

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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SBE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON STRATEGIC INITIATIVES *LLS*

The Advisory Committee to the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF) addressed the role of these disciplines in the larger context of federal science policy at its May 10-11 meeting. The 15 member panel, meeting for the second time, is chaired by University of Chicago sociologist Marta Tienda and provides advice to Cora Marrett, the Assistant Director for SBE, on various challenges and opportunities facing the directorate.

The advisory committee -- recognizing the changing nature of support for science, the calls for more relevant research, continued resource constraints, and the initiative-driven NSF budget -- focused on the need to pursue a greater role for social, behavioral and economic sciences in already existing federal efforts and to develop initiatives on which SBE can assume a leadership role. MIT economist Robert Solow made a plea for greater SBE involvement in the \$4.4 million Advanced Manufacturing initiative currently being dominated by research on engineering questions rather than people and management problems. Other members of the committee urged greater SBE roles in the High Performance Computing and Communication, Biotechnology, and Global Change initiatives of the Federal Coordinating Council on Science, Engineering, and Technology (FCCSET).

The panel heard about two NSF initiatives included in the FY 1994 budget proposal, and two currently in the development stage. Paul Chapin, program officer in linguistics, updated the committee on the cognitive science initiative, now called Intelligent Systems. Seeking common ground with the Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate, SBE is focusing on funding studies in cognitive science to ascertain human abilities to receive, store, process, and communicate information and to interact with artificial systems designed to deal with massive volume of information.

Dan Newlon, program officer in economics, reported to the committee on the developments in the Civil Infrastructure initiative which will conduct research to help improve the physical infrastructure. SBE is provided \$400,000 in NSF's FY 1994 request. A recently held workshop indicated that SBE research on the socio-economic impacts, the institutional contexts, and the human infrastructure, related to the physical infrastructure, were topics that must be addressed.

Newlon also discussed the development of an electronic network initiative. Newlon argued that the social sciences had long experience with data archives, large data sets, and the exchange of data. He also envisioned that the initiative would focus on the infrastructure needs of the SBE sciences. Further discussion will take place within NSF on pursuing this project.

Jonathan Friedlaender, current NSF program officer in physical anthropology, outlined the initial discussions about a Human Genome Diversity project. Anthropologists, working with molecular biologists, would help identify diverse populations based on genetic identification. At this point, a National Academy of Science study to determine the components of this initiative appears to be the next step.

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The committee raised a number of questions about these initiatives. Do they present opportunity costs that are too high, were there too many of them, and did they diminish the importance of individual investigator initiated research? Did the initiatives move NSF too far ahead of the research community so that instead of the research community defining agendas, the initiatives were seen as responses to politicians defining science?

After receiving a report from the Science Resource Studies division staff about the status of women and minorities in both SBE and non-SBE sciences, the panel addressed education and training issues. There was a consensus that the SBE sciences offered methodologies to further refine some of the data for these discussions and that more needed to be done to increase participation of women and minorities. Committee member Jim Gibson, political scientist at the University of Houston, also requested information on assessments of current NSF programs in this area.

Other topics discussed by the Advisory Committee included strategies for increasing the number of SBE scientists on the National Science Board (currently 1 out of 24), maintaining a SBE presence in the new White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, relations with the still unnamed new NSF Director, the internationalization of science, and how to structure the reviews of SBE programs.

The Committee heard briefly from acting NSF director, Fred Bernthal, who outlined the impending congressional consideration of the FY 1994 NSF budget request. According to Bernthal, within the

next two weeks the 13 appropriation subcommittees will receive their allocations, followed by a House committee markup by Memorial Day. The Senate is expected to take similar actions relatively soon thereafter. Bernthal also noted NSF's role in "defense conversion," a five-agency \$500 million effort to educate and retrain defense workers for civilian research tasks.

KORNBERG NAMED SBER DIVISION DIRECTOR *HS*

Duke University political scientist Allan Kornberg has been named the new director of the Division of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research (SBER) at the National Science Foundation. The SBER, recently created, combines the old Social and Economic Science Division and the Behavioral and Cognitive Science Division. Kornberg replaces Roberta Balstad Miller, who left the NSF in February to become President of the Consortium for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN). Richard Louttit had served as Acting Director prior to Kornberg's appointment.

Kornberg, the Norb F. Schaefer Professor of Political Science, joined Duke in 1965 and served as department chairman from 1983-1992. He has also taught at Carleton University and Hiram College. The author of several books on parliamentary and legislative processes, particularly those of his native Canada, he has also been the recipient of a number of NSF grants.

The new division director has been a consultant to the Social Science Research Council of Canada, the Canada Royal Commission on Electoral Reform, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the NSF. He has served as editor of the Journal of Politics, and on the editorial boards of the American Political Science Review and Legislative Studies Quarterly. He was the recipient of the 1989 APSA Samuel Eldersveld Award for Lifetime Achievement and the 1990 Mentoring Award from the Women's Caucus of APSA. During the 1970s, Kornberg served as the Chair of Duke's Athletic Council and its representative to the NCAA.

Kornberg received a B.A. in 1952 and a B.Ed. in 1954 from the University of Manitoba, and an M.A. in 1962 and a Ph.D. in 1964 from the

CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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Government Affairs:	Susan Persons
Public Affairs:	Michael Buckley
Administrative Officer:	Karen Carrion

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University of Michigan. He expects to assume his new position full-time later this summer.

NIH BILL BEFORE CONFERENCE; BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE OFFICE LIKELY TO BE CREATED *SP*

Differing versions of legislation to reauthorize the National Institutes of Health (NIH) are currently being resolved by a House-Senate conference committee. While the process has yet to be completed, COSSA has learned that there has been agreement on the House provision to establish an Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research at NIH. If created, the office will mark the first time that the behavioral and social sciences will be a part of the formal structure of NIH.

The director of the office would be appointed by the Director of NIH and would coordinate research on the relationship between human behavior and the development, treatment, and prevention of medical conditions. He or she would also be charged with identifying new areas for NIH support of behavioral and social science research. The director of the office would serve in a full-time capacity, and the effective date would be July 1, 1993.

For more information on NIH reauthorization, see *Update*, March 8 and 22.

NRC CALLS FOR REORGANIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH EFFORT AND MORE SOCIAL SCIENCE *HS*

Declaring "there is no clear leadership for the nation's environmental efforts," the National Research Council's (NRC) Committee on Environmental Research has recommended "cultural changes" and "organizational changes" to correct weaknesses in federal environmental research and policy. The sixteen member committee chaired by Dale Corson, former president of Cornell University, in its recently released pre-publication summary, also chastised the research establishment for structural inadequacies to deal with complex interdisciplinary research and for the lack of a comprehensive national plan of environmental research to coordinate the efforts of more than 20 agencies involved with environmental programs.

The committee also stated that "life science and social science components of environmental research are poorly supported," compared to the physical sciences, and urged "that additional emphasis" be given to the social sciences, biological sciences and engineering to provide "a more balanced program" of environmental research.

NIE Rejected

The Committee was appointed in 1991 following legislation passed by the Congress to study the feasibility of establishing a National Institutes for the Environment (NIE). Although, "favorably impressed" with the idea of an NIE, the committee ultimately rejected its creation because "it does not go far enough to solve all the problems in environmental research we described." Instead, the committee recommended a Department of the Environment, that would include not only the current EPA (whose elevation to Cabinet level status is currently moving through the Congress), but the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Geological Survey, and parts of NASA. The new Department would have a major research role, separated from its regulatory function "so that the research program can grow to provide the necessary science base on which to justify rules and regulations."

The research endeavors of this new Department would be coordinated with efforts of the other federal agencies through the establishment of a National Environmental Council (NEC) in the Executive Office of the President and chaired by the Vice President of the United States. The Council, according to the Committee report, would have outside advisory panels and would oversee implementation of the National Environmental Plan.

The Plan, which would be updated every two years and comprehensively reviewed every five years, forms the basis for coordinating environmental research responsibilities of federal agencies. The Council, in formulating and implementing the plan, the Committee noted, should work with the states, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, and the academic research community. The Plan complements the "National Environmental Strategy" issued by the National Commission on the Environment, since that concentrated on policy issues, while the NRC "plan" concentrates on research.

Research Directions

Research would be directed to protection, restoration, and innovation for management of natural resources. According to the panel, environmental research should: collect and analyze information needed inside and outside government; improve our knowledge of the fundamental processes that shape the natural world and human behavior affecting that world; and apply the knowledge to solving environmental problems with a comprehensive management strategy in the context of economic and social needs. The committee emphasized the need for both disciplinary-based and inter-disciplinary research. It further recommended that extramurally funded research programs at federal agencies expand their efforts "to provide maximum opportunity for the nation's academic researchers to avail themselves of national environmental research opportunities" with competitively awarded, peer-reviewed, investigator-initiated awards.

Among its other suggestions, the committee wants the new NEC to initiate a program to inventory and monitor the status and trends in the nation's national resources. This includes the National Biological Survey recently proposed by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. Also, the panel endorsed a national environmental data and information system to collect and make easily accessible a wide range of environmental data from the biological, physical, and social sciences. Finally, the panel also called for expanded programs of environmental education.

With the EPA about to become a Cabinet level agency, a new Associate Director for the Environment appointed at the Office of Science and Technology Policy, a Vice President with a clear interest and best selling book on the subject, the environment is clearly on policymakers minds. With budgets constrained, the pressure for increased environmental research, somewhat prodded by the U.S. Global Environmental Change Research Program, may become another good idea foiled by lack of resources. This report from the National Academy of Sciences' research arm, should stir discussion, but the changes that can occur may already have happened.

COLLEGE PRESIDENT NOMINATED FOR HUMANITIES ENDOWMENT *MB*

President Clinton has nominated University of Pennsylvania president Sheldon Hackney to become chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). If confirmed by the Senate, Hackney will replace Lynne V. Cheney, who resigned effective January 20 after over six years as NEH chair.

Hackney became Pennsylvania's president in 1981, after serving as president of Tulane University from 1975-81. He received his Ph.D. in history from Yale, and is the author of several books on populism and numerous articles on higher education and the humanities.

At his upcoming Senate confirmation hearings, Republicans intend to question Hackney about speech codes at Penn that affect language or conduct concerning issues of race, ethnicity and national origin.

COSSA ON NSF BUDGET: LARGER ROLE FOR SBE SCIENCES IN INITIATIVES *MB*

COSSA Executive Director Howard J. Silver presented testimony on May 5 before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies. Silver urged the subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Louis Stokes (D-OH) to strongly support the National Science Foundation (NSF) and its social and behavioral science component, particularly individual investigator initiated research projects at NSF.

Silver told the panel that the past year has seen tremendous ferment in national science policy, including calls for research related to national goals and a new emphasis on technology leading to a reassessment of the NSF mission by the National Science Board's Commission on the Future of NSF. He told the subcommittee that while NSF has made a clear commitment to the "strategic research" called for by the commission, the resignation of NSF Director Walter Massey and a decline in FY 1993 research funds added to this ferment.

Fresh Challenges for NSF

The Clinton administration's calls to invest heavily in technology and reorient our nation's

R&D policies provide NSF with fresh challenges, Silver stated. Calling NSF the flagship agency dedicated to promoting the health of science, he said that the Foundation must maintain its dedication to fundamental knowledge building, with the principal purpose of the NSF remaining the support of basic research and the development of scientific talent. "NSF must continue to incubate and nurture new and promising ideas. Without that, the nation does not develop intellectually, and our technology stagnates, rather than innovates."

Noting in his testimony that for basic research in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences, NSF remains a vital source of federal support, Silver offered COSSA's strong endorsement of the administration's request of \$3.18 billion for NSF in FY 1994, saying, "For COSSA the most important action this Subcommittee can take on the FY 1994 NSF budget is to maintain the proposed figure of \$2.204 billion for research and related activities." He specifically cited the proposed 19 percent increase for the new SBE directorate for FY 1994, noting that the new Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research (SBER) division would increase its small share of the NSF pie by \$9.3 million (15 percent) to \$75.3 million.

Silver noted that almost one-half of the research budget at NSF is now being driven by the Federal Coordinating Council on Science, Engineering, and Technology (FCCSET) initiatives, and he outlined the role of the social, behavioral, and economic sciences in these efforts. He discussed the relatively small role -- but potentially large contributions -- of the SBE in FCCSET initiatives such as U.S. Global Change Research Program, High Performance Computing and Communications, and Advanced Manufacturing. "COSSA believes that it is imperative for NSF to continue support for research that integrates systematic understanding of human and institutional issues as central to problems conceptualized as technological ones," he told the subcommittee.

COSSA TESTIFIES ON NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM

SP

COSSA Associate Director for Government Affairs Susan Persons presented testimony at a May 3 hearing held by the Committee on National Needs for Biomedical and Behavioral Research Personnel. The National Research Council, the operating arm

of the National Academy of Sciences, recently established the committee to formulate recommendations for the future direction of the National Research Service Awards (NRSA) program.

In 1974, the National Research Service Awards Act created a federal program of predoctoral and postdoctoral training support to meet national needs for biomedical and behavioral scientists. Concurrently, the Act requested that the National Academy of Sciences undertake a continuing study of personnel needs in this area and that they report on a regular basis to the U.S. Congress, the National Institutes of Health, and related agencies regarding future training needs.

The committee solicited the views of members of scientific and educational communities regarding research training issues in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, the clinical sciences, nursing research, and health services research. Those who wished to testify were asked to submit a three page letter responding to four questions: 1) What is the most significant challenge we face today in the United States for maintaining an adequate supply of qualified scientists to sustain and advance health research? 2) What improvements might be made in the NRSA program to assure a continuing supply of skilled investigators in the biomedical and behavioral sciences in the coming years? 3) What steps might be taken to improve the effectiveness of the NRSA program in recruiting women and minorities into scientific careers? 4) What features of the NRSA training grant might be strengthened to assure the maintenance of higher quality research training environments?

COSSA was among the thirty-five participants selected from over 200 letters received by the committee nationwide to give their views on how the National Research Service Awards Program might be strengthened to advance health research in the U.S.

Funding Most Significant Challenge

Persons began her testimony by stating that the most significant challenge for maintaining an adequate supply of qualified scientists is, unequivocally, sufficient funding. For several years the budget for training researchers has not increased, resulting in the elimination of slots and the inability to fully fund existing slots, she said. Persons further explained that underfunding also has the deleterious effects of making training

inaccessible for some people, and diverts the energies of training directors as they are forced to search for additional funds.

Two other important challenges Persons identified included the need to channel research training opportunities to those disciplines with the most need, and the importance of recognizing that new health concerns arising from an aging population will require new training.

Persons noted that two primary factors influencing the continued availability of investigators are trainee stipends and program flexibility. She recommended that stipends for training awards increase, and that the NRSA program become more flexible by locating individual and institutional training programs where trainees can more easily access them.

Social Context of Women's Lives

In addressing the question of how to increase the participation of women and minorities in the NRSA program, Persons explained that understanding the social context of women's lives is critical to increasing their participation. Because of family demands and economic factors, the career paths of women are often interrupted, she commented. Women still have the primary responsibility for child care, for maintaining the home, and increasingly, for the care of elderly family members. She recommended developing mid-career mechanisms that would allow women to reenter their research career after absences.

To assure a high quality research training environment, Persons offered three suggestions. First, greater interdisciplinary training opportunities be offered to address increasingly complex social/health problems. For example, in the social sciences, demographers and sociologists trained in aging research, epidemiologists with a background in economics, and economists sensitive to aging issues are required. She stated that a wider research focus, along with the experience of working in multi-disciplinary teams, will better prepare researchers to work in tandem with researchers in industry, academies, and research centers.

Persons also suggested that both individual and institutional training grants should continue to ensure access to training and a broad distribution of scientific researchers. Although adding additional costs is difficult in these times of tight budget

constraints, she urged providing mentor salaries on training grants.

Persons' testimony on behalf of COSSA will be published in a separate technical appendix with the Committee's report to the National Institutes of Health. Copies of the testimony are available upon request.

COSSA URGES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT JUSTICE RESEARCH AND STATISTICS PROGRAMS *MB*

Felice J. Levine, Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association testified on behalf of COSSA on May 11 before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary. Levine urged the Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Neal Smith (D-IA), to adequately fund the research and statistics programs of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), particularly those of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

Levine told the panel, "building the base of knowledge in these areas requires sustained and effective research support. Progress cannot be achieved on the cheap or through a quick fix." She commented that funding for OJP research has been at best flat in nominal dollars over the past twenty years, and steadily decreasing in real dollars factoring in inflation. Levine said that lack of sufficient funding for OJP has hindered fulfillment of its legislative mandate of supporting a balanced program of basic and applied research and development to improve and strengthen our system of justice.

As an example, Levine outlined for the appropriators a 1993 National Academy of Sciences study, *Understanding and Preventing Violence*, that noted "as a research topic, violence receives far less support than certain other threats to life." The Academy said that expenditures on violence research total \$31 per year of potential life lost, in contrast \$441 for heart/lung/blood, \$697 for AIDS, and \$794 for cancer, excluding external social costs of violence such as deterioration of quality of life, loss of legitimate economic activity, and the negative effects of chronic exposure to violence on child health, education, and social development.

Levine highlighted for the panel the contributions of federally-sponsored research in the areas of career criminals, sentencing, juvenile justice and delinquency, drugs, gangs, family violence, and community policing. She noted that these research efforts were undertaken in efforts to better inform criminal justice practitioners and policymakers.

Research Plan Unveiled

In her testimony, Levine remarked that for the first-time NIJ has unveiled a long-range plan, which seeks to shape its future research agenda around six goals designed to advance our understanding and response to violence and drug-related crime. While lauding the establishment of a long-range research plan, she noted that many experts have serious reservations about the ability of the meager resources allocated to NIJ being able to carry out these goals.

Turning to BJS and OJJDP, Levine described for the panel important ongoing data collections at BJS and research into delinquency causes, intervention, and prevention at OJJDP. She urged the subcommittee to adequately fund these efforts.

Concluding her testimony, Levine told the committee members, "If we as a nation are to be true to our post-Cold War commitment to devote more of our attention to the needs of people at home and to rebuild our social infrastructure, we must devote more resources to a strong research and development program in the Department of Justice that seeks to find solutions to the crime problem."

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION *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.

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education

The purpose of this program is to provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements to improve postsecondary education opportunities.

Application Procedure: The Secretary is particularly interested in funding under this competition applications that aim to develop new types of collaboration and exchange between institutions of higher education in the United States and their counterparts in the 12 member states of the European Community.

Eligible Applicants: Institutions of higher education or combinations of such institutions and other public and private nonprofit institutions and agencies.

Available Funds: It is estimated that approximately \$1,500,000 will be available for an estimated 30 new awards under this competition for a 24 month period.

Budget: Awards will average \$50,000.

Applications Available: May 20, 1993

Deadline: Applications must be received by July 20, 1993.

Contact: Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 3100, ROB-3, Washington, DC 20202-5175. Telephone: 202-205-0082 to order applications; of 202-708-5750 for information.

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