Summary of Final FY2018 Federal Spending Agreement

Early this morning, the U.S. Senate passed a $1.3 trillion comprehensive “Omnibus” spending package, finally completing the Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations Cycle after six months of delays and two government shutdowns. The final product represents a significant win for higher education as the measure contains funding increases for many research agencies and student aid programs. President Trump is expected to sign the measure into law later today. Additionally, the measure largely rejected the deep cuts to many research and student aid programs proposed by President Trump last year as part of this FY17 budget proposal.

Here is a rundown of how some of the programs and agencies important to NYU fared in the FY18 Omnibus Spending Agreement:

**National Institutes of Health (NIH):** The NIH will be funded at $37 billion, a $3 billion or 8.3% increase over current FY17 funding. This is well above the increase proposed by either the House of Representatives or the Senate in their versions of the spending bills, and a rejection of the 22% cut proposed by President Trump. Included is an additional $414 million for Alzheimer’s disease research, for a total of $1.8 billion, and a $27 million boost, to $543 million, for clinical and translational science funding.

**National Science Foundation (NSF):** The NSF will be funded at $7.8 billion, a 3.9% or $295 million increase over current FY17 funding. The agency’s research account would grow by about 5%, to $6.3 billion. The bill notes "this strong investment in basic research reflects the Congress' growing concern that China and other competitors are outpacing the United States in terms of research spending."

**Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science:** The DOE Office of Science will be funded at $6.26 billion, an $868 million or 15% increase over current FY17 funding. President Trump had proposed to cut the agency by 15%. Lawmakers also rejected Trump’s proposal to eliminate the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), and instead gave it a $47 million boost, to $353 million.

**Department of Defense (DOD) Research:** DOD 6.1 basic research will be funded at $2.34 billion, an increase of $64 million or 3% percent increase over current FY17 funding. The bill would provide funding for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) at $3.1 billion, an increase of 8 percent over FY17.

**Pell Grants:** The maximum Pell Grant will increase to $6,095 for the 2018-19 award year, a $175 increase from the 2017-18 award year. Importantly, the bill does not include any major cuts to the Pell Grant reserves, as proposed in President Trump’s budget and in both the House and Senate draft spending bills.

**Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG):** The SEOG program will be funded at $840 million, a $107 million increase over current FY17 funding. This represents the largest increase in a single year in the program’s history and the first boost in funding since FY14.

**Federal Work Study (FWS):** The FWS program will be funded at $1.13 billion, a $140 million increase over current FY17 funding. This will be the first time since FY09 that FWS will be funded over $1 billion dollars.
Institute of Education Sciences (IES): The IES will be funded at $613.5 million, a $8 million or 1.4% increase over current FY17 funding.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): The NEH will be funded at $152.8 million, a $3 million or 2% increase over current FY17 funding.

Title VI International Education and Foreign Language Studies: Title VI International Education programs at the Department of Education will be funded at $72 million, the same level as FY17.

Title VII and VIII Health Professions Training (Nursing and Dental): Title VII and VIII dental and nursing health professions training programs will be funded at $645.7 million in FY18, a $107 million or 20% increase over current FY17 levels.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): NASA will be funded at $20.7 billion, a 5.5% increase over current FY17 funding. This figure includes $6.22 billion for NASA’s Science Mission Directorate, an 8 percent, or $456 million, increase over FY17.

Other Provisions of Interest:

Important to NYU, the MD5 National Security Technology Accelerator (NSTA) program will receive $25.5 million in FY18, a $500K increase over FY17 funding. MD5 is a partnership between the Department of Defense and a consortium of universities (led by NYU and Berkeley) intended to develop technologies important to national security by linking the U.S. military to sources of innovation in the university research community.

Dickey Amendment and Gun Violence Research: While appropriations language prohibits the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other Health agencies from using appropriated funding to advocate or promote gun control, the omnibus clarifies that “the CDC has the authority to conduct research on the causes of gun violence.”

What was not in the Omnibus
- Deal to fix DACA program.
- Rider blocking funding for fetal tissue research.

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