

Office of Federal Relations Harvard University

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Washington Update: Fiscal Year 2009 Federal Appropriations Complete

Congress wrapped up the remaining FY09 spending bills this week, just over five months after the federal fiscal year began on October 1. In doing so, lawmakers provided significant increases for student aid and research accounts, which in recent years have all too often faced only small boosts or even cuts. The \$410 billion omnibus – a package of nine spending bills rolled forward to March after the Democrat-controlled Congress could not agree with then-President Bush on non-security spending levels – was signed by President Obama Wednesday afternoon.

The omnibus bill sets funding levels for the federal government through September 30, 2009. Before the spending package's completion yesterday, the government had been operating on a continuing resolution that supported federal programs largely at FY08 levels. Total spending in the omnibus is 8% higher than FY08. The attached table illustrates final FY09 funding levels for selected accounts important to Harvard and higher education institutions generally.

Final FY09 Highlights:

Pell Grants:	increases \$3 billion (21.7%) to \$17.3 billion
NIH:	increases \$1.2 billion (4.2%) to \$30.3 billion
NSF:	increases \$360 million (5.9%) to \$6.5 billion
NASA:	increases \$390 million (2.2%) to \$17.8 billion
DOE Science:	increases \$700 million (16.9%) to \$4.8 billion

Looking Ahead: FY10 Budget

As noted in our March 2 update, the president released an outline of his proposed \$3.55 trillion FY10 budget February 26, with plans to issue a detailed blueprint in late April. We will provide additional details on the budget and appropriations as well as stimulus implementation as they become available. If you have any questions about this update or our ongoing monitoring and advocacy efforts, please contact Suzanne Day or Jon Groteboer: (202) 863.1292.