

ACM AND PUBLIC POLICY

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OVERVIEW

- Guiding Principles
- Organization and Process
- Policy Agenda

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Education-based outreach to policy makers
- Comments should focus on the technical aspects of legislation, reflecting ACM's expertise
- Coverage of policy in all three branches of government and some states

ORGANIZATION

- Early 90s -- ACM creates policy committee to focus on matters of US public policy (USACM)
- Mission -- Serve as the focal point for ACM's interaction with U.S. government organizations, the computing community, and the U.S. public in all matters of U.S. public policy related to information technology.
- Job Migration Task Force

USACM

- Activities
 - Forum for debate and quick reaction to policy developments
 - Respond to inquiries from the Hill and Executive Branch
 - Develop policy principles and positions
- Positions can be sent up to ACM-EC for debate and approval

USACM

- Membership:
 - USACM-EC:
 - Eugene Spafford (USACM Chair)
 - Annie Antón, Ruchika Agrawal, Charles Brownstein, Dave Farber, Edward Felten, Andrew Grosso, Harry Hochheiser, **Jeanna Matthews (SIG Representative)**, David Patterson (ACM President), Barbara Simons (ACM Past-President), Ollie Smoot, **Emil Volcheck (SIG Representative)**, John White (ACM CEO)
 - Broader Committee -- 58 members
- Supported by the Public Policy Office
- Coordinates Policy Activities with the Computing Research Association (CRA)

USACM

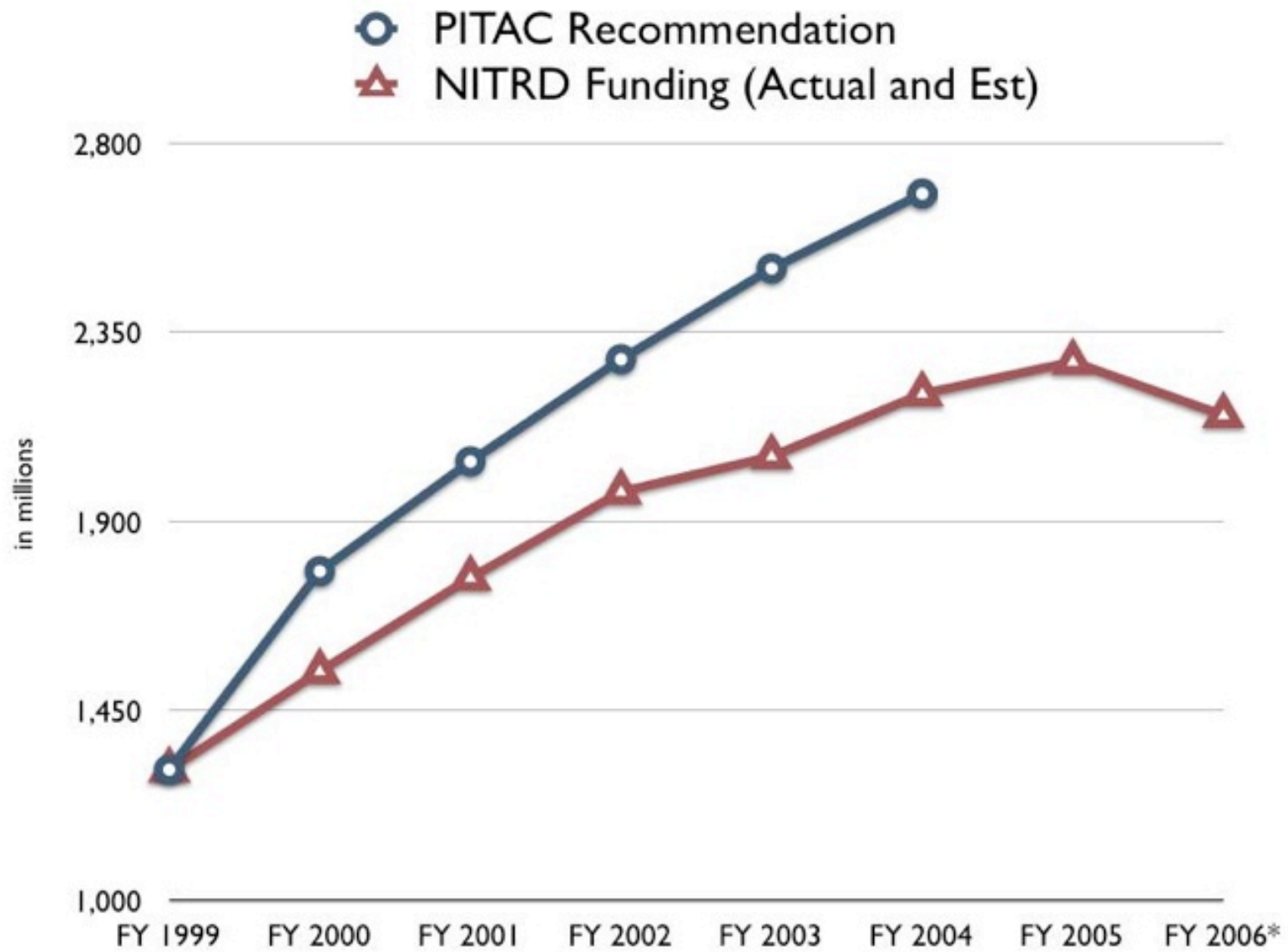
- Involvement
 - Open to ACM Members
 - Approval from the Chair of USACM and ACM President
 - Varied interests, but encourage active participation particularly where member expertise lies

POLICY AGENDA

- Focus on four major themes:
 - Advancing the Discipline
 - Balance Between Innovation and Intellectual Property Protection
 - Protecting Privacy in Technology-Intensive Society
 - Secure and Reliable Computing Systems

ADVANCING THE DISCIPLINE

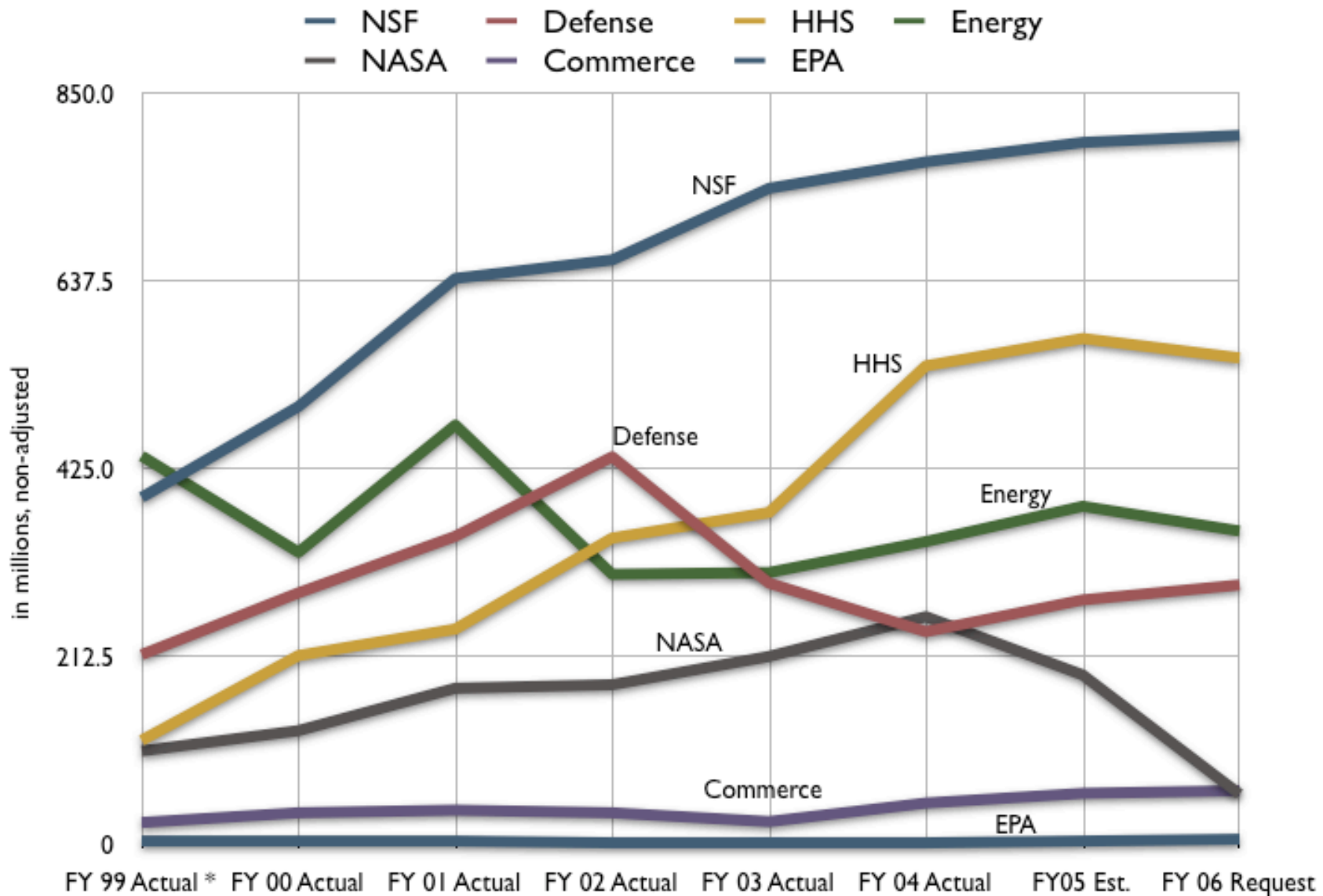
- Information Technology Research and Development Funding
- IT community testimony before House Science Committee
- ACM President Dave Patterson & Ed Lazowska's Columns
 - <http://www.acm.org/usacm/weblog/index.php?p=268>
 - <http://www.cra.org/govaffairs/blog/archives/000329.html>



Sources: *Investing in Our Future*, PITAC, 1999; NCO/IT R&D, 2004

* request

Trends in IT R&D



Source: OMB Statistical Analysis of President's Budget, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005

ADVANCING THE DISCIPLINE

- Export Controls
 - New restrictions on foreign nationals working in the US
 - Comments filed by USACM and CRA

INNOVATION AND IP BALANCE

- MGM vs. Grokster Supreme Court Case and “Induce” Legislation
- Digital Rights Management (DRM) Subcommittee -- Chair Ed Felten

PRIVACY

- Real ID Act
 - Creates national standards for state driver's licenses, linked databases
 - Expressed ACM long-standing concerns about national identification cards, insecure linked databases

PRIVACY

- Privacy Subcommittee -- Chair Annie Antón
- Reviewing pending identity theft legislation
- Three serious bills -- comprehensive and complex

SECURITY AND RELIABILITY

- ACM statement on voting machines
- Voter Registration Database Study -- due Fall 2005
 - Chaired by Paula Hawthorn and Barbara Simons
- President's Information Technology Advisory Council (PITAC) report on cybersecurity

RESOURCES

- Blogs
 - Tech policy focus -- www.acm.org/usacm/weblog
 - Research focus -- www.cra.org/weblog
- Monthly newsletter
- USACM annual report

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