

Chronology of Support for Increasing Federal Research Capacity & SURA Relations Activity

Date:	Activity:
February 15, 2001	U.S. Commission on National Security/21 st Century (Hart-Rudman Commission) recommends “doubling the federal R&D budget by 2010.”
October 16, 2002	President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) report urges a four year increase in “funding for physical sciences and engineering ... to bring them collectively to parity with the life sciences.”
April 20, 2004	Task Force on the Future of American Innovation (TFFAI) formed with 12 members, as an off-shoot of the Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America (ASTRA)
May 17, 2004	SURA joins Task Force’s “Don’t Flat Line our Future” campaign, joins Task Force efforts soon thereafter
December 2004	TFFAI continues work on a “benchmarks” study for release in after the FY06 budget release, and concludes nearly 120 meetings in 2004 with Congressional leaders to advocate the innovation/R&D agenda.
December 14, 2004	Release of <i>Innovate America</i> report (Council on Competitiveness) of the National Innovation Initiative (NII) calling on America to “innovate or abdicate.”
February 7, 2005	FY06 Budget released, with 3.8% cut to DOE’s Office of Science.
February 16, 2005	<i>Benchmarks of our Innovation Future</i> released by the TFFAI
March 18, 2005	SURA President submits House testimony supporting a 7% increase for the Office of Science, and investing in an “innovation economy.” [This position mirrors the Energy Science Coalition (ESC), of which SURA is also an active member.]
April 8, 2005	SURA Board of Trustees approve resolution calling for 7% increase in DOE’s Office of Science
April 2005	<i>New York Times</i> best-selling <i>The World is Flat</i> , by Thomas Friedman is published: “The convergence of technology and events has allowed India, China, and other countries to become part of the global supply chain for services and manufacturing, creating an explosion of wealth in the middle classes of the world’s two biggest nations, giving them a huge new stake in the success of globalization.”
May 3, 2005	Rep. Frank Wolf (Science Appropriations Subcommittee Chair) calls on President to “triple the innovation budget” over the next decade.
May 31, 2005	SURA executive committee approves resolution calling on Congress to “triple the R&D budget over the next decade.”
July 2005	SURA formally joins ASTRA * <i>Tapping America’s Potential</i> report released (Business Roundtable) calling for a doubling the number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates by 2015
October 12, 2005	<i>Rising Above the Gathering Storm</i> (Augustine Commission) released by the National Academies (requested by Sens. Alexander and Bingaman) calling for increasing basic research by 10% each of the next seven years. “The scientific and technical building blocks of our economic leadership are eroding at a time when many other nations are gathering strength.”
October 28, 2005	<i>Waiting for Sputnik</i> report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) stating the President’s plan for economic growth should include plans “to accelerate and expand the basic research that powers innovation in the American economy” as “federal funding will determine the scope and pace of discovery and the size of the technological workforce required to meet U.S. national security needs.”
December 6, 2005	“National Summit on Competitiveness”, hosted at the U.S. Department of Commerce with four cabinet secretaries, as well as Members of Congress, business and academic leaders (initiated by Rep. Frank Wolf, advocated by the TFFAI)
Jan. 31/Feb. 6, 2006	President Bush’s State of the Union address and FY07 budget request advocating the American Competitiveness Initiative, which would “double the Federal commitment to the most critical basic research programs in the physical sciences over the next ten years.”