Federal Appropriations
Overview and SJSU Process

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What are Federal Appropriations?

"Appropriations are annual decisions made by Congress about how the federal government spends some of its money. In general, the appropriations process addresses the discretionary portion of the budget – spending ranging from national defense to food safety to education to federal employee salaries – but excludes mandatory spending, such as Medicare and Social Security, which is spent automatically according to formulas."

Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget: https://www.crfb.org/papers/appropriations-101-0

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Earmark vs. Approp

Approp: The end of a high-level process whereby programmatic requests are made by Congress to fund an authorized federal program at a specific level or to include report language directing a federal agency to implement a program in a specific way.

Earmark: Outside of the approps process, Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding requests to fund a specific project or organization in a specific location.

Why are Federal Appropriations important for SJSU?

- Opportunity to secure federally directed spending through alignment with federal priorities.

- Opportunity to inform and influence appropriation language that dictates some policy and program implementation.

- Opportunity to engage with federal agencies during policy and procedure adoption.

SJSU Vision

To foster a collaborative and sustainable relationship with SJSU's congressional delegation and federal agencies that develops pathways that allow for SJSU strengths to help solve national and state problems through federal appropriation language and fiscal support.

Key Strategies for Securing Federal Appropriations

- Alignment with federal priorities
- Consistency and messaging
- Relationships with our congressional delegation, their staffs, and agency contacts
- Understanding the appropriations process
  - Craft better requests with higher levels of success

Things to consider

- What committees do we have congressional representation on?
- What agencies have you had success with?
- What's happening nationally?

What differentiates SJSU?

- MSI with a diverse student, alumni, faculty, and staff base.
- Pipeline for talent in Silicon Valley and a driver of education for first generation students.
- World-class research that leverages partnerships throughout the Bay area.

SJSU Process: Timeline

- June 10: Proposals due (PIs)
- June 17: Selection complete, PIs notified, and edits requested (R&I/CGR)
- July 8: Selected PI edits due (PIs)
- July 30: Book drafted (R&I/CGR)
- August 15: Book circulated to congressional staff for edits (CGR)
- October 1: Book finalized (R&I/CGR)
- November 30: Hill visit (CGR/R&I)
- January 15: Hill and agency visits (PIs/CGR/R&I)

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SJSU Application Components

1. Appropriation Request
2. Supplemental Material to demonstrate history in proposed research space and SJSU capabilities
3. Budget
4. CVs of all participating investigators

SJSU Application Approp Request

1. Title
2. Single sentence request;
3. Summary of the project: (200 words or less);
4. Appropriation target (agency/bill/account/etc);
5. Background: (250 words of less);
6. Project Description: (250 words or less);
7. National benefit: (150 words of less); and
8. State benefit: (150 words or less).

SJSU Application Supplemental

1. Description of investigative teams' funding record in the space proposed with an emphasis on federal funding;
2. Description of investigative teams' agency contacts that can be potential avenues for connection during the appropriation process;
3. Description of the current SJSU infrastructure and history that supports the proposed activities and will allow the request to be successful;
4. Description of partnerships outside of SJSU that support this work, including other universities, industry partners, and nonprofits; and
5. Any other relevant information that may help the proposal be successful.

SJSU Application Budget and CVs

12-18 Month Budget

CVs of all contributing PIs and co-Is.

SJSU Process

- Annual open process to select approp request from campus to be elevated to our congressional delegation.

- Back-and-forth workshopping of selected proposals to ensure responsiveness to delegation need.

- Significant engagement with agency and delegation staff to promote requests.

Example of Finished Request

►►► GLOBAL COMBINED DROUGHT INDICATOR:
HOT SPOTS EARLY WARNING AND RISK MANAGEMENT FOR
NATIONAL SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

► REQUEST:

Add $2 million in PE # 0604002F, U.S. Air Force Weather Services Research account to build on FY2021 funding and development of a Global Combined Drought Indicator. Like the U.S. Drought Monitor for our nation, this tool will provide real-time information for national security, intelligence, and agricultural and ecological management including: early warning of potential environmental and national security hot spots, identification and mapping of areas vulnerable to water and food insecurity, ecological and health issues, and drought risk management planning.

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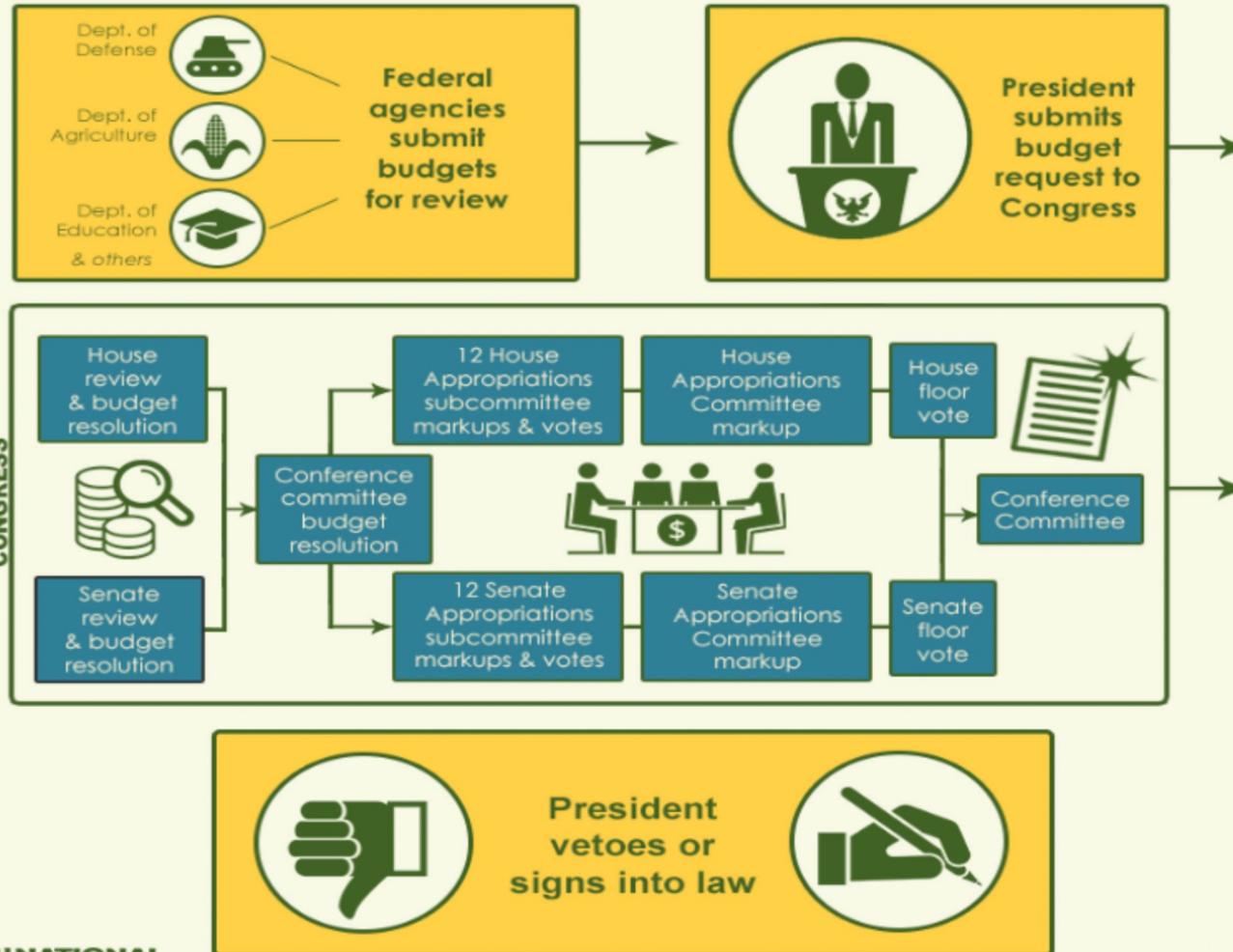# Example of Finished Request

APPROPRIATIONS REFERENCE

▸ **Appropriations Bill:**
Defense

▸ **Federal Agency:**
Department of the Air Force

▸ **Appropriations Account:**
Weather Services Research

▸ **Line Item or PE Title:**
TBD

▸ **PE Number (if DoD):**
PE 0604002F

If desired: The Weeds….

Appropriation Process: Mechanics

- Agencies submit budget requests for review.
- President submits budget request to Congress.
- House and Senate pass budget resolutions to move budget to committees.
- 12 committees in each chamber "markup" bill to be combined for an overall budget for a vote.
- House and Senate vote on separate bills.
- Passed budgets are reconciled in conference and sent to President for signature.

Image from National Priorities Project:
https://www.nationalpriorities.org/budget-basics/federal-budget-101/federal-budget-process/

Appropriation Process: Jurisdiction

For every appropriations bill, the Chairperson of the subcommittee with jurisdiction (e.g. the Commerce, Justice, Science subcommittee has jurisdiction over NASA and NSF) proposes a draft bill. The subcommittee then debates and offers and votes on amendments, a process that is called a markup.

Once this process has been completed and the appropriations bill has been passed by the subcommittee, it goes before the full Appropriations Committee for consideration. The Appropriations Committee holds its own mark-up of the bill passed by the subcommittee. The bill passed by the Appropriations Committee then goes before the full House or Senate where it can once again be amended before it is finally passed.

Federal Approps Calendar

Image from Bloomberg Government:
https://about.bgov.com/brief/your-guide-to-navigating-the-federal-budget-process/

Federal Approps Committees

1. Agriculture (Ag)
2. Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS)
3. Defense (DoD)
4. Energy and Water
5. Financial Services and General Government (FSGG)
6. Homeland Security

Federal Approps Committees

7. Interior and Environment
8. Labor, Health & Human Services, Education (LHHS)
9. Legislative Branch
10. Military Construction and VA (MilCon/VA)
11. State, Foreign Operations (SFOPs)
12. Transportation, Housing & Urban Development (THUD)

Committee Memberships

Senator **Dianne Feinstein**

- Senate Committee on the Judiciary
  - Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law (Chair)
  - Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety
  - Subcommittee on The Constitution
  - Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism
- Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
- Senate Committee on Appropriations
  - Energy and Water (Chair)
  - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
  - Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
  - Defense
  - Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
  - Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
- Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

Committee Memberships

Senator **Alex Padilla**

- Senate Committee on the Judiciary
  - Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety (Chair)
  - Subcommittee on Intellectual Property
  - Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights
- Senate Committee on the Budget
- Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works
  - Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety
  - Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight
  - Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure
- Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
  - Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management
- Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

Committee Memberships

Representative **Zoe Lofgren (CA-19)**

- Committee on House Administration (Chair)
- House Committee on the Judiciary
  - Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship (Chair)
  - Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet
- House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
  - Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics

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Committee Memberships

Representative **Ro Khanna (CA-17)**

- House Armed Services Committee
  - Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
- House Agriculture Committee
  - Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit
  - Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture
- House Committee on Oversight and Reform
  - Subcommittee on Environment (Chair)
  - Subcommittee on Government Operations

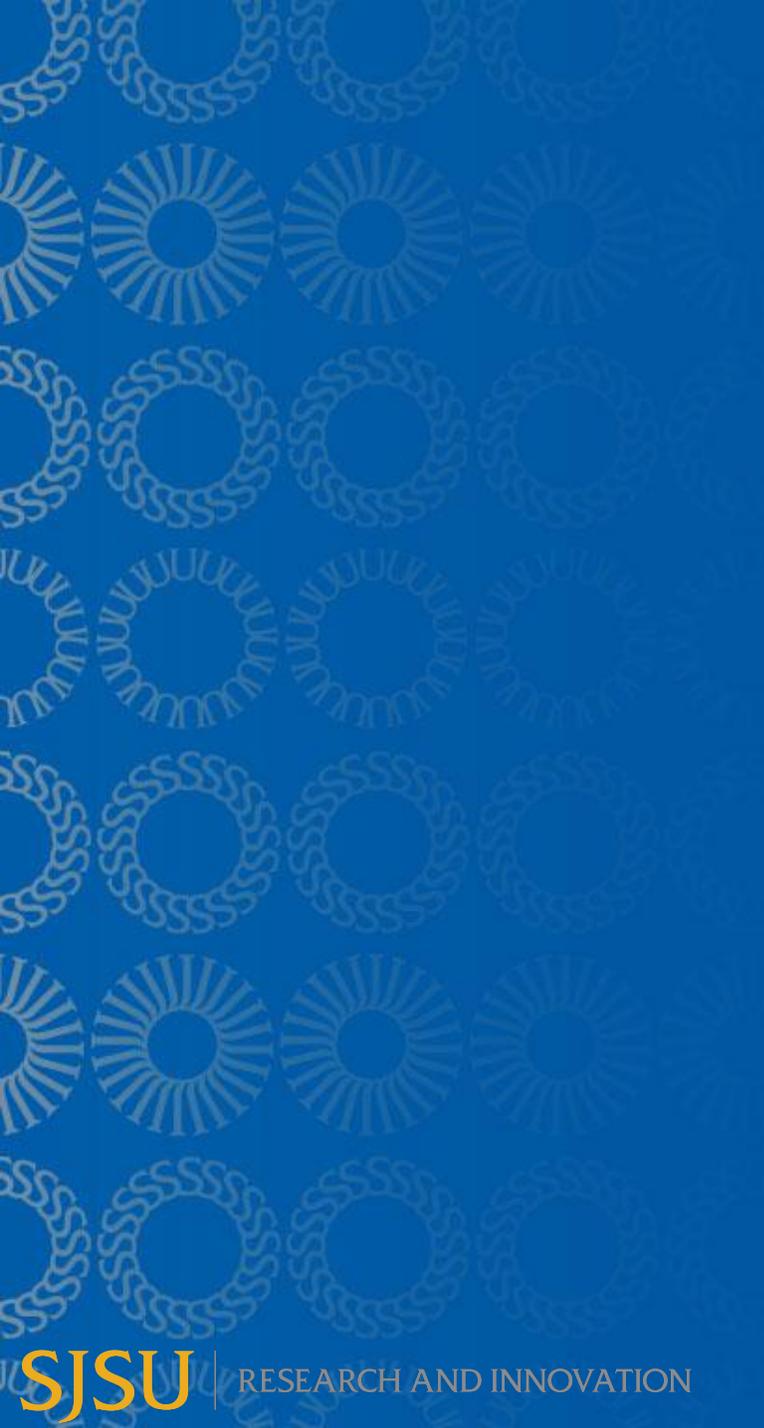# Committee Memberships

Representative **Anna Eshoo (CA-18)**
- House Committee on Energy and Commerce
  - Subcommittee on Health (Chair)
  - Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Representative **Jimmy Panetta (CA-20)**
- House Agriculture Committee
  - Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research
  - Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry
  - Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations
- House Armed Services Committee
  - Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations
  - Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems
- House Committee on Ways and Means
  - Subcommittee on Trade
  - Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support

Committee Notes

- Not all committee bills get equal weight and not every committee has the same politics at play
- Some committees are more bipartisan (e.g. DoD), some have tight budgets (LHHS-Ed), and all have specific charges.

Thank you