

Part II: Congressional Testimony

A Congressional Hearing

Mechanics of being a witness...

- Discussion with Cmte Staff
 - Invitation only after they have heard your views
 - You pay for travel etc.
- Submit written statement
 - CRA and other orgs can help you with polishing and details
- Deliver 5 min oral statement
 - Likely different from your written statement
- Q+A with Cmte (5 min / member)
- Respond to post-hearing written questions.

The Big Day: Presentation

Acknowledgment: Gene Spafford, Purdue Univ.
<http://spaf.cerias.purdue.edu/usgov/testimony.html>

- Read bio and testimony of other panelists
- Practice (reading) your 5 min speech.
And again. And again. And again. ...
With a stop watch.
- 5 minutes is a hard deadline.

The Big Day: Logistics

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- Dress appropriately
- Visit the rest room.
- Members will come and go. Ignore it.

The Big Day: The Question Period

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Question period: 5 minutes per member

- Short answers help to cover more ground
 - Good responders ultimately get more air time.
 - Don't interrupt. But happily embrace interruptions.
- You can't explain the nuances, so don't try.
- You are not obligated to answer. Or you can promise data / details in a written follow-up
- Questions are often written by staff. Make the best of the question. (“The premise makes no sense...” is the wrong answer.)
- This is not a debate. Do not direct comments to other witnesses and do not respond to the points they have made.

Rubber Hits the Road

Oversight of the Networking and Information Technology
Research and Development Program and Priorities for
the Future.

Sept 21, 2011 2pm-4pm

Witnesses:

- Dr George Strawn (NITRD)
- Dr Edward Lazowska (U. Wash)
- Dr. Robert Sproull (Oracle Labs, retired)
- Dr. Robert Schnabel (Indiana University)

The Hearing...



<http://science.house.gov/hearing/research-and-science-education-subcommittee-hearing-oversight-networking-information-tech>

Lazowska Opening Statement

Sproull Opening Statement

- Video here

Brooks Question

- Video here

Bartlett Question

- Video here

Homework Assignment 1/3

- America COMPETES Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1806) – House Science Majority Bill
 - Provides authorizations for NSF, DOE Science, and NIST
 - Breaking with tradition, bill authorizes at the NSF Directorate level (ie, CISE, BIO, GEO, etc)
 - Provides increased funding for CISE (+\$100M), MPS (+\$134M), ENG (+\$85M), BIO (+\$87M) **at the expense of SBE (-\$141M) and GEO (-\$165M)**

Homework Assignment 2/3

- Rationale from Majority:
 - Funding for CISE, ENG, MPS and BIO creates jobs and fuels innovation that drives US economy
 - Climate change research in GEO and work in the Social, Behavioral and Economic sciences are less useful and not a compelling use of Federal funds
 - Under strict budget environment, priorities have to be set

Homework Assignment 3/3

Pretend you were a witness at a committee hearing on the bill. Draft a 1 minute response that could serve as an answer to the question of why you would support or oppose the Majority's approach. Make sure you justify your rationale.