

NAGPS Joins with Science Societies to Affirm Its Support for the Peer-Review Process

Recently NAGPS co-signed a letter to House Science Committee Chairman along with the Coalition for Science Funding and dozens of prominent science societies and education organizations to affirm its support for the merit-review process at the National Science Foundation. In a letter dated May 20, 2013 NAGPS and other organizations called into question some of the recent happenings in the House Science Committee, after it was revealed that Chairman Lamar Smith was drafting a bill that would eliminate the current peer-review process for National Science Foundation grants. Instead, Chairman Smith was proposing to allow Congress the opportunity to choose grants.

“Allowing Congress the opportunity to oversee scientific research in such a scrutinizing way and with caveats related to national security and economic benefits jeopardizes our nation’s scientific endeavors”, stated Meredith Niles, NAGPS Director of Legislative Affairs. “It lets politics, not science, be the driver of our science agenda and has the potential to undermine the funding for the best research proposals.”

NAGPS has been monitoring recent developments in the House Science Committee as the proposed bill to limit merit-review in NSF is among other concerning events. In May, Chairman Smith also sent a letter requesting additional information from NSF about five specific social science grants, most with an international focus. NAGPS will continue to monitor these events and engage its members as necessary.

Link to NAGPS letter: <http://nagps.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/2013-05-20-merit-review-letter.pdf>

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The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) is an entirely volunteer, student-run organization representing more than 600,000 graduate and professional students across more than 90 institutions across the United States.

NAGPS sustains a member network that connects graduate and professional students, shares resources, provides benefits and training, and advocates at the state, regional and national level to give a voice to all graduate and professional students.