



EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEETING

**ECB Board Room
3319 West Beltline Highway
Madison, Wisconsin
May 11, 2018
9:30 a.m.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Gene Purcell

The end of the Fiscal Year

ECB's fiscal year ends on June 30 and the financial team is already in the process of getting set to start closing the books on FY18.

This year, you'll see in your financial report that ECB is projected to end the fiscal year on sound footing. There are a number of reasons for this including an increase in fundraising revenue from WPR and WPT, steady state and federal support, fewer repack impacts than expected and agency vacancies.

Once the fiscal year ends on June 30, it'll be a couple of months before we have the "final final" numbers, but at this point, it looks positive.

As always, if you have specific questions regarding the budget, please let me know.

Advocacy Day

The Wisconsin Public Radio Association and the Friends of Wisconsin Public Television held their annual "Advocacy Day" at the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison on April 18.

Although the surprise April blizzard affected some travel plans, we still managed to have a full house of advocates who visited all 132 legislative offices to thank members of the state Legislature for its support of Wisconsin Public Broadcasting. Advocates also emphasized the essential nature of state support in ensuring the delivery of public broadcasting to the most rural parts of Wisconsin.

Federal Funding Update

As I reported a few weeks ago, federal funding for public broadcasting was included in the FY18 Omnibus bill signed by the President in March. Generally speaking, the budget contains good news for public broadcasting since it provides flat funding to the Corporation for Public



Broadcasting (CPB), as well as funding for “Ready to Learn” and the new nationwide interconnect.

Meanwhile, our colleagues at America’s Public Television Stations (APTS) tell us that work on the FY19 appropriations process is underway. We’re being told that leaders in the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will be working to move as many bills through the process as possible so we could learn more about public broadcasting’s funding in the next few months.

APTS reports that some spending bills have already moved through the process, although they also report that no dates have been set for the consideration and markup of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies bills in either the House or the Senate.

The Labor-HHS-Education bill contains the majority of domestic discretionary funding, including public media funding, and according to APTS, is typically one of the last bills to be considered.

BAMI transition to UW Madison

Planning for the move of Broadcasting and Media Innovations (BAMI) from its current administrative home at UW-Extension to UW Madison is well underway.

The move is part of the larger reorganization of UW-Colleges and Extension announced last fall and approved by the UW Board of Regents earlier this year.

Planning for the move is being overseen by a Steering Committee and an internal Transition Team which are working to plan and execute the transition process. As of this writing, it’s expected that BAMI will administratively move to a new division at UW-Madison on July 1, 2018.

However, this is only one part of the process, and other elements of the transition such as employee appointments, along with administrative and financial support services are expected to transition during the next 12 to 18 months.