedical research inflation."

For Pell Grants, the bill would maintain the maximum discretionary grant award at \$4,860, which, when combined with mandatory spending of \$690, would provide a maximum Pell Grant award of \$5,550 in FY10. That is an increase of \$200 over the FY09 maximum award.

The campus-based student aid programs would be level-funded, but the measure increases funding for early intervention, preparation, and support activities, including \$868 million for TRIO, an increase of \$20 million, and \$330 million for GEAR UP, also an increase of \$20 million.

HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES APPROVE FY10 ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS *UPDATED*

The House and Senate appropriations committees this week approved their respective versions of the FY10 energy and water appropriations bill. The Senate bill (S. 1436) provides \$27.4 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE), compared to the House funding of \$26.9 billion and the Administration's request of \$28.4 billion. (At this writing, the Senate [report](#) is posted on Thomas, but the House report is not yet listed there.)

DOE Office of Science. Both the House and Senate bills would fund the DOE Office of Science at approximately \$4.9 billion, the same amount included in the Administration's FY10 request. This is approximately \$170 million more than the FY09 level. (The Office of Science also received \$1.6 billion in Recovery Act funds, to be spent over FY09 and FY10.) Both the House

and Senate bills each include approximately \$40 million for Congressionally directed projects, which will ultimately reduce the amount of money available to support the funding requested by the President.

The House Chairman's [summary](#) indicates that the House bill provides \$1.7 billion for Basic Energy Sciences (BES) and \$409 million for the Advanced Scientific Computing program. According to the summary, the bill would provide a combined total of \$2.4 billion for Nuclear Physics, High Energy Physics, Biological and Environmental Research, and Fusion Energy Sciences. The House summary adds that the amount of funding for Fusion Energy represents an additional \$20 million for the program.

The Senate committee-passed [bill](#) funds Basic Energy Sciences at \$1.65 billion and Advanced Scientific Computing at \$400 million. Nuclear Physics would receive \$540 million, High Energy Physics \$813 million, Biological and Environmental Research \$604.2 million, and Fusion Energy Sciences \$416 million.

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The House bill would provide \$2.25 billion, which is \$69 million below the request and \$321 million above the FY09 level. That compares to the Senate level of \$2.23 billion.

Innovation Hubs. The Department has requested \$280 million to initiate eight Energy Innovation Hubs. The House bill provides just \$35 million for the centers within the Office of Science Basic Energy Science program, citing redundancy of the program with other DOE initiatives and a lack of implementation details. The Senate bill supports three hubs: Fuels from Sunlight (Science), Energy Efficient Building Systems (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy), and Modeling and Simulation (Nuclear Energy). The committee report says that the Fuels from Sunlight and Energy Efficient Building Systems hubs should each receive \$22 million, but only if the Department of Energy is able to free up the funding by supporting with Recovery Act funds an infrastructure/roads project associated with the planned expansion of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. It is unclear from the committee report how much funding is being provided for the Modeling and Simulation hub.

RE-ENERGYSE. DOE has requested \$115 million in FY10 funding for a new clean energy education initiative called, REgaining our ENERGY Science and Engineering Edge (RE-ENERGYSE). The House bill provides just \$7 million for the program; the Senate bill provides no funding. As proposed by the Administration, this program would provide new funding to higher education to support new experiential learning opportunities for undergraduate students as well as three-year fellowships for doctoral students and one-year postdoctoral opportunities in energy-related fields. The program also would grant competitive awards to universities to develop and offer a master's degree in Interdisciplinary Energy Studies, focused on clean energy.

NEH FARES WELL IN HOUSE AND SENATE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS *NEW*

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has done well in both the House and Senate FY10 Interior-Environment appropriations bills.

The House-approved bill (H.R. 2996) includes \$170 million for NEH, which is \$15 million above the FY09 level and about \$1 million less than the Administration's FY10 request. The House measure rejects the President's recommendation to transfer the \$10 million National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program to NEH but retains the extra \$10 million in the NEH budget. Thus, the final House bill actually provides about \$9 million more for NEH programs

than the President requested. Within that increase, \$6 million was added to NEH national core programs and \$2.7 million to the research division. (The subcommittee had originally allocated the \$6 million increase to the state/federal partnership program, but the funding was redirected to NEH core programs at the full committee level.)

The Senate Appropriations Committee-approved bill provides \$161.3 million for NEH, which is \$6.3 million above the FY09 enacted level but below both the FY10 request of \$171 million and the House level of \$170 million. However, because the panel also rejected transfer of the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs program to NEH while retaining the added \$10 million in the agency, the Senate bill provides the Administration's FY10 request for both the federal/state partnership and national core programs.

OTHER CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES

HOUSE APPROVES SBIR REAUTHORIZATION *NEW*

The House on July 8 approved The Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act of 2009 (H.R. 2965) by a vote of 386 to 41. The measure reauthorizes the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer programs. Unlike the Senate Small Business Committee-passed bill (S. 1233), the House measure does not increase the percentage set-aside for small business research at the major federal research agencies.

AAU sent a [letter](#) to Rep. David Wu (D-OR), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Innovation and Technology, on July 6, expressing support for the bill. AAU President Robert Berdahl also [testified](#) before the subcommittee in April about the legislation.

ASSOCIATIONS URGE SUPPORT FOR DREAM ACT *NEW*

AAU and more than two dozen other higher education associations last week expressed to Congress [support](#) for the DREAM Act, legislation that would enable certain children of illegal immigrants to receive in-state college tuition and have a path to permanent status. It remains unclear if proponents of the bill will seek to move it separately this year or roll it into a broader immigration reform package. Although Congress has failed to approve DREAM Act legislation since it was first introduced in 2001, President Obama's support for the measure has raised hope of its approval.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

PRESIDENT NOMINATES FRANCIS COLLINS TO HEAD NIH; AAU EXPRESSES SUPPORT

The White House on July 8 [announced](#) that President Obama plans to nominate noted physician-geneticist Francis S. Collins as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Collins led the Human Genome Project and served as Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute from 1993 to 2008.

In a [statement](#) issued by AAU, President Robert Berdahl praised Dr. Collins for his research and administrative accomplishments, as well as for his understanding of the importance of public understanding of science and research. "Dr. Collins is the right person at the right time to lead the NIH when we have such extraordinary opportunities in biomedical research," he said.

NIH ISSUES EMBRYONIC STEM CELL GUIDELINES; AAU THANKS AGENCY FOR TIMELY ACTION *NEW*

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) on July 6 released new [guidelines](#) for the use of embryonic stem cells in research. AAU issued a [statement](#) praising NIH officials for working quickly to develop guidelines for this research that will “transform our understanding of human development and disease and lead to long-awaited and hoped-for cures and therapies,” and for addressing specific [concerns](#) raised by AAU and others.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ISSUES NEW PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT FOR YOUNG FACULTY AWARDS *NEW*

The Department of Energy (DOE) on July 2 released a new program [announcement](#) for young faculty awards, an action that responds to one of the recommendations in last year’s Advancing Research in Science and Engineering (ARISE) study, sponsored by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The program is being supported initially with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Campuses are asked to encourage talented young faculty members to apply for these new DOE awards.

The ARISE study [committee](#) was tasked with examining ways to strengthen the impact of federal research funding. The resulting white paper called for greater support of early-career investigators and encouragement of high-risk, high-reward research. DOE is addressing the latter issue through its new entity, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, while this new program addresses the panel’s second major recommendation. Among those who served on the ARISE Committee were now-Energy Secretary Steven Chu, as well France Córdova, president of Purdue University; C. D. Mote, president of the University of Maryland, College Park; and Mark Wrighton, chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis.

OTHER

CHRONICLE PUBLISHES BERDAHL COMMENTARY ON RESEARCH UNIVERSITY STUDY

The Chronicle of Higher Education has published a [commentary](#) by AAU President Robert Berdahl about a proposal he made to Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) earlier this year to consider asking the National Academies to study the competitive position of the nation’s research universities. Senator Alexander has since joined with Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Reps. Bart Gordon (D-TN) and Ralph Hall (R-TX) to make such a request.

President Berdahl’s commentary provides his reasons for requesting a study and describes some of the issues he believes the study should address. Along with a [letter to the editor](#) published in the Chronicle last week, the commentary also responds to two significant misunderstandings about his proposal that arose from two previous articles in the Chronicle.

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