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# AAU WEEKLY WRAP-UP

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES  
1200 NEW YORK AVENUE NW, SUITE 550, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005  
Phone: 202-408-7500 Fax: 202-408-8184  
[www.aau.edu](http://www.aau.edu)

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## CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE *NEW*

The Senate was not in session today; the House was in session but held no roll call votes.

The Senate next week will focus on FY10 appropriations bills, completing action on the Defense funding bill and beginning work on Commerce-Justice-Science. The chamber also may vote on the conference reports for the Agriculture and Energy and Water funding bills (see appropriations item below).

In the House, Democratic leaders plan to consider the conference report for the Agriculture appropriations bill. The chamber also may consider conference reports for the Homeland Security and Interior-Environment funding bills, if those conference reports are completed.

## BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

### CONGRESS APPROVES FY10 CONTINUING RESOLUTION *NEW*

The Senate on September 30 gave final congressional approval to the continuing resolution (CR) needed to keep the government running in the new fiscal year, which began yesterday. The measure, which lasts through the month of October, was attached to the FY10 Legislative Branch appropriations bill ([H.R. 2918](#)). Approval of the package makes Legislative Branch the only one of the 12 regular FY10 appropriations bills approved so far by Congress.

The CR funds most government programs at their FY09 levels but increases funding for the Veterans Health Administration and the Census Bureau. CongressDaily reports that the bill also extends authorizations for several programs, including child nutrition and surface and aviation transportation programs.

The House has completed action on all 12 FY10 [appropriations](#) bills; the Senate has completed work on six. In addition to the Legislative Branch bill, conference agreements have been completed for Agriculture (H.R. 2997) and Energy and Water (H.R. 3183). The House approved the Energy and Water conference report yesterday.

Conference deliberations were delayed last week by House and Senate differences over how to treat congressional earmarks to for-profit entities (which were not an issue in the Legislative Branch bill). House appropriators added provisions to their appropriations bills requiring that earmarks to for-profit entities undergo a competitive bidding process. The requirement did not apply to earmarks originating in the Senate, and Senate appropriators resisted its application to the five percent of earmarks that overlap in House and Senate bills. Negotiators reached an agreement last Friday under which the House requirement will not apply to those overlapping earmarks in FY10 bills but will apply to such earmarks beginning in FY11.

### **CONFERENCE COMPLETED ON FY10 ENERGY AND WATER FUNDING BILL *NEW***

House and Senate negotiators reached agreement September 30 on the FY10 Energy and Water appropriations bill (H.R. 3183), providing \$27.1 billion for the Department of Energy, a \$318-million increase above FY09 funding but \$1.3 billion below the Administration's request.

The conference agreement includes \$4.9 billion for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science, which is \$131 million above the FY09 level but \$42 million below the Administration's request and \$44 million below the House-approved level. (AAU had requested the House funding level in a [letter](#) sent to conferees jointly with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities on September 11.)

The conference [press release](#) says that the funding for the Office of Science, when combined with \$4.9 billion in FY09 and \$1.6 billion from the Recovery Act, "exceeds the goals in the America COMPETES Act."

The agreement provides funding for three of the Administration's proposed eight Energy Innovation Hubs (at \$22 million each) in the areas of Fuels from Sunlight; Energy Efficient Building Systems and Design; and Modeling and Simulation. (As in the Senate version of the bill, funding for both the Fuels from Sunlight and Energy Efficient Building Systems hubs is contingent on the Department of Energy using Recovery Act funds to support an infrastructure/roads project for the planned expansion of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.) The AAU-APLU conference letter had requested that at least three hubs be funded.

The final agreement includes no funding for the Administration's proposed RE-ENERGYSE education program, a program which the two associations have also supported.

### **PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES \$5 BILLION IN NIH RECOVERY ACT AWARDS**

In an event September 30 at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), President Obama [announced](#) that the Administration has now released \$5 billion in NIH funding provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The amount is slightly less than half of the \$10.4 billion in Recovery Act funds approved for NIH for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

The President said that the more than 12,000 grants awarded at NIH would “support cutting-edge medical research in every state across America.” He added, “We know that this kind of investment will also lead to new jobs: tens of thousands of jobs conducting research, manufacturing and supplying medical equipment, and building and modernizing laboratories and research facilities.”

In a video on the White House website titled, [Creating Jobs & Finding Cures: The Recovery Act at Work](#), NIH Director Francis Collins and researchers at The Johns Hopkins University discuss the value of the added research funding, which Dr. Collins says is “turbocharging” medical research.

### **AAU-APLU-TSC ISSUE SECOND PRESS RELEASE ON RECOVERY ACT-FUNDED UNIVERSITY RESEARCH**

AAU, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and The Science Coalition issued a second press release on September 29 detailing some of the latest university research and education projects funded around the country through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The press [release](#), which is intended to be illustrative, not comprehensive, highlights such projects as researching the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems, understanding the roots of pain in the brain, and building robots to understand those with speaking impairments, as well as activities to help educate future leaders in clean technology and global health research.

The associations have been gathering research funding totals, project examples, and press releases from participating colleges and universities in each state. These materials will be made available on a new website, ScienceWorksForUS, which will be launched in October.

Those campuses that have not yet responded to the associations’ request for information are asked to do so through [ARRAResearch@gga.com](mailto:ARRAResearch@gga.com).

### **AAU AND APLU EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT POTENTIAL E-VERIFY AMENDMENT IN FUNDING BILL**

AAU and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) [wrote](#) to House and Senate appropriators on September 29 urging them to reject a potential amendment to the conference agreement on the FY10 Homeland Security appropriations bill that would expand the requirements for federal contractors to verify employment eligibility using the electronic E-Verify system.

The letter, sent to leaders of the House and Senate Homeland Security appropriations subcommittees, notes that the amendment would significantly expand employment verification requirements by including all individuals hired during the term of a contract and not just those individuals assigned to perform work under the contract. Because many AAU and APLU universities are the largest employers in their local communities and states, this expanded

employment verification requirement “would pose both a financial and administrative burden for our member institutions.”

The letter continues, “As both educators and employers, we certainly appreciate the importance of having a workable and efficient electronic employment verification system, and we stand ready to work with Members of Congress and their staffs to develop such a system.”

### **FORTY-EIGHT HOUSE MEMBERS ADVOCATE \$170 MILLION FOR NEH**

A group of 48 House members on September 29 sent a [letter](#) to House conferees on the FY10 Interior and Related Agencies appropriations bill urging them to support allocating \$170 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in the conference with Senate appropriators.

The letter, led by Congressional Humanities Caucus co-chairs David Price (D-NC) and Thomas Petri (R-WI), thanks House appropriators for their support of NEH and the humanities and asks them to work to retain the higher, House-approved level of \$170 million—an increase of \$15 million over the FY09 level—in the final bill.

## **EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

### **ENERGY SECRETARY ANNOUNCES NEW GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM *NEW***

Secretary of Energy Steven Chu [announced](#) September 30 that the Department of Energy will allocate up to \$12.5 million in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support at least 80 graduate fellowships in mathematics, science, and engineering.

The fellowships, which will be awarded in early 2010, aim to encourage top students to pursue graduate degrees in fields that “will prepare...[them]...for careers that can make significant contributions in discovery-driven science and science for national needs in energy and the environment.”

Additional information about the fellowships, including how to apply, is available on the [webpage](#) of the newly created DOE Office of Science Graduate Fellowship Program.

## **OTHER**

### **INNOVATION FOUNDATION PLANS OCTOBER 7 SESSION ON ENHANCING UNIVERSITIES’ ROLE IN INNOVATION *NEW***

The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF) invites members of the public to attend an October 7 Capitol Hill discussion on enhancing the role of universities in innovation.

The panel [discussion](#) will feature Krisztina Holly, vice provost of innovation at the University of Southern California, who will present a policy proposal on innovation that is consistent with an AAU recommendation made late last year to the incoming Administration for an “innovation acceleration initiative.” (See page 9 of AAU’s [Policy Recommendations for President-Elect Obama](#).)

Other panel members will be Tom Kalil, Deputy Director for Policy at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Desh Deshpande, co-founder of Sycamore Networks.

The session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m., in the Congressional South Meeting Room at the Capitol Visitor Center. A light breakfast will be provided. Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP [here](#). Video and audio from the session will be posted on the ITIF website shortly after the event.

**MONIZ TO ADDRESS LOW CARBON ENERGY TECHNOLOGY IN OCTOBER 14  
AAAS LECTURE *NEW***

Dr. Ernest Moniz, professor of physics and engineering systems at MIT and former Undersecretary of Energy, will deliver the October 14 AAAS-Hitachi Lecture on Science & Society. His presentation is titled, “Energy Technology for a Low Carbon Future.”

This second annual lecture will be held in the second floor auditorium of the AAAS building at 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. The event will begin with coffee at 4:30 p.m., followed by the lecture at 5:00 p.m. and a reception at 6:30 p.m.

Those interested in attending the lecture are asked to RSVP to <http://www.aaas.org/spp/hitachi>.

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