

**American Mathematical Society
Committee on Science Policy Meeting
April 14-15, 2015
Washington, DC**

Summary

The Committee on Science Policy (CSP) met over two 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, specifically a \$7.7 billion budget level for FY2016. In total, the group met with 30 offices. The first day of the meeting was devoted to preparation for Hill meetings. Wednesday was spent making Hill visits.

Michael Vogelius

Director, Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS)

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

Michael Vogelius began his presentation with a look at 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 NSF has been in a flat budget situation and there has been no strong budget growth in recent years.

Vogelius mentioned that the NSF is making an effort to get more Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) proposals submitted. The AMS has been reaching out to department chairs on GRFs to encourage students to apply. There is a direct connection between number of proposals v. funding and the mathematics community needs to do more to increase the number of proposals submitted. He also mentioned that NSF will be using the Seattle JMM to reach out to undergraduates on this subject.

He also provided information on the institutes that get some level of funding from DMS including Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), IMA, IPAM, American Institute of Math, MSRI, ICERM, SAMSI, MBI – these get most of their funding from NSF.

Vogelius reported that he had been asked by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) to write an article for their newsletter explaining the process for funding the institute program. He would like to submit this article for the Notices as well.

Mark Marin

House Committee on Science, Space and Technology

Subcommittees on Energy and Environment

Mark Marin reported on the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015 (H.R. 1806). The Bill as would authorize funding for the NSF by Directorate rather than for the agency as a whole. This is a very controversial aspect of the bill. It would prioritize basic research in the budgets of the Department of Energy (DOE) and NIST as well.

Marin also spoke of House Science Committee Chairman Rep. Lamar Smith (TX-21-R) and his NSF priority areas, which include Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE), Biological Sciences (BIO) and Engineering (ENG) for FY2016. NSF Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE) and Geosciences (GEO), along with Education & Human Resources (EHR) are not included in the priority list. Smith supports choosing some Directorates for increased investment over what would likely be a flat budget for all.

It was mentioned that the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), among others, has sent a letter to Chairman Smith and members of the House Science Committee opposing funding by Directorate.

Boris Granovskiy

AMS Congressional Fellow 2014-15

Office of Senator Al Franken (MN)

Boris Granovskiy and AMS Washington Office Director Sam Rankin presented an orientation for Congressional meetings developed by the AMS Washington Office. Basic information about how to conduct congressional office meetings, the federal budget process, the structure of a Congressional office and insights into Members of Congress and their staffs were presented.

Granovskiy then led the group in preparing for their meetings through role playing. The AMS Washington Office developed the “Ask,” which is a statement of the request of the Member of Congress that was left at each visit, along with other materials. The FY2016 “Ask” was for a \$7.7 billion budget for the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Constituent Meetings

On Wednesday, April 15 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 four 2-person teams and one 3-person team.

Date of Next Meeting

The 2016 Committee on Science Policy meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12 and Wednesday, April 13, 2016 in Washington, DC.