

COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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January 28, 2011

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WASHINGTON MARRIOTT HOTEL

February 17 and 18, 2011

Planning information for the upcoming meeting of the Council on Governmental Relations was sent to the COGR Listserve in December 2010. Those planning to attend should make hotel reservations at the Washington Marriott Hotel at 1221 22nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. and should send registration notices along with registration fees to the COGR office. Those planning to attend will want to make their travel and hotel reservations. There is a block of rooms reserved for COGR participants. After this block fills, reservations will be accepted only on a space and rate available basis.

The hotel has established February 1, 2011 as the cut-off date for receipt of reservations. There may still be rooms available at the hotel, but these would not have the COGR rate. For reservations already made, changes should be made by telephone to the hotel (202-872-1500) and by FAX to the COGR office (202-289-6698). Cancellations must be received in writing, via fax or mail, no later than Thursday, February 10, 2011 to receive a refund of the registration fee.

Thursday, February 17, 2011

- 8:30 a.m. **Registration**
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. – **Thursday Morning Sessions** – There will be two concurrent sessions:
- **The Broader Impact of NSF's Review Criteria** - In February, 2010, the National Science Board (NSB), the governing board of the National Science Foundation (NSF), initiated a review of NSF's two proposal review criteria – intellectual merit and broader impacts – to ensure that the criteria continue to promote NSF's goals in support of science and engineering. In the reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act of 2010 (PL 111-358, January 4, 2011), Congress articulated goals for achieving broader impacts and asked NSF to develop a policy that incorporates those goals. As a part of these reviews, the NSB has posted a web-based request for feedback on NSF's Merit Review Criteria. The questions are open-ended and ask for comment on strengths and weaknesses, any changes, the role of institutions to support achieving the intellectual merit and broader impacts proposed and, finally, the impact of the criteria on the development of research plans. A more detailed description of the NSB Task Force and America COMPETES Act provisions will appear in the COGR Update to be sent next week.

To assist COGR in considering a general comment to the NSB, this discussion will review the questions and invite comment, suggestions and concerns from the participants. We will be joined by Joanne Tornow, Executive Officer of the NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences and, for our purposes, serving as the Executive Secretary to the NSB Task Force on Merit Review. Dr. Tornow will provide an overview of the Task Force and its strategy for collecting stakeholder comments. We urge you to visit the Feedback web-site before the meeting and bring your ideas for discussion. You are encouraged to provide comments directly to the NSB as well. NSB Chair Ray Bowen's request and the comment website can be reached at: http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/publications/2011/01_19_mrtf.jsp.

- **The Audit Landscape: Case Studies on Federal IG Audit Initiatives and Other Audit Discussions** - The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General (DHHS OIG) provided the research community with an “impressive” list of audit initiatives in their 2011 Audit Workplan. While COGR learned in an October meeting with the DHHS OIG that some of the initiatives were of higher priority than others, each item requires attention by our institutions. This session will include an overview of the items covered in the DHHS OIG 2011 Audit Workplan and presentations by several university representatives that have experienced recent DHHS OIG audits. The presenters will provide insights as to how they managed their recent audits. Some of the audit topics that could be covered include:

College and University Indirect Costs Claimed as Direct Costs
Recharge Centers at Colleges and Universities
Review of Extra Service Compensation Payments Made By Education Institutions
Tuition and Fee Charging Practices

We also are interested in discussing audit initiatives by other agencies, as well as issues raised in your institution's A-133 audits. We will allow a significant amount of time for open discussion on other audit topics. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST AN ADDITIONAL AUDIT TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED IN THIS SESSION, CONTACT DAVID KENNEDY, PRIOR TO THE COGR MEETING, at dkennedy@cogr.edu.

- 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. – **Buffet Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. – **Guest Speaker** - Alice Rivlin, Visiting Professor at the Public Policy Institute of Georgetown University and a Senior Fellow in the Economics Studies Program at the Brookings Institute, will be our Guest Speaker. Dr. Rivlin was the founding Director of the Congressional Budget Office, received a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship, taught at Harvard University, George Mason University, and The New School Universities, has served on the boards of directors of several corporations, and as President of the American Economic Association. She was Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget from 1994 to 1996, and Deputy Director (1993-94). Dr. Rivlin recently completed her service on the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, a commission to which she was appointed by President Obama to give her trusted views on solving the nation's budget problems. Dr. Rivlin will give us her view on the current outlook for the U.S. Economy, including the Federal budget for the remainder of 2011, 2012, and beyond, the outlook for Federal funding for research, and the importance of innovation to economic health.
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. - **Break**

- 2:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. - **Export Control Reform: Where Do We Stand?** - Recent COGR Updates have discussed the Administration's Export Control Reform Initiative, which began to be rolled out in a series of Federal Register notices in December, 2010. A panel of Federal officials led by Kevin Wolf, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration, will discuss the proposed and planned changes. Mr. Wolf also drafted the text for the new Deemed Export Certification in the USCIS I129 form for H-1B visitors, and will speak to the scope, meaning and purpose of the required new certification. Representatives from the new Export Enforcement Coordination Center and other Commerce representatives also are expected to participate in the session. A member of the State Department's Defense Trade Advisory Group (DTAG) also will discuss pending changes in the ITAR definitions of "defense services" and related concepts. The panel will be moderated by Susan Sedwick, COGR Board member and Associate Vice President, Research and Director, Sponsored Projects at the University of Texas at Austin. The session is particularly timely as this meeting represents the 10th anniversary of the first COGR meeting session specifically devoted to export controls.
- 3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – **Break**
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – **Coping with Regulatory Burden: Making the Case for Regulatory Relief and an Update on the National Academies Study** - The National Academies has made impressive progress on their “*Study on Research Universities*” and may publish a final report by the summer. COGR has had the privilege to play an active role in presenting and providing recommendations to the blue-ribbon Committee established by the National Academies. As we have reported over the past year, this initiative was started in response to a bipartisan request by Senators Lamar Alexander (TN) and Barbara Mikulski (MD) and Representatives Bart Gordon (TN) and Ralph Hall (TX) for a study focused on the health and competitiveness of our nation’s research universities.

At the request of the blue-ribbon Committee, COGR (along with our association partners at AAU and APLU) recently assembled a set of 10 Recommendations for regulatory and financial reform that would improve the ability of research universities to carry out their missions without requiring a significant financial investment by the Federal government. The 10 Recommendations can be found on the home page of the COGR web site (see www.cogr.edu, Latest News, January 28 link). WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BE FAMILIAR WITH 10 RECOMMENDATIONS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

This session will include presentations by Dr. Peter Henderson, the Study Director, representatives from Senator Lamar Alexander’s office, and by two members from the COGR Board. Each presenter will provide perspectives related to the study and how regulatory relief could be beneficial to the research community. We will leave time for a Q&A so that others can share their perspectives on this important topic.

- 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. - **Reception**
- 6:30 p.m. - **Dinner**

Friday, February 18, 2011

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. - **Buffet Breakfast**
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. - **Association Update** – Dr. Ann Bonham, Chief Scientific Officer, Association of American Medical Colleges will provide an association update.
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. - **COGR Committee Reports**

**Contract and Intellectual Property
Costing Policies
Research Compliance and Administration**

- 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. - **Break**
- 10:30 – Noon – **Continue Committee Reports** – Discussion of questions submitted by the membership (**Members are encouraged to submit advance questions and issues for Friday morning discussion to ataylor@cogr.edu**)
- 12:00 Noon – **Adjournment**

Attendance at COGR meetings is limited to employees of member universities, their governing boards and research foundations, affiliated hospitals and affiliated research institutes.