

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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COSSA, MEMBER GROUPS TESTIFY AT ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM *mb*

Representatives of COSSA and several member organizations presented testimony in support of the social and behavioral sciences before the Committee on Environmental Research of the National Academy of Sciences. Appearing at the January 15 public forum were COSSA Executive Director Howard J. Silver, Felice J. Levine, Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association, Emilio F. Moran of Indiana University, representing the American Anthropological Association, and James K. Mitchell of Rutgers University, representing the Association of American Geographers. J. Stuart Hunter, President-elect of the American Statistical Association, submitted a statement for the record.

The Committee on Environmental Research was created by an act of Congress to assess the quality of the nation's environmental research and its support at the federal level, and to make recommendations for environmental research in the future. One of the major areas of focus for the committee, chaired by physicist Dale Corson, Emeritus President of Cornell University, is a proposal to establish the National Institutes for the Environment (NIE), a concept similar to the National Institutes of Health. COSSA has joined other groups in advocating an examination of the NIE proposal.

Silver said that the contributions of physical, chemical, and biological sciences to environmental research, while substantial, cannot fully provide the information needed by policymakers, and stated that social science can play a vital role. "By seeking to better understand and predict human behavior, social science can reduce the uncertainty on which many environmental models are based, leading to more effective environmental policies," he said.

Levine cited recycling as an example of the need to understand human responses, noting that it is a human response to recycling policies that will or will not make it work. She stated that the World Bank extensively uses sociologists and anthropologists to conduct social impact studies in planning international development projects. Moran

noted that, "an anthropological approach to deforestation, for example, would try to find out, among other things, what people may be doing in areas affected by tropical deforestation to accelerate the rate of forest regrowth." He added that one of anthropology's potential contributions would be to find out what solutions may be present within existing or past social systems.

Mitchell commented that in federally sponsored environmental research, "people tend to be regarded as dependent variables rather than independent variables," saying that this was because natural science research was often separately funded from social science research. He urged the adoption of "an integrated approach that encourages and supports collaboration among the full range of natural and social scientists." Moran echoed similar concerns, saying that in his opinion universities and funding agencies do not reward cross-disciplinary research.

Silver noted what he termed a "perfect mismatch" between the agencies that have relatively strong social science capabilities and those that support environmental research. He identified the National Science Foundation (NSF) as the lone exception to this, but said that while NSF has begun to address important human-environmental issues, NSF's support is not sufficient to overcome the short shrift given to the social sciences by the environmental mission agencies. He added that only \$6.8 million of the \$118 million in NSF's fiscal year

INSIDE UPDATE...

- Congressman Proposes Restructuring of Education Research
- Minority-Focused Activities Highlighted at NIDA Advisory Council Meeting
- Office of Justice Programs Releases Research Agenda
- Census Bureau Announces Research Conference
- NIH Strategic Plan May be Scrapped
- Sources of Research Support: Department of Agriculture, National Science Foundation

1992 request for global change research will be spent on the social sciences. Within the mission agencies, Silver commented, social scientists are not found in the higher echelons where research and policy priorities are set. He cited the need for "translators," senior staff who are knowledgeable and supportive of the social sciences and can place research findings into the language of policymakers.

In outlining the research needs of the social sciences, Levine suggested: an increased presence of social scientists within environmental mission agencies; additional funding for NSF's efforts on the human dimensions of global change; international responses to environmental challenges; expanded training programs, particularly in the area of environmental sociology; and increased attention to ethnic, racial, and economic subgroups in examining potential outcomes of environmental policies.

Silver endorsed the recommendation of the recently released Academy report, Global Environmental Change: Understanding the Human Dimension, which called for a "comprehensive national research program on the human dimensions of global change." (UPDATE, January 13, 1992).

Hunter said in his written statement, "A major problem with the funding, structure, and organization of environmental research in the United States arises from a neglect of the science especially devoted to these crucial matters: statistics. Needed are resources devoted to unifying and enhancing statistical approaches to the gathering, analysis, and creation of environmental data."

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Both Mitchell and Moran endorsed the creation of an NIE. Mitchell said that "an independent organization would provide a better mechanism for bringing together scientists and other relevant interest groups to address the tasks of identifying and carrying out strategic environmental research initiatives." Moran, while supportive of the NIE proposal, cautioned that, in his opinion, for the NIE to succeed, social factors must be incorporated into all environmental issues addressed by the NIE. Moran expressed concern that creating a separate institute within NIE to support social science (for example, an Institute on Human Environments) would suggest that other issues such as sustainability of resources, global change, and resource protection are "devoid of human factors."

To obtain copies of the testimony mentioned above, please contact COSSA.

CONGRESSMAN PROPOSES RESTRUCTURING OF EDUCATION RESEARCH HS

Legislation to restructure the federal government's educational research and improvement programs has been introduced by Rep. Major Owens (D-NY), the chairman of the House Select Education Subcommittee. The bill, H.R. 4014, will serve as the starting point for House efforts to reauthorize the Department of Education's Office of Education Research and Improvement (OERI).

The bill focuses research on five priorities: 1) education of at-risk students; 2) education and development of young children; 3) student achievement in core subject areas through elementary and secondary school; 4) literacy and lifelong learning; and 5) restructuring and improvement of school governance and management. A "National Institute" for each priority area will be established to carry out "a program of high-quality and rigorously evaluated research and development..." A glaring omission in the bill is the lack of a National Institute for post-secondary education. There is also no provision to continue the current Field-Initiated Studies program.

To oversee the Institutes, the bill creates a National Education Research Policy and Priorities Board. The board will consist of 20 members from all facets of the education community: researchers, teachers, parents, superintendents, librarians, business and industry, and governors. This board

will determine policy, set priorities, produce reports, and review grants and contracts. This currently falls under the purview of the Assistant Secretary of Education for OERI.

The legislation also hopes to promote an improved national education dissemination system to "identify, validate, and disseminate to educators, parents, and policy makers those educational programs that have been shown to improve educational opportunities for all students." Through the use of improved technology, such as the proposed America On-Line program (see UPDATE Dec. 9, 1991), and the cooperation of the existing regional educational laboratories, the goal is to speed the results of exemplary research and experimentation to the nation's classrooms.

Although the bill intends to phase out the existing research and development centers, it maintains a role for the regional laboratories, less as research entities and more as disseminators, technical assistance providers, and program developers.

Borrowing from the Agriculture Extension Agent concept, the bill targets assistance to the nation's most impoverished urban and rural communities by authorizing grants to establish District Education Agents. These agents, working with local communities, would develop and implement community-wide plans for educational improvement. The legislation also would upgrade the current Education Library at OERI into a major resource center for education information.

Diane Ravitch, Assistant Secretary for OERI, has yet to publicly release her office's reauthorization for OERI, nor has legislation been introduced in the Senate. In the past, OERI reauthorization has been considered along with the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which this year remains stalled because of differing provisions between the House and Senate, as well as strong opposition from the Bush administration to proposals making Pell Grants an entitlement program.

Owen's subcommittee is requesting comments on H.R. 4014. For more information, please contact Lawrence Peters, General Counsel, at (202) 225-7532.

MINORITY-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTED AT NIDA ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING JA

Recruitment and retention of racial/ethnic minority scientists was a subject highlighted at the January 15-16 meeting of the National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse. Richard Millstein, Acting Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), presented an extensive report on the range of institute activities aimed at remedying the dearth of minority researchers, arguing that the small number of minority principal investigators (PIs) affects the proportion of research on minority populations.

Millstein noted that in 1991, among the 83 percent of NIDA grant applicants who reported their racial identity, only 12 percent were minorities. Among the over 800 PIs applying for all types of awards, only 24 were Hispanic/Latino and 15 were Black/African American (no figures were presented for Asian, Pacific Island, or Native American applicants). Millstein further reported that only two applications were submitted to NIDA from historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in the last two years. He suggested that this overall situation results from the small number of minorities receiving Ph.D.s in science and from competition among universities and research institutes for those who do.

Millstein described a few of the NIDA initiatives focused on recruitment and retention of minority drug abuse researchers. These include: the Minority Access to Research Careers program, aimed at undergraduates; the Minorities in Research and Development Program, which awards funds to colleges and universities to support minority investigators; and the Minority High School Apprenticeship Program, which provides small stipends as add-ons to existing NIDA grants to bring minority high school students onto projects during the summer.

One of NIDA's most successful initiatives, reported Millstein, is the Minority Research Supplement Program, aimed at addressing the immediate, short-term problem of the shortage of minority researchers. In this program, a PI applies for a grant on behalf of a minority scholar who becomes part of the project team. The intent is to train these scholars to eventually apply as principal investigators themselves. In 1990, six such awards were made; in 1991, those six were continued and an additional 30 were granted, noted Millstein.

NIDA officials also are meeting with organizations, such as the National Medical Association, to discuss ways of collaborating to provide support to HBCUs for the recruitment, training, and retention of Black/African American scientists.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS RELEASES RESEARCH AGENDA MB

The Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) recently released its fiscal year 1992 research program. What follows is an overview of social science research funded through two of OJP's component agencies, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). For information on research supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), please refer to the October 21, 1991 issue of UPDATE or contact Marilyn Silver of OJJDP at (202) 307-0751.

OJP's research plan focuses upon the following areas: gangs and violent offenders, community policing and police effectiveness, intermediate sanctions and user accountability, drug prevention, drug testing, intensive prosecution and adjudication, evaluation, money laundering and financial investigations, and information systems, statistics, and technology.

In the area of gangs and violent offenders, NIJ will sponsor three new research programs: prevention, intervention, and suppression of illegal gang activity; violent crime; and gangs and crime in public housing developments. NIJ also will continue funding a longitudinal study of criminal behavior. OJJDP will fund a new program to study the juvenile justice system's handling of sex offenses and offenders.

Relating to victims, NIJ-sponsored research will focus on the reduction of criminal victimization by assessing the crime prevention education efforts that are offered by some victim service agencies and police departments. NIJ will fund a \$250,000 initiative to study the influence of child abuse and neglect on criminal behavior, and to identify potential improvements in the justice system's response to child abuse and neglect. NIJ also will support research to determine the utilization of victim services by minority and low-income crime victims.

CENSUS BUREAU ANNOUNCES RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Census Bureau's 1992 Annual Research Conference will be held March 22-25, 1992 in Arlington, Virginia. The conference will address a wide range of topics including accuracy of undercount estimates, quality management in statistical agencies, and modeling social changes and ethnographic coverage evaluation. For more information, contact: Maxine Anderson-Brown, Conference Coordinator, (301) 763-1150.

To address issues of community policing and police effectiveness, BJS will continue to fund its Law Enforcement Management and Administrative statistics program. NIJ will sponsor a new \$750,000 program to identify and develop innovative methods of community policing and crime analysis, including measuring the performance of community police officer's activity and their accountability. In the area of intermediate sanctions and user accountability, NIJ has initiated two new programs; one to address issues of prison crowding and community supervision, and another program to support development of standards and guidelines for boot camps.

Drug Prevention and Drug Testing

For its drug prevention and drug testing initiatives, NIJ will support a \$500,000 program for new research on prevention and control of illegal drug supply and deterrence of illegal drug demand. It also will fund a new research program to study drug testing and its potential benefits to the criminal justice system. NIJ will sponsor research on issues and problems concerning the prosecution and adjudication of criminal cases and civil matters, while OJJDP will fund a new program to examine delays in the juvenile justice system. NIJ has allocated \$4 million for evaluation projects to assess a wide range of programs that have been funded under the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, such as correction options, inmate work programs, disruption of drug markets, and community policing. NIJ has initiated a \$600,000 program to fund research on understanding, preventing, and controlling white collar and organized crime.

BJS has created a Visiting Research Fellowship Program to promote criminal justice statistical research among the academic and criminal justice

community. Fellows will participate in a specified research project related to the national or international justice system. Applications will be solicited competitively. BJS also will continue funding for numerous data collection, analysis, and dissemination programs.

For additional information on the aforementioned programs please contact BJS at (202) 307-0765 or NIJ at (202) 307-2942.

Congress to Review OJP Programs

The Justice Assistance Act of 1984, which created OJP and its component agencies, faces Congressional reauthorization later this year. There is concern on the part of some in the social science research community that the research agenda and priorities of the OJP agencies have become adversely affected by political influence. An August 1991 opinion by the Comptroller General found that Congress' intent to have policy control over the OJP agencies vested in the individual agency heads was violated by a February 1991 decision by the Attorney General delegating authority over contract and grant programs to the Assistant Attorney General for Justice Programs. This is one of the issues Congress will face when reauthorizing the OJP programs this year. Future issues of UPDATE will report on reauthorization as it evolves. Please feel free to contact COSSA with your questions or comments.

NIH STRATEGIC PLAN MAY BE SCRAPPED JA

Reliable sources have told UPDATE that the much trumpeted Strategic Plan for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is in danger of being scrapped. The plan, developed in response to Congressional pressure to achieve management reforms in the federal biomedical research establishment, has been touted by NIH Director Bernadine Healy as "the agency's first corporate long-range strategic plan."

From its inception, the NIH strategic plan was intended, according to Healy, "to identify areas of research that promise extraordinary dividends for the Nation's future health," as well as to nurture the development of scientific breakthroughs and to address administrative and science policy issues that affect NIH.

In the months since a first draft was unveiled last Spring, the plan has been reviewed and refined by NIH and ADAMHA institute, center, and division directors and staff, and now reflects fifteen "promising areas of science" and eleven science policy issues. The current draft is scheduled to be discussed at an invitational symposium in San Antonio, Texas on Feb. 2-4, at which President Bush was to appear, and at public meetings during February and early March in Los Angeles, Farmington (Connecticut), Atlanta, and St. Louis.

However, accounts from numerous sources in Washington suggest the President will be a no-show in San Antonio because the plan is about to be scrapped. There are two lines of argument about why the plan could be killed. One says the administration felt it had not been included enough in the process and became angry when they discovered that the draft included specific budgetary requirements for future years even though the President's budget requests will not be known. The other suggests that certain elements of the Presidents' constituency would like to discredit Healy.

As far as we know, the San Antonio symposium and the public meetings are still on (COSSA had intended to testify in Atlanta), but this may change at any time. Stay tuned!

EDITOR'S NOTE

President Bush's Fiscal Year 1993 budget will be released on January 29. As in previous years, COSSA will provide a summary and analysis of the proposed FY 1993 budgets for over 40 federal agencies that support social and behavioral science research.

The next issue of UPDATE will feature this analysis and will be published in late February.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE *ke*

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application materials. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

Cooperative State Research Service: Markets, Trade, and Policy

The United States agricultural and forest product sectors need to increase exports of commodities and value-added goods in an increasingly competitive global market environment. Further, increased output for export is expected to be produced by sustainable production practices and contribute to revitalization of rural economies through employment and income growth. This knowledge of environmentally compatible, cost-reducing technologies can enhance producer and processor competitiveness in the marketplace. Rural area leaders need knowledge about the implications of these new technologies and export market growth prospects in order to assess employment and income opportunities and to determine supplemental infrastructure and organizational needs.

Under the Markets, Trade, and Policy program, support will be given for research in: market assessments, competitiveness, and technology assessments. Proposals also are being requested in three areas connected to rural development: to develop new theoretical, conceptual, and methodological techniques to apply to rural revitalization issues; to determine the forces impacting rural areas; and to evaluate methods for revitalizing rural areas.

Application Procedure: An original and 14 copies of the application and pertinent addenda to the project description are requested.

Eligibility: Proposals may be submitted by any State agricultural experiment station, college, university, other research institution or organization, Federal agency, private organization, corporation, or individual.

Budget: Allotted for FY 1992 is \$3.787 million; the number of awards depend on the availability of funds.

Review Process: The following evaluation factors will be used in reviewing applications for Standard Research Grants, Postdoctoral Fellowships, New Investigator Awards: A) Scientific merit of the proposal, consisting of (1) conceptual adequacy of the hypothesis; (2) objectives and approach; (3) impact of anticipated results; and (4) probability of success of project; B) Qualifications of proposed project personnel and adequacy of facilities; C) Relevance of project to long-range improvements in and sustainability of U.S. agriculture or to one or more of the research purposes set out.

Submit applications to: National Competitive Research Initiative Grants Program, c/o Proposal Services Branch, Cooperative State Research Service, Room 303 Aerospace Center, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250-2200. Telephone: (202) 401-5049.

Deadlines: Proposals must be postmarked by March 30, 1992.

Contact: For additional information call (202) 401-4425.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION Kc

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency for further information or application materials. Additional application guidelines and restrictions may apply.

Division of Social and Economic Science: Center for Survey Methods

The Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics in the Social Sciences Program (MMSSS) in the Division of Social and Economic Science (SES) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) will support the establishment of a Center for Survey Methods (CSM). The CSM's establishment responds to interest expressed by federal agencies and members of the academic research community for expansion of educational and training opportunities for people who use survey-based methods to conduct basic and applied research in the social, behavioral, economic, and statistical sciences.

The goals of the CSM are to: (1) advance training and research in survey methods in the social, behavioral, economic, and statistical sciences; and (2) provide graduate-level education and training for current and future employees of federal statistical agencies and for other individuals who will employ survey methods more effectively in survey practice and in the conduct of research at academic, public, and private institutions. The CSM will be established in September, 1992. The CSM must provide graduate level instruction and research-skill development opportunities in the Washington, D.C. area.

Application Procedure: Proposals for the CSM should be prepared and submitted in accordance with procedures outlined in Grants for Research and Education in Science and Engineering (GRESE; NSF 90-77). GRESE contains all forms needed for submission of proposals and is available from: NSF Forms and Publications Unit, 1800 G Street, NW, Room 232, Washington, DC 20550, (202) 357-3619. Applications should then be marked "Center for Survey Methods/SES" and mailed to: NSF Proposal Processing Unit, 1800 G Street, NW, Room 223, Washington, DC 20550.

Eligible Applicants: A proposal to establish the Center for Survey Methods may be submitted by any U.S. academic institution that grants graduate degrees in the social, behavioral, economic and statistical sciences. Federal agencies may not participate as submitting or collaborating institutions.

Budget: The award will be for 5 years; Year 1 - \$400,000; Year 2 - \$700,000; Year 3 through 5 - \$1,000,000/year.

Review Process: The evaluation of CSM proposals will be based on written reviews and panel discussions of all eligible proposals by knowledgeable scientists and on site visits by external experts and NSF staff on institutions submitting the most competitive proposals.

Deadlines: Proposals must be postmarked by Monday, April 20, 1992.

Contact: Inquiries regarding the CSM competition should be directed to: CSM Coordinator, c/o MMSSS Program, Division of Social and Economic Science/NSF 91-149, National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street, NW, Room 336, Washington, DC 20550, (202) 357-7966.

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