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# AAU WEEKLY WRAP-UP

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## CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE *NEW*

The House and Senate met today, the fourth day of the partial government shutdown prompted by the two chambers' inability to reach an agreement on funding for FY14, which began on October 1. Both are expected to be in session over the weekend.

## BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS

### CONGRESSIONAL STALEMATE CONTINUES OVER FY14 FUNDING *NEW*

Senate Democrats continue to pressure House Republicans to approve a stopgap funding bill for FY14 without controversial policy riders, while House Republicans continue to approve "rifle shot" bills to fund and reopen popular government agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and pressure Democrats to negotiate a deal. It seems likely that the battle over continued government funding will be consolidated with the fight over raising the nation's debt limit. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew [warned](#) congressional leaders in a letter on October 1 that the limit must be raised by October 17 or the government will default on its debts for the first time.

### AAAS PROVIDES SUMMARY OF SHUTDOWN EFFECTS ON RESEARCH AGENCIES *UPDATED*

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has published the following [update](#) on the impact of the federal government shutdown on federal research agencies and activities. (The summary contains additional information to what AAAS reported earlier this week.):

Although some exceptions exist, the majority of staff and programs at national science agencies will be affected by the Congressional stalemate that led to the current shutdown of the federal government.

Furloughs will impact the vast majority of staff at the National Science Foundation ([NSF](#)), for example, except for those directly responsible for the protection of life and property, which likely would include support for the agency's Antarctic research facilities and personnel. "NSF will be sending notices to research grant awardees, informing them that payments won't be made during the disruption, although research that doesn't require federal employee intervention may proceed," said Matthew Hourihan, director of the AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program.

Within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ([HHS](#)), 40,512 employees, or 52 percent of all staff are expected to be furloughed. At the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in particular, the furloughs will send 73 percent of employees home. Remaining NIH employees will continue to provide both in-patient and out-patient care, but the NIH Clinical Center will not be able to accept new patients.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) "will be unable to support the majority of its food safety, nutrition, and cosmetics activities," according to an agency [statement](#). "The FDA will also have to cease safety activities such as routine establishment inspections, some compliance and enforcement activities, monitoring of imports, notification programs, and the majority of the laboratory research necessary to inform public health decision-making."

Most of the 13,814 employees of the U.S. Department of Energy will be [furloughed](#), leaving only a few hundred staff at the National Nuclear Security Administration. "Literally a handful of regular DOE staff would remain on the job within the Office of Science and programs for efficiency, renewables, nuclear power, and fossil energy, including ARPA-E, but as contractor entities the labs will be shielded for a time," Hourihan said. The Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy is responsible for identifying "out-of-the-box" energy solutions not supported by industry research.

NASA's shutdown contingency plan ensures support for the International Space Station and its astronauts as well as other satellite missions now underway. No new contracts or grants will be issued by NASA, however, and most pre-launch development work will end.

Most staff at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and the Economic Research Service also will be furloughed, Hourihan reported. The only exceptions will be a few hundred employees in charge of research animals and assets such as critical information technology.

The Office of Management and Budget has collected agency contingency plans [here](#).

## **EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

## **ASSOCIATIONS COMMENT ON DOD's PROPOSED CHANGES TO MOU ON VETERANS EDUCATION**

A group of higher education associations, including AAU, submitted [comments](#) to the Department of Defense (DOD) on September 30 regarding the Department's new [proposed rule](#) for the DOD Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Colleges and universities must sign the MOU in order to participate in the DOD Tuition Assistance program. The associations' comments reiterate the higher education community's commitment to assisting service members, veterans, their spouses, and their family members in pursuing a high-quality education, but also ask several questions and identify concerns related to the proposed substantive changes to the existing MOU.

## **OTHER**

### **AAU PUBLISHES BROCHURE ON SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES RESEARCH**

AAU has published a four-page, full-color [brochure](#) that describes the importance of federal funding of social and behavioral sciences research. The document includes examples of how such research improves health and safety, bolsters national security, expands the economy, fosters innovation, and improves lives.

### **AAU HAS UPDATED ITS DOCUMENT EXPLAINING PEER REVIEW OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

AAU has updated its two-page document, "Understanding Peer Review of Scientific Research," which describes the process of peer review and discusses the benefits of peer review to federal agencies, researchers, and the nation. The document can be viewed [here](#).

### **FASEB LAUNCHES SECOND ANNUAL "STAND UP FOR SCIENCE!" VIDEO COMPETITION**

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is now accepting submissions for its second annual video competition, Stand Up for Science!, which looks for "exciting, yet informative videos to help education Americans on how science is funded." The prize for the winning video is \$5,000. Submissions must be received by November 30, with the winner announced in February 2014.

Additional information about the competition, as well as last year's winning video, "What's Next?," are available on the FASEB website [here](#).

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