FY 2013 Continuing Resolution

On March 26, President Obama signed into law the modified Senate version of HR 933, the FY13 Continuing Resolution (CR) that will fund the government through September 30.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has calculated that there will be an additional 0.2% across-the-board cut for all non-security programs in the bill. This across-the-board cut will apply to all non-security discretionary programs including the Department of Education, NIH, and NSF. Discretionary programs subject to sequestration will thus end up with a total cut of about 5.2%. The CR requires the agencies to submit an operating plan to Congress showing the amounts for programs, projects, and activities by April 25.

*The SUNY Office of Federal Relations will provide updates on this as more information becomes available.*

Official White House FY14 Budget Date

The White House will release its FY14 budget on April 10. The Administration’s budget was due in early February but the debate over taxes and spending at the end of 2012, combined with sequestration delayed its release until later in the year. Next week the Administration will be holding various agency briefings regarding their FY14 budget.

*The SUNY Office of Federal Relations will continue to monitor these issues and provide an update from the different agency briefings in the coming weeks.*

Military Tuition Assistance Program

Due to Sequestration, the military tuition assistance program was suspended earlier this month, but was reinstated by an amendment included in the CR to fund government operations through September 30. A Pentagon spokesman said they do not see any program cuts through the end of this fiscal year, “We intend to resume the program the way it was before suspension,”

According to the Pentagon, they still haven’t restarted the education benefit enrollments due to deciphering what the new budget requires and where the additional cuts will come from the Defense budget. The new bill does not erase the sequestration cuts for this fiscal year, but does give the Pentagon some more flexibility in implementing them.
As we know right now, the military’s tuition assistance programs will resume soon, but currently do not have an exact start date. Representatives from the services hope to make final decisions on the tuition assistance program in the near future.

**White House BRAIN Initiative**

On Tuesday, President Obama unveiled a new research initiative designed to revolutionize our understanding of the human brain. Known as the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) is an effort to revolutionize our understanding of the human brain. The initiative will be a collaborative effort led by National Institutes of Health, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and National Science Foundation. Approximately $100 million in new research funding will come from the President’s FY14 Budget along with private-sector investments. The ultimate goal is to help researchers find new ways to help treat, cure, and even prevent brain disorders and debilitating diseases like Alzheimer’s, epilepsy, and Autism. President Obama called the initiative, the “next great American project.”

**LDA First Quarter Lobbying Report**

As a reminder, the first quarter Federal Lobbying Report will be due on April 20. This is just a reminder that the reporting period was from January 1 – March 31. We will be sending out a future email with the usual details regarding quarterly lobbying reports.

If you have any questions on whether your institution should be filing, please contact Alex at alex.krigstein@suny.edu.