

Analysis of the Financial Budgeting of the United States Science Policy: Research and
Development

Fiscal Years: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015

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Abstract

In 1945, at the end of World War II, the United States formally started allocating funding towards science, specifically research and development efforts. Currently in the U.S., the Office of Management and Budget provides the budgeting regulations for Federal agencies, including budget allocations for R&D. The Executive Office of the President, the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), advises the President on all matters related to science and technology. In this paper budgets for FY 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 were analyzed. Evaluating the budgets for the last five years created a pattern indicating how budgeting changes based on political and social factors that the country is going through at the given time period. As inferred by the Steelman report, scientific budgeting or scientific policy cannot be free of political influence and in essence politics. In addition, evaluating and reviewing budgets over time showed us a pattern, which was then utilized to predict future budgeting trends and how allocations could be made by the United States government for R&D in FY 2016. It was predicted that the FY 2016 budget will continue to support the following initiatives, BRAIN, reauthorized American COMPETES Act, Going Green, NITRD, USGCRP, NNI, National Robotics, and Material Genome. In addition, given the influences of the current political problems, Cybersecurity, STEM and treating “super-bugs” will be added to the budgeting recommendations. It is thus safe to state that the U.S. budgeting process is a very complex process. Despite trends, many external factors such as political, social, environmental factors can effect budgeting allocations at any time. Any of those factors can alter how much budgeting is allocated to a given agency.

Keywords: Budgeting, Fiscal Year, Allocation, Research and Development, Financing

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