



AAU WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE *NEW*

The Senate did not meet today. Next week, the Senate convenes on Monday, May 18, when it will resume consideration of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights. The Senate leadership is planning to work on this measure through Wednesday, and no further schedule has been announced.

The House met today in pro forma session. The House convenes on Monday, May 18. The legislative agenda for next week includes the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act (S. 896), which addresses the issue of mortgage foreclosures; the Job Creation Act (H.R. 2352), a small-business measure; the FAA Reauthorization Act (H.R. 915); and the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act (H.R. 2200).

BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

NSF RELEASES FY10 BUDGET DETAILS *NEW*

On May 14, the Administration released additional details of its FY10 budget request for the National Science Foundation. In its budget [overview](#), NSF highlighted the President's Plan for Science and Innovation, a plan that supports increased federal investment in undergraduate and graduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education as well as high-risk research related to climate change. The budget also highlighted several other significant presidential initiatives, including a \$92 million foundation-wide investment in transformative research, \$203 million for the Faculty Early Career Development Program, and \$122 million for the Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) program. According to the budget request, \$122 million in funding for GRF would support 1,654 new fellowships in FY10.

Late today, NSF [released](#) the final details of its budget. While a complete summary of the NSF FY10 budget will be provided by AAU next week, a preliminary analysis is [available](#) now on the AAU website. As noted in the AAU summary, the Administration proposed \$7.04 billion for NSF in FY10, an increase of \$554 million, or 8.5 percent. Within the FY10 budget request, the Administration proposed the following: \$5.7 billion for Research and Related Activities; \$857 million for Education and Human Resources; and \$117 million for Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction.

HOUSE APPROVES FY09 WAR SUPPLEMENTAL *NEW*

The House on May 14 approved a \$96.7 billion FY09 supplemental appropriations bill (H.R. 2346) for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The vote was 368-60. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its \$91.3 billion version of the bill on the same day. Like the request from President Obama, both measures also contain funds for international aid as well as efforts to combat pandemic flu. In addition to funding issues, there are differences over policy relating to Guantanamo Bay prisoners.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

AAU APPLAUDS NSB DRAFT REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY *NEW*

In [comments](#) submitted May 1, AAU applauded the National Science Board (NSB) for its leadership in promoting a nationally coordinated research, development, deployment, and education strategy for transforming the U.S. energy system into a sustainable energy economy.

The comments, which responded to a draft NSB [report](#), “Building a Sustainable Energy Future,” also endorsed the report’s recommendation that the National Science Foundation “should continue to increase emphasis on innovation in sustainable energy technologies and education as a top priority.”

The comments noted that the AAU membership adopted a [resolution](#) on green energy research and training on April 21 that “is very much in keeping with the spirit and recommendations” of the NSB report, as are [recommendations](#) AAU made to then President-Elect Obama last December.

AAU, COGR COMMENT ON ADVISORY COMMITTEE GENETICS REPORT *NEW*

AAU and COGR filed [comments](#) dated May 15 on a report by an advisory committee of the Department of Health and Human Services entitled “Draft Report on Gene Patents and Licensing Practices and Their Impact on Patient Access to Genetic Tests.” The [report](#), by the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health and Society (SACGHS), summarizes the Committee’s examination of gene patents and licensing practices on patient and clinical access to genetic tests. Despite the committee’s finding “little in the way of broad or consistent evidence that indicates either positive or negative effects of gene patents on patient access to diagnostic tests,” the report recommends, among other things, that HHS consider making compliance with NIH best practices for genomic licensing a consideration in awarding NIH grants and a series of Executive Orders clarifying Bayh-Dole implementation.

The COGR/AAU letter states three “principal concerns” with the SACGHS report, including the lack of supporting evidence for its policy recommendations, a “lack of understanding that licensing is a complex process” requiring flexibility, and too much emphasis on additional regulation without considering other possible incentives.

**LEMNIOS NOMINATED AS DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND
ENGINEERING AT DOD *NEW***

Zachary Lemnios, chief technology officer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory has been [nominated](#) as Director of Defense Research & Engineering at the Department of Defense.

Lemnios, who has held several positions at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and in such corporations as Hughes Aircraft, Westinghouse Electric, and Ford Microelectronics, earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan and a master’s degree in electrical engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. He also attended the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security.

O’TOOLE NOMINATED TO HEAD DHS S&T DIRECTORATE *NEW*

Tara O’Toole, director of the Center for Biosecurity at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, has been [nominated](#) by President Obama to serve as Under Secretary for the Science and Technology Directorate at the Department of Homeland Security.

O’Toole earned a bachelor’s degree from Vassar College, a master’s in public health from The Johns Hopkins University, and a medical degree from George Washington University.

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