Science Policy at Fall Meeting 2018

Room 208 A/B in the Convention Center

Learn from Congressional staff

Talk with policy experts

Network with science policy interested scientists

Engage directly with policymakers

Hone your advocacy skills

fallmeeting.agu.org/2018/science-policy-sharing-science/
Fall Meeting 2018 Congressional Visits

What to Talk About and How to Say It
Today’s Speakers

- Brittany Webster
- Carissa Bunge
- Liz Landau
- Laura Lyon
THE RUNDOWN!

- Funding Update
- Meeting Asks
- Meeting Message
- Meeting Etiquette
- Homework and Resources
Federal Budget & Appropriations Process (In Theory)

1. In early February, OMB, after reviewing agency proposals, submits the President’s annual budget request, detailing the administration’s goals for federal revenue and spending, program-by-program funding levels, and project deficits and surpluses.

2. By April 15, Senate and House Budget Committees draft budget resolutions to set total levels of discretionary funding available for the next fiscal year. If a resolution fails to pass both chambers, a chamber will pass a “deeming resolution” to establish enforceable budget levels.

3. Working within the discretionary funding limits set by the budget resolutions, House and Senate Appropriations Committees assign to each of their twelve subcommittees the task of determining program-by-program funding.

4. The Appropriations Committees amend and pass subcommittee appropriations bills.

5. Senate and House leadership negotiate passing all unfinished subcommittee bills together in an omnibus bill. If Congress fails to do this by October 1, it must pass a continuing resolution to keep programs funded, or face partial government shutdown.

6. The President signs the omnibus bill or continuing resolution.
Status of Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations

*Denotes the pace of the process under "regular order"

**February**
- President releases budget request (Completed in Feb)

**March – April**
- Senate passes budget resolution (Not Completed)
- Congress passes combined budget Resolution (Not Completed)
- House passes budget resolution (Passed)

**May – September**
- Appropriations subcommittees draft bills (Finished)
  - Senate's 12 appropriations bills (12 passed)
    - Senate Bills
      - X X X X
      - X X X X
      - X X X X
  - Congress combines and passes 12 bills (12 passed)
    - Combined
      - X X X
      - X
- House's 12 appropriations bills (12 passed)
  - House Bills
    - X X X X
    - X X X X
    - X X X X
- 7 Unfinished bills combined into a CR (expires 7 Dec)
Science Spending Bills Currently Under a CR

**Commerce-Justice-Science**
- NASA, NOAA, NSF

**Interior-Environment**
- EPA, USGS
Budget versus Appropriations

Mandatory & Discretionary Funding

302(a) allocation

302(b) allocations

Composition of the Proposed FY 2019 Budget
Total Outlays = $4.4 trillion

- Net Interest $363
- Defense Discretionary $618
- Nondefense Discretionary $563
- Other Mandatory $656
- Medicaid

Discretionary Appropriations by Senate Subcommittee, FY 2019
budget authority in billions of dollars

- Defense, $675.0
- Transportation/HUD, $71.4
- State, $54.4
- Legislative Branch, $4.8
- Homeland Security, $55.2
- Financial Services, $23.7
- Interior & Environment, $35.9
- Agriculture, $23.2
- Energy & Water, $43.8
- Commerce, Justice, Science, $63.0
- Labor/HHS, $181.2

Appropriations subject to spending caps only. Source: CBO data. © 2018 AAAS
In 2011, Congress passes the Budget Control Act and enacts Sequestration.

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 raises the caps for 2013.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 raised the caps for 2014 and 2015.


Impact of Raising the Caps on Non-Defense Spending

*Current caps last through 2021. Based on past and current budget resolutions, the Budget Control Act and subsequent legislation, and the FY 2019 OMB summary tables. © AAAS 2018*
Science is Still Recovering

Federal S&T Spending Since FY 2010
Percent change from FY10 levels, constant dollars

Based on AAAS analyses of historical OMB, agency, and appropriations data. © 2018 AAAS
Meeting Asks

Carissa Bunge, Senior Specialist, Public Affairs
What’s an Ask?

What you want the staffer or their boss to do as a result of your meeting:

- Specific
- Actionable
- Achievable

Constituent in meeting makes the ask!
Support our nation’s federal science agencies by reaching an FY2020 budget agreement which:

- raises the budget caps and
- provides parity to non-defense discretionary spending
2017 Total Spending
$3,982 Billion

Mandatory 63%


© 2018 Peter G. Peterson Foundation
Why?

2017 Total Spending $3,982 Billion

- Mandatory 63%
- Nondefense Discretionary 15%
- Defense 15%
- Net Interest 7%
- Transportation 2%
- Education 2%
- Health 1%
- All Other Programs 9%

DISCRETIONARY SPENDING = BLUE + GREEN

NOTE: Discretionary health programs include National Institutes of Health, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and Indian Health Service. Percentages are rounded to nearest whole number.

© 2018 Peter G. Peterson Foundation
Why?

Discretionary spending funds a wide range of government programs

2017 Discretionary Outlays
$1,200 Billion

Defense

NOTE: Data excludes allowances and functions with negative outlays. Health (discretionary only) includes National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, veterans healthcare, and administrative costs for Medicaid.

© 2018 Peter G. Peterson Foundation
Why?

Discretionary spending funds a wide range of government programs

2017 Discretionary Outlays
$1.200 Billion

- Defense
- Education
- Transportation
- Veterans Benefits and Services
- Income Security
- Health (Discretionary Only)
- International Affairs
- Administration of Justice
- Natural Resources and Environment
- General Science, Space and Technology
- Community and Regional Development
- General Government
- Medicare Administrative Costs
- Agriculture
- Social Security Administrative Costs
- Energy

NOTE: Data excludes allowances and functions with negative outlays. Health (discretionary only) includes National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, veterans healthcare, and administrative costs for Medicaid.

© 2018 Peter G. Peterson Foundation

Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD)
Why?

Discretionary spending funds a wide range of government programs

2017 Discretionary Outlays
$1,200 Billion

SCIENCE ACCOUNTS FOR ABOUT 1% OF TOTAL FEDERAL SPENDING

NOTE: Data excludes allowances and functions with negative outlays. Health (discretionary only) includes National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, veterans healthcare, and administrative costs for Medicaid.

© 2018 Peter G. Peterson Foundation
Budget Parity between NDD and defense spending means that an increase in defense should also mean an increase in NDD as well.
Why?

Discretionary spending is projected to stay below its historical share of GDP

**DISCRETIONARY SPENDING (% OF GDP)**

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office, *An Update to the Budget and Economic Outlook: 2017 to 2027*, June 2017; and PGFF calculations based on CBO data. Compiled by PGFF.

© 2017 Peter G. Peterson Foundation
Why?

Budget parity means that all pieces of the pie grow at the same rate (including science!)

Discretionary spending funds a wide range of government programs

2017 Discretionary Outlays
$1,200 Billion

NOTE: Data excludes allowances and functions with negative outlays. Health (discretionary only) includes National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, veterans healthcare, and administrative costs for Medicaid.
Other Asks

- Specific Bill/Amendment
- Appropriations/Funding
- Supporting an Issue/Caucuses
- Relationship Request
Always Have an Ask!

How helpful is it for messages from constituents to include the following?
How frequently do messages from constituents include the following?

Specific request or “ask”
- Very Helpful/Helpful
- Very Frequent/Frequent

(n = 198-207)
Source: Congressional Management Foundation 2015 survey of congressional staff, including Chiefs of Staff, Communications Directors, Legislative Directors, and Legislative Assistants.
Always Have an Ask!

How helpful is it for messages from constituents to include the following?
How frequently do messages from constituents include the following?

![Bar chart showing percentages of specific requests and general messages. 88% are specific requests or "ask" while 59% are general messages.]

(n = 198-207)
Source: Congressional Management Foundation 2015 survey of congressional staff, including Chiefs of Staff, Communications Directors, Legislative Directors, and Legislative Assistants.
Meeting Message

Liz Landau, Assistant Director, Public Affairs
The difference between an Ask and a Message

**Ask**
- What you are requesting the Member of Congress does

**Message**
- How you show that the ask helps the Member of Congress and their constituents
Getting your message across

How does your work impact the state/district?

What are your legislator’s values?

What’s the story behind your science?
Find shared values

Geographic region

Former occupation

Committees

Caucuses

Legislation

Constituent priorities
What if your audience needs to be won over?

Bridge back to your main points

Don’t step deeper into controversy

Prepare transition statements
Transition statement examples

I see where you are going with that statement, but what's really important here is...

That's not my particular field of expertise, but what I can tell you is...

That wasn't the focus of our research. What we found is...
Meeting Etiquette

Laura Lyon, Intern, Public Affairs
Prepare for your meeting: Business cards

Order from your institution

Online or local printer
Prepare for your meeting: What to wear

- Business attire
- Comfortable shoes!
During your meeting

- Be punctual
- Introductions
- Be honest
- Take notes
- Keep it brief and concise
Focus on science

AVOID discussing:

- Election
- Financial Contributions
- Unrelated topics
- Political gossip

- Do not make assumptions about staffers
- Keep the conversation apolitical and respectful
What if your Member of Congress shows up?

Do not restart the meeting

Keep the conversation on science

Give your packet to the staffer

Ask for a photo!
After the meeting

Email the staffers you met with and thank them for their time

- Briefly restate your main points
- Follow-up on staffer’s questions
Homework and Resources

Liz Landau, Assistant Director, Public Affairs
How to Research Policymakers

Biography and Positions
- Check their website
- [last name].house.gov or
- [last name].senate.gov

Legislation & Voting Record
- Congress.gov
- Govtrack.us

Social Media

Your Gov’t Relations Folks
Resources

• Online Toolkits
• Science Policy Alerts
• Fall Meeting CVD emails

sciencepolicy.agu.org
Some Post-Election Things to Think About
Starting in 2019, there will be...

- Changed Leadership and Priorities in the House
- Many New Members of Congress (about 85 in the House, about 60% Democrats)
- New Reps and Senators with STEM Backgrounds – 7 in House, 1 in Senate
- Loss of Science Champions
- New committee leaders – both Chambers, but especially the House

RESEARCH! Do a little googling for your state/district and see what happened in the election, who lost, and who will be coming in in 2019!
Science Policy at Fall Meeting 2018

Learn from Congressional staff

Talk with policy experts

Network with science policy interested scientists

Engage directly with policymakers

Hone your advocacy skills

fallmeeting.agu.org/2018/science-policy-sharing-science/
Thank You