
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

Volume V, Number 9
May 23, 1986

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REPORT ON HEALTH OF U.S. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES RELEASED:
SOCIAL SCIENCES IGNORED

Along with many scientific societies and educational associations, COSSA has endorsed the principles of a White House Science Council report on the health of U.S. colleges and universities released on May 15. The report, which calls for greater investment in university based research, concludes: "Our universities today simply cannot respond to society's expectations for them or discharge their national responsibilities in research and education without substantially increased support." Despite basic agreement with the principles, COSSA does have a problem with the scope of the report.

The report was produced by the White House Science Council's Panel on the Health of U.S. Colleges and Universities, chaired by David Packard, Chairman of the Board of Hewlett-Packard, and vice-chaired by D. Allan Bromley, Henry Ford II Professor of Physics, Yale University. Among the panel's other recommendations are: providing a stable research environment, restoring the university infrastructure, developing more multidisciplinary science and technology centers, eliminating micromanagement of university research, controlling indirect costs, establishing

COSSA Washington Update is published 20-24 times per year, normally biweekly, by the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), 1200 Seventeenth Street, NW, Suite 520, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202/887-6166). Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$40.00; institutional subscriptions, \$90.00; overseas airmail, \$50.00. ISSN 0749-4394. COSSA Members, Affiliates, and Contributors are listed on the back.

Risa I. Palm, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

greater cooperation between university and industrial based research, increasing involvement of state governments in research support, and providing merit based scholarships and fellowships to attract the best students into science and engineering.

These goals are admirable and should produce a more vigorous and better basic research system. One of the questions raised at the press conference releasing the report concerned the price tag for these recommendations and the source of the funds, especially in this time of budgetary constraint. The response suggested that a merit-based scholarship program alone would cost \$120 million and that, as the report states, "reallocation of R&D appropriations appears to be the most probable source...but incremental new funding will be required."

COSSA's endorsement of the report is tempered by the total omission of the social and behavioral sciences from the discussion. An exchange of letters between David Jenness (COSSA's Executive Director) and Professor Bromley discussed this omission. According to Bromley, the charge given the panel by former White House Science Advisor George Keyworth forced the panel to focus on the agricultural sciences, biological sciences, environmental sciences, physical sciences, engineering, computer sciences, materials sciences, and medical sciences.

Keyworth's charge to the panel was to "examine and make necessary recommendations for revising the principles underlying the relationships between the Federal government and the universities, especially as they affect the U.S. ability to create the scientific and technical talent and to conduct the research needed to sustain America's leadership in industry and defense." The interpretation of this charge reflects an administration belief that the social and behavioral sciences are not 'sciences' and have nothing to contribute to the nation's leadership in industry and defense.

At the press conference, and in later testimony to the House Science and Technology Committee, Bromley did state that the social and behavioral sciences were also important to the health of universities. He noted: "In our report we have focused upon the natural sciences and engineering; but we cannot emphasize too strongly that the health of the entire spectrum of American higher education -- from chemistry to computer science, and to the classics -- is important to our national future...no more can we afford generations of scientists and engineers unable to appreciate the economic and social consequences of their work nor the underpinning of philosophic and moral judgments on which it rests."

Bromley has also suggested that the report does not "speak for the entire university and college community, and in that sense, the title of our Panel is a somewhat unfortunate one." COSSA has sent letters to university presidents asking them, when discussing the report, to acknowledge the importance of the social and behavioral sciences to the basic research enterprise in this country.

SENATE COMMITTEE ADDS \$3 MILLION FOR SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee agreed to add \$3 million for the social and behavioral sciences during its markup of the National Science Foundation (NSF) authorization on May 20. Sen. Paul Simon (D-IL) sponsored an amendment to add the \$3 million plus \$4 million for science and engineering education. A substitute amendment offered by Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT) to add only the money for science and engineering education was quickly accepted by Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT). However, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Ranking Democrat on the Committee, reminded the Chairman that the Simon amendment had included an extra \$3 million for the social and behavioral sciences. Sen. Hatch then suggested that he would work out something to satisfy Sen. Simon. After the meeting, they agreed to add the \$3 million for the social and behavioral sciences.

Unlike the House Science, Research, and Technology Subcommittee's version of the authorization bill which would divert the \$7 million from the Antarctic program (see Update, March 21, 1986), the Senate Committee agreed that the source of the additional funds should be left to the discretion of the NSF Director.

In other action, the Committee authorized the NSF at the President's request level, which includes a 13% increase for the Foundation as a whole, and a 14% increase for Research and Related Activities. It also removed the Assistant Directors as presidential appointees, something NSF has wanted for years.

On May 15, the Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee, the other Senate committee with jurisdiction over the NSF authorization bill, held its hearings. Erich Bloch, Director of NSF, and Roland Schmitt, Chairman of the National Science Board, were the main witnesses. The Senators present indicated strong support for basic research as a key to economic competitiveness and national security -- music to Bloch's ears. Sen. Slade Gorton (R-WA), Chairman of the Subcommittee, did ask Dr. Lawrence Bogorad, incoming President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), whether he favored the Simon amendment described above. Dr. Bogorad said he favored increased funding for the social and behavioral sciences, but that the Antarctic program needed its funds, too.

CHENEY WINS EASY SENATE CONFIRMATION AS NEH CHAIR

On May 22, Dr. Lynne Cheney won unanimous confirmation by the Senate to be the next Chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). At earlier hearings held by the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee on May 12, Cheney was praised by Senators for her qualifications and support for the humanities. She has a Ph.D. in British literature and is currently a senior editor at Washingtonian magazine. Cheney fills the post left vacant when William Bennett became Education Secretary in early 1985. The Senate Committee had earlier turned down the administration's nomination of Edward Curran to be NEH Chair.

HOUSE PASSES BUDGET RESOLUTION: INCREASES FUNDS FOR NSF

On May 15, the House of Representatives passed its FY 1987 budget resolution. Although the number for Science Function #250 in the House resolution is below the Senate number (\$8.8 billion to \$9.1 billion in FY 1987 outlays), the report of the House Budget Committee indicates that the NSF should get an increase of \$150 million over the post-Gramm-Rudman-Hollings FY 1986 levels.

This increase should allow the House to appropriate for NSF at the President's FY 1987 request level. Whether they will or not depends on a number of factors, among them the funding process for NASA's new orbiter to replace the Challenger, and other components of NASA's budget.

DOD PUSHED FOR COMMITMENT TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES

At the May 12 meeting of the Working Group on Foreign Languages and Area Studies of the DOD-University Forum, Department of Defense representatives tentatively agreed to recommend to Secretary Caspar Weinberger that the Department spend up to \$2 million for a program of research and development in foreign languages and area studies. The program would implement some of the recommendations of Beyond Growth: The Next Stage in Language and Area Studies, a report written by Professor Richard Lambert, Director of the South Asian Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania, and published by the Association of American Universities (AAU) in April 1984. Professor Lambert and other university representatives to the Forum urged DOD to demonstrate a concrete commitment to improving language training and area studies research by asking the Secretary to approve the funding for the program.

The new program, to be limited at first to East Asian countries and languages, includes development of language pedagogy strategies, collaborative research on least taught languages, upgrading of library and other information resources holdings, and sponsorship of conferences.

The Forum is a cooperative venture between representatives of research universities and the Department of Defense to provide advice on a wide range of issues affecting the nation's university research and education programs vital to national security. It also serves as a setting for discussion between two groups that traditionally have had a somewhat skeptical view of each other.

Craig Wilson, director of intelligence, training and personnel in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for C3I, indicated that DOD would undertake other actions to increase participation and support of DOD personnel in international studies and foreign language training programs. He also indicated that Secretary Weinberger would once again urge support

for reauthorization and funding of Title VI of the Higher Education Act, which authorizes and funds programs in international studies and foreign language training. The President's budget asks for the elimination of Title VI programs.

On July 1 the AAU will deliver draft legislation proposing the creation of a National Foundation for Foreign Languages and International Studies. The Foundation, to be modeled after NSF, would be a grant-giving entity to support research, training, and the development of information resources in these areas deemed critical to U.S. economic competitiveness and national security. Professor Lambert is also expected to produce a follow-up report to Beyond Growth that will expand on the issues raised by that report, and provide much of the rationale regarding the national need for increased capabilities in and support for language, area, and international studies.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS THREATENED BY GRH REDUCTIONS

Samuel R. Gammon, Executive Director of the American Historical Association, appeared before the Joint (Senate-House) Committee on the Library to warn against the likely consequences of reductions in service, acquisitions, and staffing at the Library of Congress necessitated by Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget reductions in FY 1986. Gammon spoke on behalf of the Consortium, the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, and the National Humanities Alliance on May 7.

Ambassador Gammon made special mention of the difficulties encountered by scholars around the country and from abroad who must travel to Washington to use the Library's unique collection, and who are affected by reduced hours of operation; by independent scholars who do not have easy access to university libraries with extensive holdings; and by libraries throughout the world that depend on the Library of Congress cataloging system, which is now 25,000 volumes behind.

Other aspects of Gammon's testimony were covered in Update, March 21, 1986, in connection with a similar appearance before a House appropriations subcommittee.

COSSA WELCOMES UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-SAN DIEGO AS CONTRIBUTOR

The University of California-San Diego has recently joined COSSA as a Contributor. The Consortium now includes 44 Contributors and 30 Affiliates in addition to the 10 founding Members.

For information on becoming a Contributor or Affiliate, please contact John Hammer, COSSA, 1200 17th Street, NW, Suite 520, Washington, DC 20036; 202/887-6166.

FRENCH SOCIAL SCIENTISTS VISIT COSSA

On May 8, members of the Consortium's Executive Committee and staff gave an informal reception for two prominent French social scientists visiting Washington. Also participating was Steven Kennedy, administrative associate for international affairs, of the American Psychological Association.

The visitors were Maurice Garden, head of social sciences in the Ministry of Research in Paris under the previous government and professor of modern history at the University of Lyon; and Yves Lichtenberger, until recently head of the department of technology and society in the Ministry and a researcher in the area of work and technology. Following the selection of Jacques Chirac as Prime Minister, the importance given under the Mitterand government to increasing funding for science has lessened, the Ministry of Research has been abolished (instead, research will be coordinated in the Ministry of National Education), and the budget of the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) has been cut. These changes are not targeted toward the social sciences.

Prof. Garden and M. Lichtenberger were interested primarily in talking with COSSA about the organization and style of activity of disciplinary associations in the United States.

KNOWLEDGE UTILIZATION SOCIETY TO HOLD FIRST MEETING

The newly created Howard R. Davis Society for Knowledge Utilization and Planned Change will hold its first annual meeting October 19-21, 1986, at the Radisson University Hotel in Minneapolis. The founding members of the Society represent a broad range of academic disciplines and are concerned with understanding the nature of scientific knowledge and what influences its sound application in policy and practice. The Society will encourage and provide assistance to researchers, policy-makers, administrators, and service providers.

Individuals from academic, government, non-profit and for-profit sectors are invited to this first meeting. Five themes will be addressed: 1) creating a national learning community for improving human services; 2) knowledge utilization strategies in managing the changing human services milieu; 3) planning survival strategies for human services programs and agencies; 4) training human service administrators for knowledge utilization and planned change; and 5) defining public and private roles in bringing about planned change.

Individuals wishing to participate in the 1986 program should submit a 1-2 page proposal relating to one of the five themes by June 15. For further information, contact Susan Salasin, 4813 Cloister Drive, Rockville, MD 20852; 301/443-1333.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COSSA provides this information as a service and encourages readers to contact the agency rather than COSSA for more information.

Critical Foreign Languages Program
(Secretary's Discretionary Program)

The Secretary's Discretionary Program for Mathematics, Science, Computer Learning, and Critical Foreign Languages provides grants for research, demonstration, dissemination, and development projects in these areas. A set-aside of 25% of the budget is reserved for projects to improve instruction in critical foreign languages and may be awarded only to institutions of higher education.

For FY 1986 the Secretary has designated foreign language instruction at the elementary and secondary school levels as his highest priority. Projects that will benefit directly both students and teachers are particularly encouraged. Suggested languages include Arabic, Cambodian, Chinese, French, German, Haitian Creole, Italian, Korean, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Topics of interest include: 1) upgrading and strengthening the knowledge and proficiency of foreign language teachers currently in the classroom; 2) recruiting and training individuals who are proficient in a foreign language but lack pedagogical preparation; 3) increasing the opportunities for foreign language instruction at the elementary school level; 4) providing instruction in foreign languages and culture to historically underserved and underrepresented populations; 5) strengthening existing foreign language programs to improve and increase language proficiency; and 6) developing new instructional approaches or broadens existing methods.

Budget: Approximately \$1.6 million is available for this program in FY 1986.

Restrictions on Awards: Projects may be supported for up to 1 year; awards will generally not exceed \$125,000.

Deadline: July 1, 1986

Contact: Patricia L. Alexander, Coordinator
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Speech Communication Association
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