

**American Mathematical Society**  
**Committee on Science Policy Meeting**  
**March 12-13, 2010**  
**Washington, DC**

**Summary Report**

The 2010 Committee on Science Policy (CSP) meeting included presentations on priorities for the FY 2011 federal budget, the appropriations process, budgeting for the National Science Foundation, funding opportunities at the NSF's Division of Mathematical Sciences, legislative updates, grassroots programs and science diplomacy.

*Highlights from presentations:*

***Kei Koizumi***

***Assistant Director for Federal Research and Development  
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy***

Kei Koizumi began his presentation by talking generally about the federal investment in basic and applied research and then gave an overview of the proposed FY 2011 budget. He pointed out that funding for research had been trending downward in recent years, but that the Obama Administration is trying to reverse the trend. The President's plan for science and innovation spending through 2017 shows a commitment to doubling the budgets of NSF, DOE Science and NIST. The proposed FY 2011 budget is a start in this direction by providing a 6 percent increase in funding for basic and applied research. Koizumi also noted that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) investments went to all three agencies last year and that the duration of these awards will continue for the next several years.

***Deborah Lockhart***

***Deputy Division Director***

***Division of Mathematical Sciences, National Science Foundation***

Deborah Lockhart explained that the NSF Division of Mathematical Sciences has five major areas of investment: core programs, interdisciplinary activities, institutes, infrastructure, and workforce. She discussed the budget history of DMS and noted that their ARRA funds have all been awarded at this point -- 70 percent of which went to individual investigator grants, with 55 percent of those going to individuals that had not received funds previously. The effects of these additional ARRA funds will be felt over the next several years. In order to avoid having all these grants terminate at once, the NSF spread the duration of these awards over 3, 4 and 5 years.

Lockhart reported a 7.4 percent budget increase over FY 2009 appropriated funding for DMS in FY 2010 and a proposed 5 percent budget increase for FY 2011. She also discussed the consolidation of workforce and infrastructure portfolios -- the VIGRE program will end in FY 2010 and several other programs will end in FY 2011.

***Dixon Butler***

***Professional Staff, U.S. House of Representatives***

***Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee***

Dixon Butler gave attendees some insight into the annual appropriations process. He explained the procedures involved in moving the President's annual budget request from authorization to appropriations and described the many steps involved in this process as the bill makes its way through the House and Senate to the President's desk for signature.

***Neysa Call and Jason Unger***  
***Office of Senator Harry Reid (D-NV)***

Neysa Call and Jason Unger gave an overview of what the next several months in the Senate may hold. An example of upcoming legislation is the America Competes Act, which is due to be reauthorized this year. It is hoped that a bill will come to the Senate floor by the Memorial Day recess. They also pointed out that although there is general bi-partisan support for science on the Hill, it is expected to be a difficult budget year that could impact federal funding for basic scientific research. It remains to be seen how provisions for science funding in the FY 2011 budget will fare in this climate.

***Dennis Glanzman and Yuan Liu***  
***NIH/NIMH and NIH/NINDS***

Dennis Glanzman began the presentation with a brief structural overview of the National Institutes of Health. He then discussed training and career development opportunities at NIH, including their F, K and R awards. The F awards are fellowship awards that provide salary support for students in training. The K Awards are career development awards and the R awards are research project grants used to support basic and applied biomedical research.

Glanzman spoke in some detail about the K25 Mentored Quantitative Research Career Development Award and the K99/R00 Mentored Pathway to Independence Award. He discussed the scope of these awards, the review criteria and where to get more information. He also discussed the three most common research grants at NIH: R01, R03 and R21. The R01 being the most commonly used grant mechanism supporting biomedical research in all fields.

Yuan Liu continued the presentation with practical information on how to write a grant application. She discussed the review criteria for applications and talked about funding opportunities for mathematicians.

***Bradley Smith***  
***Office of Legislative and Government Affairs***  
***American Chemical Society***

Brad Smith provided background information on the office of public affairs at ACS and defined what grassroots advocacy means to a professional society. He discussed two types of active grassroots programs: *broad based*, where there are a large number of volunteers tasked with participating in email, telephone and petition campaigns and attending town hall meetings; and *quality based*, where ‘key contacts’ participate in district visits, fly-in campaigns, facility tours, round table discussions and advisory committees. He provided examples of how ACS uses these two types of programs to advance the legislative efforts of their society, including using social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.

Smith gave insight on recruiting and maintaining a robust volunteer effort and talked about lessons learned in the process of building their grassroots network, including the need to have support from the organization’s leadership, the time to grow such a network and that an organization will no longer have total control of its message.

***Eric Bone***  
***Office of the Science and Technology Adviser***  
***U.S. Department of State***

Eric Bone spoke about his past experiences as a mathematician involved in development and diplomacy. He recounted his work in the Peace Corps in Malawi, at U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Afghanistan, and at the U.S. Department of State. He discussed the mission, budget and workforce of the Department of State and the USAID and talked about how a scientific background is beneficial to a successful career in science diplomacy.

***Joel Parriott***

***Program Examiner, Science and Space Programs Branch,  
White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB)***

Joel Parriott discussed his role as Program Examiner at OMB and his responsibility for budget oversight of the National Science Foundation (NSF). He explained that his position allows him to make recommendations about NSF funding, but that he is not involved in division level allocations. He also talked about the structure of OMB, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the budget process in general.

***Katherine Crowley***

***AMS 2009-2010 Congressional Fellow  
Office of Senator Al Franken (D-MN)***

Katherine Crowley, the current AMS Congressional Fellow, talked about her experience with the AAAS fellowship program and her position in the office of Senator Al Franken. She described the orientation, training and placement processes for new Fellows and talked about what a typical day is like for her serving in the office of a senator. She discussed how her background in mathematics has helped her in her position and spoke about the importance of relationship building on the Hill. She also spoke briefly about legislation that Senator Franken has introduced, some of which she helped develop.

***Other Discussion***

The committee had an open discussion on what the AMS should be doing with regard to grassroots advocacy. Committee members wanted to explore whether the society was doing enough to encourage the involvement of the mathematics community in this endeavor. Since relationship building is such an integral part of a successful grassroots campaign, the committee discussed ways to encourage more mathematicians to be involved and how best to provide information that enables them to conduct successful meetings with their Congressional representatives. Information sessions at the Joint Mathematics Meetings were proposed, as was an opinion piece for the *Notices* on the importance of grassroots advocacy to the discipline.

Additionally, the committee had a discussion on how best to help the mathematics community earn more NSF graduate fellowships. Since the fellowships are awarded in direct proportion to the number of applications received, it was felt that the AMS should encourage math students to apply. The AMS could use the grad student blog, provide information for inclusion in school orientation materials and send emails to department chairs in an effort to increase the number of mathematics students applying for these fellowships.

***Committee on Science Policy Events at the 2011 Joint Mathematics Meeting***

The committee has two slots at the Joint Mathematics Meetings each year, one for a government speaker and the other for a panel discussion. Several options were discussed to fill these places in the JMM program.

***Date of Next Meeting***

The 2011 Committee on Science Policy meeting will be held on March 4-5, 2011 in Washington, DC.

Submitted by Anita Benjamin  
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