

**American Mathematical Society  
Committee on Science Policy Meeting  
March 13-15, 2014  
Washington, DC**

**Summary Report**

The Committee on Science Policy (CSP) met over several days with a focus on Capitol Hill meetings between Congressional representatives and meeting attendees to promote mathematics and to urge increased federal funding for the National Science Foundation and its Division of Mathematical Sciences. In total, the group met with 29 offices. The first day of the meeting was devoted to preparation for Hill meetings. Friday was spent making Hill visits and committee business and further discussion occurred on Saturday morning.

***Michael Vogelius***

***Director, Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS)***

***Directorate of Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS), National Science Foundation (NSF)***

Michael Vogelius began his presentation with an update on the FY2014 budget, trends in R&D funding over the last 35 years, recent NSF/MPS divisional budgets and a history of the NSF/MPS-DMS budget. He explained that there has not been strong budget growth in recent years and this trend does not appear likely to change in the near future.

Vogelius provided information on the major award categories within DMS including individual investigator and research group awards, institutes and workforce programs. There was much discussion among attendees regarding funding.

He went on to discuss what the mathematics community could do to help promote increased and sustained federal investment in research. He encouraged those attending to use their meetings with congressional representatives to argue for the importance of funding increases in basic scientific research, not strictly mathematics, as mathematicians are funded through interdisciplinary projects too.

***Karen Saxe***

***AMS Congressional Fellow 2013-14***

***Office of Senator Al Franken (MN)***

Karen Saxe presented an orientation for Congressional meetings developed by the AMS Washington Office. She offered basic information about the importance of advocacy, the federal budget process, the structure of a Congressional office and insights into Members of Congress and their staffs.

Saxe went on to discuss the documents that would be left at each Congressional visit, what to expect and how to conduct these meetings. The AMS Washington Office developed the "Ask," which is a statement of the request of the Member on Congress that was left at each visit, along with other materials. This year's "Ask" was formulated based on recent trends in the budget for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and requested \$7.5 billion for the NSF.

***Kei Koizumi***

***Assistant Director for Federal Research and Development***

***White House Office of Science & Technology Policy***

Kei Koizumi began his presentation by describing the effect on research funding of recent difficulties on the federal budget, including sequestration and the government shutdown. He described the FY2015

President's budget as striving to spur innovation and sustain a world-leading science and research enterprise. However, this budget overall is only 0.2% above FY2014, so the President has proposed an additional investment of \$56 billion he calls the Opportunity, Growth and Security Initiative. The difficulty will be in enacting this initiative since it would be above the budget limit agreed to by Congress in December 2013.

Koizumi described some components of the FY2015 federal budget highlighting advanced manufacturing as one area the President wants to concentrate on in order to win the race for the next wave of high-tech manufacturing jobs. He wants to establish a national network of manufacturing innovation institutes where businesses would connect with research universities -- two such hubs have already been launched to further this effort.

Koizumi also talked about the President's priorities in the FY2015 budget for a cleaner energy economy, global change and health research and for preparing Americans with STEM skills

### ***Constituent Meetings***

On Friday, March 14 the group went to Capitol Hill to hold meetings in congressional offices. The AMS Washington Office scheduled meetings for all participants with their respective Congressional representatives. These constituent meetings were conducted in small groups and a wrap-up session was held at the end of the day to share experiences and discuss the value of the meetings.

### ***Other Discussion***

There was much discussion throughout the meeting about a piece of legislation called the Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technology (FIRST) Act (H.R. 4186 introduced on March 10, 2014). The bill comes out of the Subcommittee on Research and Technology of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology and one of its tenets would be to shift the responsibility for determining the distribution of funds to eight scientific directorates within the National Science Foundation from the National Science Board to a congressional subcommittee. There was vast agreement that this bill, if enacted, would do serious harm to advancing scientific research.

Another discussion centered on how to improve the effectiveness of congressional visits. It was decided that future meetings should include invitations to AMS members outside the committee in strategic areas of the country for whom the committee would pay travel expenses to participate.

In follow up to congressional meetings, participants were encouraged to write thank you notes to those they met with and to offer themselves as a resource to the congressional office in the future. Other discussion also focused on cooperation with other societies.

### ***Date of Next Meeting***

The 2015 Committee on Science Policy meeting is scheduled for April 14-15, 2015 in Washington, DC.

Submitted by Anita Benjamin  
American Mathematical Society  
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