FY12 congressional priorities briefing

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ASU FY12 CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES
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Each year ASU’s Office of Federal Relations prepares a document articulating ASU priorities for that Congressional session. Below are those priorities for the FY12 appropriations cycle as of April 2011. Many additional items come into play throughout the legislative session that require focused effort and attention that are not captured in the below document. The below also does not capture authorization and policy issues that require a significant amount of time and effort to implement: for example, ASU support the Dream Act which is not captured below. I have organized the below priorities along lines most helpful to our Congressional offices, by appropriation subcommittee. Also, the requirements by the Hill for item submission have changed and thus the document this year is much more succinct than what I have put together in the past.

If you have questions feel free to contact me at Stu.Hadley@asu.edu

Priorities for the FY12 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Subcommittee

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

ASU Requests for FY2012: $32 billion
FY12 President’s Budget request = $31.829B;
FY2010 = $31.168B
FY2009 = $30.3B

ASU supports $32 billion for NIH. NIH is the nation’s primary agency for supporting biomedical research. The NIH competitively awards grants to scientists at universities across the country including Arizona State University. Over the most recent 12 month period ASU submitted competitive research proposals to HHS/NIH totaling over $340 million. ASU was awarded $48.5 million during that same period. NIH/HHS was the leading federal source of research funding for ASU during this period closely followed by NSF. The $32B of funding would allow the NIH to continue to educate the next generation of scientists and fund leading-edge research with the goals of improving health and saving lives through medical discovery and scientific leadership.
Pell Grant Program (Department of Education)

ASU supports for FY2012: $5,550 for the maximum award
FY12 President’s Budget Request = $5,550;
FY2010 = $5,550;
FY2009 = $5,350

ASU supports the Administration’s request of $5,550 for the maximum Pell award. The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to financially disadvantaged students. The grants are the foundation of low-income students’ aid packages, to which other forms of aid are added. The Pell program is the largest federal source of college aid to students, and nationally it is anticipated that 9.6 million students to participate in the program in FY2012. At Arizona State University roughly 40% of our undergraduate students receive Pell grant support in 2009-2010. Pell grants are very important to ASU and the state of Arizona.

By Congressional District the number of Pell grant awards for year 2010-2011 are: CD 1 = 19,578; CD 2 = 11,580; CD 3 = 35,706; CD 4 = 340,125*; CD 5 = 43,710; CD 6 = 2,542; CD 7 = 38,366; CD 8 = 17,078.

(*CD 4 numbers are huge since it includes all of University of Phoenix)

Federal Work Study (Department of Education)

ASU supports FY2012 Request: $980 million
FY12 President’s budget request = $980 M;
FY2010 = $980M;
ARRA = $200M;
FY2009 = $980M

Work Study awards are increasingly significant for high-need students as enrollments increase reflecting a growing trend toward those returning to college seeking new skills to become more employable in the depressed job market. ASU supports level funding the program at FY2010 levels in FY2012. Work Study funding is very important to ASU. In the year 2009-2010 the total amount of work study dollars paid to ASU students was $2.6 million. The Work-Study program provides grants to participating institutions to pay up to 75 percent of the wages of eligible undergraduate and graduate students working part-time to help pay their college costs. The school or other eligible employer provides the balance of the student’s wages. At the request level, 713,000 students would receive a total of nearly $1.2 billion in award year 2012-13. Funds are allocated to institutions according to a statutory formula, and individual award amounts to students are determined at the discretion of institutional financial aid administrators.
Perkins Loans (Department of Education)

The Perkins Loans program provides long-term, low-interest loans to undergraduate and graduate students with demonstrated financial need at roughly 1,700 institutions. Total assets of over $8 billion represent over 40 years of Federal capital contributions, institutional matching funds, repayments on previous loans, and Federal reimbursements for loan cancellations. Perkins Loan borrowers pay no interest during in-school, grace, and deferment periods and are charged 5 percent interest during the principal repayment period. Annual borrowing limits are $5,500 for undergraduate students and $8,000 for graduate and professional students. Perkins loans are important to ASU students. In the year 2009-2010 $1.4 million was went out to ASU students.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting

FY12 ASU Request for CPB = $495 million (this would be for FY14)  
President’s Budget Request is $451 million (this would be for FY14)  
FY10: $445 million (for FY12)  
FY09: $430 million (for FY11)

CPB appropriations are for “forward funding”.
The Corporation for Public Broadcasting provides critical support to local public television stations to serve America’s communities on-air, online and on the ground with uniquely high-quality programming and services. By statute, over 70 percent of funds appropriated to CPB reach the stations in the form of Community Service Grants (CSGs). Public television plays a key role in educating our children, keeping Americans healthy, and providing job training. At only $1.54 per person per year, this funding provides an enormous return on investment for all Americans. At ASU, CPB funding provides roughly 18% of KAET Channel 8’s operating budget.
FY12 House energy appropriations programmatic requests

1) Energy Innovation Hubs

ASU is supportive of the FY2012 budget request that calls for a total of $146 million to support DOE Energy Innovation Hubs. The hubs are multi-disciplinary cross-agency efforts that are modeled after the successful Bioenergy Centers. These hubs foster research and development consortia comprised of universities, federal laboratories, and federally funded research centers, to collaborate on specific energy challenges. $146 million would continue multi-year funding for the three existing hubs and allow for three new hubs in critical research areas. We are very interested in going after at least one of the new hubs including the hub focusing on electric grid technologies.

2) ARPA-E

ASU supports ARPA-E funding at the FY2012 budget request level of $550 million. ASU has been particularly successful in securing ARPA-E grants. ASU was selected to lead two transformational energy research projects, one on energy storage and the other on direct solar fuels. Of 13 university led projects announced nationwide in the last competition, ASU’s two wins were more than any other university. ARPA-E assembles cross-disciplinary research teams focused on addressing the nation’s most urgent energy needs through high-risk research and the rapid development of transformational clean energy technologies. By leveraging talent in all sectors - from private industry, to universities, to government labs - ARPA-E fosters a robust and cohesive community of energy researchers and technology developers in the United States.

3) Energy Frontier Research Center (EFRC) Program

ASU supports the President’s FY2012 budget request for the Office of Science which includes $100 million in funding to expand the Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs) program. ASU has been successful in competing for EFRCs in the past. We won a $14 million grant to establish an EFRC for Bio-Inspired Solar Fuel production. Funding at this level would allow for continued support for multi-year grants for these competitively awarded research centers. The ERFCs focus on the grand energy challenges identified by the Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee.
4) Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science

The FY2012 President’s budget request calls for $5.416 billion for the Office of Science. ASU supports this funding level which would help continue to fund leading-edge energy research and educating the next generation of scientists. Strong, sustainable and predictable funding levels for research, including the Office of Science, are also necessary to ensure we build a better America by remaining a global leader in science and technology. In these challenging budget times, funding scientific research should be a priority. Science and technological advances, like those funded by DOE, are the foundation of our nation’s economic growth and aid in our national defense.

5) Cost Share/Matching Requirements

ASU and many other institutions around the country are concerned about the matching requirements in several energy programs such as ARPA-E. With state budgets being drastically cut across the country these matching requirements could be a challenge for many institutions to meet and would possibly inhibit the advancement of much needed research.

6) Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)

ASU supports EERE funding at the FY2012 budget request level of $3.2B. ASU is committed to translating basic scientific breakthroughs into commercial products that results in meeting the energy reductions goals set by the President.
Priorities for the FY12 DoD appropriations subcommittee

ASU has two items we urge your support for in the FY12 DoD appropriations cycle. The first is support for the U.S. Army’s Flexible Display Center located at ASU. And the second is support for basic research at DoD referred to as 6.1 funding.

Flexible Display Center

ASU requests continued support for the ongoing appropriations for the U.S. Army’s Flexible Display Center located at ASU. It is not an earmark. The Army’s Flexible Display Center was competitively awarded and funding is again included in the FY2012 President’s budget request.

Background:
The U.S. Army competitively awarded the Flexible Display Center at ASU in February 2004 to spearhead the next revolution in information displays. The Center is a partnership where academia, industry, and government collaborate on rapid technology development, innovation and integration to create a new generation of innovative displays that will be flexible, lightweight, low power, and rugged. These revolutionary displays will usher in a new era of powerful real-time information sharing through ubiquitous commercial and military application in everything from portable pocket-held and vehicle-mounted devices to permanent and temporary conferencing/command rooms. The work is consistent with the Director, Defense Research and Engineering Strategic Plan, the Army modernization strategy, and the Army Science and Technology Master Plan.  

Budget Detail:
There are two existing PE funding streams for the Army’s Flexible Display Center located at Arizona State University;

a) One existing line is for $5,345 million for the Flexible Display Center (FDC). This is included in the FY2012 Budget request (first page of attached), Volume 2, page 167, R-1 Line item #18: PE 0602705A Electronics and Electronic Devices. H17: Flexible Display Center

b) The other existing line is for $5 million for the Flexible Display Technology. It can be found at PE 0708045A, End Item Industrial Preparedness Activities, E25 MFG Science and Tech (second page of attached)

Combined these two separate lines add up to a total of $10,345 million for the U.S Army’s Flexible Display Center located at ASU.
If you have any questions or if questions arise about a group that shares the H17 line with us, please let me know. Stu
**DoD Basic Research**

FY2012 Request: $2.08 billion  
FY12 PBR = $2.08 B; FY2010=$1.82 B; FY2009 = $1.8B

The 6.1 portion of the DoD budget includes all basic research programs funded under the Office of the Secretary of Defense and DARPA, also known as Defense-wide, as well those supported by the respective military services: the Navy, Army, and Air Force. Basic research represents 17.0 percent of the total proposed FY12 budget for Defense S&T.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates stated, “As changes in this century’s threat environment create strategic challenges – irregular warfare, weapons of mass destruction, disruptive technologies…greater emphasis on basic research…” is needed and “…in recent years has not kept pace with other parts of the budget.” Secretary Gates and other Pentagon officials recognize and hail the importance of basic research to keep our military armed with cutting edge technology and to provide our soldiers with the tools necessary to succeed on the battlefield. Over the years, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has played an important role in funding high-risk, high-reward research which has led to many significant defense technologies, some of which have also evolved into remarkable civilian applications. We urge increased funding and strong support for this game-changing research agency.

**ASU’s programmatic priorities for the FY12 House Commerce/Justice/Science appropriations subcommittee**

**National Science Foundation**

ASU: FY2012 Request: $ 7.77 billion for NSF  
FY12 President’s Budget Request = $7.77B;  
FY2010=$6.926B;  
FY2009 = $6.49B)

ASU supports a request of $7.77 billion for FY2012 for the National Science Foundation, an agency key to the development of new innovations and our national economic competitiveness, and move toward the goals outlined in the bipartisan America COMPETES Act. The NSF funds merit-based research and supports science, math and engineering education across the country, including at ASU. In the past 12 months ASU has submitted proposals to NSF totaling over $413 million. We have been awarded over that same period about $45.5 million from NSF. NSF investments are also necessary to ensure we build a better America by remaining a global leader in science and technology. In these challenging budget times, funding scientific research should be a priority. Science and technological advances, like those funded by NSF, are the foundation of our nation’s economic growth and aid in our national defense.
ASU received roughly $13.6 million from NASA over a recent 12 month period. Areas that are of particular interest to ASU include robotic exploration such as the Jupiter-Europa mission that is at risk, maintaining investments into the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), increased investments into collaboration between NASA laboratories and academia in technology development, and ASU has a major interest in NASA education programs.

1) NASA Science Mission Directorate
   FY12 President’s Budget Request is $5.0B; ASU supports the Mission Directorate at $5.0B
   FY2010 = $4.47B
   FY2009 = $4.5B

2) NASA Exploration Systems Mission Directorate
   FY12 president’s budget request is $3.95 B
   FY10 = $3.78B

3) NASA Education Programs
   FY12 President’s Budget Request is $138 M; ASU supports NASA Education Programs at $138M.
   FY2010 = $180M; (actual amount)
   FY2009 = $169M (actual amount)

NIST -- National Institute on Standards and Technology (NIST)

Technology Innovation Program (TIP)
   President’s Budget Request for FY2012 = $75 million. ASU supports funding the TIP program at $75 million
   FY12 PBR = $75M;
   FY2010 = $69.9M;
   FY09 = $65M)

The NIST TIP program funds high-risk, high reward research proposals from U.S. universities, businesses, national laboratories, other organizations and consortia of these entities. Such research has the potential to yield transformational results with far- and wide-ranging implications. TIP-funded research addresses areas of critical national need and is awarded to support, promote and accelerate innovation.
ASU Request for Growth Zones for FY2012: $40M
President’s Budget Request level for this new program for FY12 = $40M

ASU supports a funding level of $40M for the Regional Innovation Program (Growth Zones initiative), which was authorized through the America COMPETES Act of 2010, to build regional innovation clusters that capitalize on the strengths of specific geographic regions.

Under this authorization, EDA will implement the multi-agency Growth Zones initiative to provide strategic investments to help communities leverage their innovation ecosystems to create jobs, businesses and regional economic growth. Competitive awards will be made to 20 communities to develop and implement strategic plans that identify and implement regional economic growth in order to stimulate job creation, business expansion and creation, and enhanced regional prosperity.

Priorities for the FY12 Agriculture appropriations subcommittee

USDA’s Biomass Research and Development

President’s budget request for FY12: $40 million.
FY11 (annualized CR) was $30 million

ASU supports a funding level of $40 million for FY12 for the USDA Biomass Research and Development program. The NIFA Biomass Research and Development Program would receive $40 million in the President’s FY 2012 budget request, an increase of about $10 million or 42.8 percent above the FY 2010 enacted level. This program is jointly-administered between the USDA and the Department of Energy. The program provides competitive grants for research, development, and demonstration projects to encourage the innovation and commercialization of new biomass technologies. ASU is well positioned to go after these competitive grants. ASU researchers from a broad spectrum of disciplines are actively engaged in providing solutions to our nation’s energy challenges. Continued funding of Inter-agency programs focused on the development of advanced biofuels and sustainable practices will support ASU’s efforts and bring our nation closer to energy independence.