



# Report from Government Relations

Nadja Strobbe and [Adam Lyon](#)

UEC Meeting

May 20, 2022

# Status of the trip

- First meeting March 21; Last meeting April 28 (2021: 3/1 – 4/30)

Out of 540 offices	2022	2021
Assigned	452	454
Contacted	434	435
Rejected	34	28
Scheduled	284	295
Unassigned	88	83
Packets Delivered	303	319

- 56 participants (2021: 61) Notable lack of SLUO participants

## A big Ask for FY23

\$1.356B for High Energy Physics within a budget of \$8.8B for the Department of Energy's Office of Science, consistent with the bipartisan DOE Science for the Future Act, and \$11B for the National Science Foundation

All in billions \$	DOE SC	DOE OHEP	NSF
FY22 Omnibus (3/9)	7.475	1.078	8.838
PBR (3/29)	7.8	1.122	10.5
Our ASK	<b>8.8</b>	<b>1.356</b>	<b>11</b>

# Committee and Executive branch meetings

- Breese Quinn arranged

## Committee

Senate Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Senate Space and Science

Senate Energy and Water Development

House Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

House Energy

House Research and Technology

Senate Energy

House Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies

- Harvey Newman arranged

## Office

Department of Energy Office of Science

Department of Energy Office of High Energy Physics

National Science Foundation

Office of Science and Technology Policy

Office of Management and Budget

# Dear Colleague Letters

- House DOE
  - 40 initial co-signers led by Reps Foster, Weber, Leger Fernández, Zeldin
- House NSF
  - 107 initial co-signers led by Reps Butterfield and McKinley
- Senate DOE
  - 30 initial co-signers led by Senator Durbin
- Senate NSF
  - 21 initial co-signers led by Senator Markey
- Had to act quickly to alert office contacts

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 4, 2022

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
188 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Kennedy  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, we write to express our strong support for robust and sustained funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science.

In March 2022, the bipartisan DOE Science for the Future Act (S. 3699) was introduced in the Senate as a complement to similar House-passed legislation. This legislation provides a bold vision for how the DOE Office of Science can maintain U.S. competitiveness, drive innovation that creates jobs and bolsters our economy, and train a highly-skilled science and technology workforce. This legislation also includes authorized funding levels necessary to support new and expanded research initiatives and the timely construction of world-class science facilities. We believe these proposed authorization levels should guide FY 2023 appropriations.

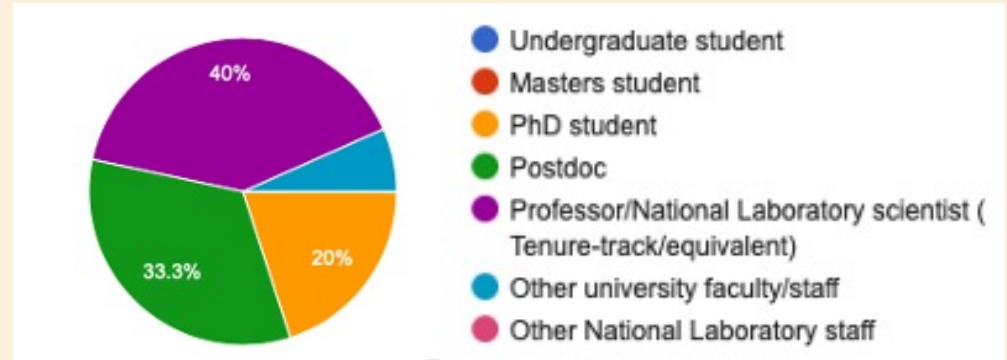
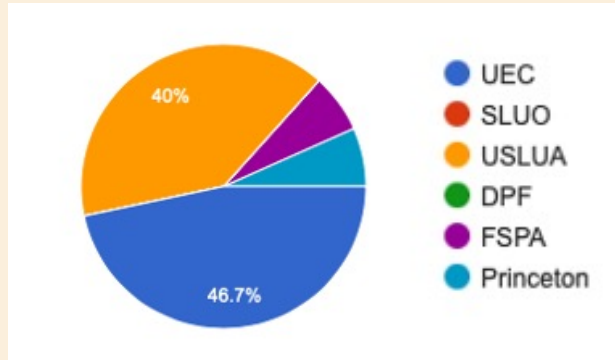
As the nation's primary sponsor of research in the physical sciences, the DOE Office of Science built and now maintains a collection of 28 large-scale, cutting-edge, user facilities relied on by more than 36,000 researchers annually. Nearly half of these users are university faculty and students from all 50 states. Others come from industry and many are conducting research for other key federal science agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Defense. Without these critical facilities, thousands of users would be forced to move their job-creating research activities overseas or terminate their research altogether.

The DOE Office of Science also supports a workforce of more than 22,000 research scientists, engineers, and support personnel who work to solve some of the nation's greatest challenges, often at a moment's notice. For example, as part of the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, DOE mobilized multi-disciplinary teams from national laboratories, industry, and academia to, among other things, expedite discovery of antivirals; provide more accurate disease transmission forecasts to Federal, state, and local decision-makers; and address supply chain bottlenecks for PPE, test kits, and ventilators. Moreover, the Office of Science plays a unique and critical role in the education of the next generation of American scientists, including thousands of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers at hundreds of institutions who depend upon DOE Office of Science support and facilities for their research and training.

This collection of research, facilities, and scientific talent enables the DOE Office of Science to contribute greatly to our quality of life, health, and security. The DOE Office of

# Survey

- Message sent by Nadja 4/29 with deadline of 5/6
- We had 15 respondents (compare to 30 for 2021)



- We're going to try to get more responses for the June meeting
- Need to schedule a debrief meeting
- Won't show survey results (wait for next meeting) except for suggestions...

## About the packet

*71 page packet. Ask was up front. Table of contents. Link back to TOC on each page  
New DEI section*

- Want more specific DEI info
- Packet very mature - maybe need a quick guide.
  - Hard to get details on internship programs (DOE/NSF, HS, undergrad...). Maybe need a summary table
- Big packet was unwieldy - hard to scroll and find things
- Some sections too wordy, some out of date (AI), may be good to have sections about certain experiments/results instead of buried in other sections. Should have past enacted funding/PBR numbers in the packet since many offices ask for this (2)
- Worried that some staffers were turned off by the huge packet and didn't read.

## About the Wiki

- Very useful
- Improve organization (2) and authentication
- Need to account for different styles of programmatic requests (free form, 500 words, 500 characters)



## About WHIPS

- Amazing (6). Google Calendar integration was excellent
- Have a last updated column (sortable) so can see what offices haven't contacted you for awhile
- Have WHIPS do more e-mail reminding (e.g. if an office hasn't contacted you) – make optional opt-in
- Needs full calendar integration (not just Google), handle time zones, be updated for redistricting
- Need a list of trip participants for each year (there is in admin mode)
- More trackers (not just packet, but programmatic requests and DCL)

## Meeting experiences

- Larger meetings when able to talk to the actual member (e.g. like we did with Rep. Foster)
- Everyone supportive

## Anything missing in pre-trip training? What do to differently in 2023?

- Get Science Communication experts to train us
- More practical info for people doing this for the first time, especially follow up after the meetings and how to fill out the programmatic requests
- Best training was being Breese's secondary
- Have live mock meetings instead of pre-recorded
- Training should start earlier. A lot of training happens just before the trip

## Any other feedback?

- Kudos to organizers
- No discussion on how to handle meeting with offices where the member holds values that strongly differ from your own (mental toll)
- Would like a map of students going to CERN for REU, Semester and Master Classes
- Organizers should review the Slack channel and write down common questions that came up to be sure they are addressed next year

## One anonymous feedback

- They wanted more experience as a secondary, but since they had no say in when meetings were scheduled as secondary, they had to scramble to find meetings to join sometimes at very short notice.
- Had trouble contacting offices that had a new staffer or one we hadn't talked to for a while (got no response). Would like an “announcement” sent to all offices to warn them that we'll be coming to ask for meetings.
- Liked virtual meetings – easy to schedule and staffer was able to devote time to the meeting. Felt this is better than in person. Advocates to always have a hybrid option in the future.

## My conclusions

A great trip!! (My first trip and first time advocating to government)

I was impressed by everyone's hard work and dedication! [THANKS!!]

Great to participate in our democracy!

Picking up hints and tips for next year (hopefully in person)

Dust off the suit...

