

**American Mathematical Society  
Committee on Science Policy Meeting  
April 4-5, 2017  
Washington, DC**

**Summary**

The Committee on Science Policy (CSP) met over two days with presentations on the federal budget process, current legislative outlook and grassroots advocacy. The committee also spent a good deal of time considering the committee's charge and focus of activities. Committee Chair Scott Wolpert began the meeting by outlining the agenda for the meeting and welcoming all participants.

***Kei Koizumi***

***American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)***

Kei Koizumi discussed the federal budget and appropriations process. He reported that Congress has still not settled the budget for FY2017 (which runs from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017). Currently, there is a Continuing Resolution (CR) in place until April 28 funding almost all agencies at last year's levels. Moving forward on FY2017, Congress will either need to write and pass individual appropriations bills for the rest of FY2017, pass an omnibus package covering all appropriations in one bill, extend the CR until the end of the fiscal year or come to no agreement and cause a shutdown. He feels the most likely scenario would be a hybrid whereby some agencies would get a CR and others would get appropriated.

Koizumi also talked about the President's so-called "skinny budget" for FY2018 that came out a few weeks ago. This budget request would cut 10% or \$50 million from domestic programs and shift the money to spend on defense. Across the board, many science agencies are looking at big cuts, but there was no information on the National Science Foundation (NSF) in this budget.

The President's annual budget request is merely a proposal. Congress always has different priorities than the President so the work in passing a budget each year is in negotiation and compromise. The detailed budget for FY2018 is due to come out in early May and should contain real numbers and details on how cuts will be allocated. There has been no specific information on this budget as yet. Koizumi felt it highly unlikely that the FY2018 budget process will be complete by October 1 when the fiscal year begins.

***Catherine Paolucci***

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

***AMS Congressional Fellow 2016-17***

Catherine Paolucci began her presentation by talking about the AAAS Science & Technology fellowship program, explaining the different types of fellowships, their size and focus. She highlighted the need for more mathematicians to apply for these fellowships noting that mathematics is underrepresented among other scientists in this program with only 2 of 250 fellows this year. She then discussed the Congressional Fellowship program specifically and talked about her own experience supporting Senator Al Franken (MN).

Paolucci then provided her insight into holding effective meetings with Congressional representatives on Capitol Hill. She talked about the importance of being clear and specific in what you're asking for, of providing real stories that support your "ask" and creating an ongoing relationship with your Representative's office.

***Jennifer Wickre***  
***House Committee on Science, Space & Technology***  
***Subcommittee on Research and Technology***

Jenn Wickre provided an introduction to the House Science, Space & Technology committee. She described the makeup of the committee, its jurisdiction and its priorities. She talked about a few laws passed in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress including the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA) and the STEM Education Act. Also, the INSPIRE Act and Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act, just passed in Feb 2017 and focused on supporting women in STEM programs at NSF and NASA.

Wickre then looked at priorities for research and technology in the 115<sup>th</sup> and current Congress. In addition to prioritizing STEM education this year, Congress will work on the reauthorization of NSF and NIST, oversight of the implementation of AICA, and cybersecurity. There have already been hearings on strengthening U.S. cybersecurity capabilities and future opportunities and challenges at NSF. Upcoming hearings on other research and technology issues will likely include elimination of indirect costs on federal grants, particularly at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as a means to maximize money provided for research.

***Date of Next Meeting***

The 2018 Committee on Science Policy meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10 and Wednesday, April 11, 2018 in Washington, DC.

Submitted by Anita Benjamin  
American Mathematical Society  
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