

**HOUSE PASSES NSF REAUTHORIZATION; DIRECTORATE CUT REMAINS** <sup>HS</sup>

On May 30, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3322, the Omnibus Civilian Science Reauthorization Act of 1996, by a voice vote. The bill includes an FY 1997 authorization for the National Science Foundation. Attempts by the Democrats to alter the funding levels and other provisions in the bill failed on mostly party line votes. At this time, it appears unlikely that the Senate will take any action.

The NSF portion of the legislation includes the provision limiting the Foundation to six scientific directorates. An amendment sponsored by Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) sought to remove this restriction as well as restore funds for NSF's Salaries and Expenses (S&E) account. During the debate, House Science Committee Chairman Rep. Robert Walker (R-PA) justified the limitation by noting that the proposed authorization bill and the President's budget for the years after FY 1997 significantly reduce the amount of funds available to that account. The best way to reduce the administrative overhead and "cut the bureaucracy," is to eliminate a directorate, Walker declared.

Walker further noted that: "In our report we suggest a specific directorate [Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences] because that was the most recent one adopted. It is also the one where the science was spread out through the agency before, and now we are reducing a directorate. Perhaps, that is the way to go." However, Walker exclaimed: "... it is up to NSF. It is up to the director. How does he want to reduce this money, is what we are saying. We are going to give them discretion. But we do want to eliminate the spending." The Chairman also complained that the Office of Management and Budget had held up NSF's response to his letter of May 9 (see *Update*, May 27).

Lofgren focused her argument on the devastating effect, in terms of reduced NSF employees versus

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**HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE GIVES NSF SLIGHT INCREASE** <sup>HS</sup>

The National Science Foundation received a slight \$33 million increase from the House VA, HUD, Independent Agencies Subcommittee in the markup of its FY 1997 appropriations bill on May 30. The total for NSF climbs to \$3.253 billion, up from \$3.220 billion last year, but below the President's request of \$3.325 billion. The recommendations will move to the full appropriations committee on June 13 and House floor action is expected soon thereafter. The House is hoping to pass 10 of the 13 appropriations bills before the July 4th recess.

The Subcommittee provided \$2.422 billion for Research and Related Activities. Although a reduction of \$50 million from the President's request, it represents an increase of \$108 million or 4.7 percent over last year's final appropriation. However, the Subcommittee required that \$50 million of the increase fund the instrumentation program which survives the elimination of the Academic Research Infrastructure account.

Education and Human Resources received \$612 million, an increase of \$13 million above FY 1996 but \$7 million below the requested level. The Subcommittee notes that \$2 million of this reduction should come from the proposed increase for graduate fellowships. The other \$5 million should come from the proposed \$9 million increase for Undergraduate

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**INSIDE UPDATE...**

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## CENSUS SAMPLING CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE MB

Separate pieces of legislation -- one from a rural Republican, one from an inner city Democrat -- were recently introduced to limit, or even prohibit, the proposed use of sampling for non-response follow-up in the 2000 Census. The Census Bureau is proposing to use sampling once a 90 percent response rate has been obtained at the county level.

The rural Republican is Rep. Thomas Petri (R-WI), whose bill would prohibit the use of sampling techniques in obtaining the count. Petri, joined by many Republicans, says sampling is not counting and that it would undermine confidence in the census. The inner city Democrat is Rep. Carrie Meek (D-FL), whose bill would prohibit county-wide sampling for non-response follow-up, but allow it at the much smaller census tract level. Meek's bill, which has been endorsed by nearly the entire Congressional Black Caucus, is an outgrowth of concerns that the longstanding undercount of minorities in the census will be exacerbated under sampling.

At a June 6 hearing on the decennial census held by the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, both Petri and Meek explained their positions.

According to Petri: "Such adjustment would be open to political manipulation and would tend to

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), an advocacy organization for federal support for the social and behavioral sciences, was founded in 1981 and stands alone in Washington in representing the full range of social and behavioral scientists. *Update* is published 22 times per year. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$65; institutional subscriptions, \$130, overseas mail, \$130. ISSN 0749-4394. Address all inquiries to COSSA, 1522 K Street, NW, Suite 836, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 842-3525, Fax: (202) 842-2788.

undermine the public's confidence in the census. To rely on sampling rather than a physical count could be compared to changing election returns if they are at variance with public opinion polls... Estimation techniques become less reliable the smaller the population which is another reason that adjustment is not a good idea. It isn't fair for an adjustment to be made for, say Los Angeles, while an undercounting in a small town goes unadjusted because statisticians cannot accurately estimate the population of smaller areas."

Meek said, "The Census Bureau itself admits that it is less successful at counting African Americans and other minorities than it is at counting whites." Meek is concerned that by keeping the county level as the unit of measurement, census takers might try to reach their 90 percent mark by focusing their efforts on easier to count suburban whites and then use sampling for the missed inner city areas. She said her bill would seek to reduce this likelihood by using the smaller and generally more homogenous census tract level as the unit of measurement. Meek said that the Census Bureau has ignored the concerns of its African American Advisory Committee which has repeatedly told the agency that county-wide sampling would be harmful to minorities.

Testifying at the hearing, Commerce Under Secretary for Economics and Statistics Everett Ehrlich and Census Bureau Director Martha Farnsworth Riche explained in detail the Bureau's plans for 2000, and specifically said that sampling will increase public confidence in the survey because it will guarantee greater accuracy. Ehrlich said that the 1990 survey's "find you or forget you" attitude contributed to the undercount that sampling aims to eliminate. He said sampling has been endorsed by the National Academy of Sciences, a wide range of statisticians, and a body of statistical and social science research.

Rep. J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL) angrily denounced sampling, calling it "changing the Constitution." He repeatedly asked Ehrlich if he would count dollar bills given to him at a bank, and when Ehrlich said he would, Hastert wondered why he would choose an actual count rather than sampling the stack of bills. Surveying a large and diverse nation is far more difficult, Ehrlich replied. Hastert concluded this exchange by saying that Ehrlich's defense of statistical

sampling made him "understand why people in this country don't trust bureaucrats."

Committee chairman William Clinger (R-PA) did not take a position on either the Meek or Petri bills, but did cite several areas -- legality, public confidence and participation, accuracy, and technical capability -- that need further review for "Members of Congress to be absolutely certain of our comfort level" on sampling, which he called a "serious departure from traditional methods"

### NEW HEALTH STATISTICS DIRECTOR OUTLINES CHALLENGES AS

Edward J. Sondik, the newly appointed as the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), outlined five challenges he sees for NCHS at a recent meeting of the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS). These are:

- **Monitoring the changing health care system --** The conventional wisdom, said Sondik, is that the country is moving toward managed care, but when one looks at the statistics available, that is not the case. He acknowledged, however, that certain elements of the health care system are clearly moving in that direction. NCHS must stay on top of the wave, assessing where we are and where we are going. Standards and communication are critical, he emphasized.
- **Managing with a finite amount of resources --** He said it will be a challenge to balance both state and national health data sets.
- **Dealing with issues surrounding genetics --** Genetics, which is in its infancy, said Sondik, is a major activity at the CDC. Ethics, privacy and confidentiality are all issues raised by genetics research, he continued.
- **Communication--** He indicated his fascination with the Internet and how it enables people to work differently and at the same time communicate with one another.
- **Resources --** Discretionary spending, said Sondik, will steadily decline until around the year 2000 while inflation will continue to rise. Around 2002, he continued, NCHS will have lost 23 -25

percent of its funding after inflation. "There will be a significant gap," he said.

Sondik noted that the \$11 million in funding provided in FY 1996 for the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) will allow it to proceed. Funding for the NHANES, said Sondik, "was carved out specifically for this" purpose. However, he said, the agency will not necessarily be singled out in the future and will have to justify any infusion of new funding in this area, thus making private/public partnerships important.

He expressed satisfaction with the progress of the Department's efforts to revamp and integrate survey research through the NHANES. The NHANES is an important part of national surveillance for behavioral and environmental risk factors to health, undiagnosed preventable illness, nutritional status and other critical issues. It consolidates data efforts by multiple agencies and departments within the federal government. The most recent NHANES survey was conducted from 1988-94. However, as part of the Department of Health and Human Services' new survey integration plan to provide more comprehensive data collection and analysis that is responsive to the rapid pace of the health care industry, NHANES will be linked to the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey and the National Health Interview Survey.

Sondik also called the Committee's attention to the White House Briefing Room (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr>). Discussed in greater detail in the May 27 *Update*, the Briefing Room presents current statistics on a variety of areas including, health, criminal justice and education. The information, said Sondik, "appears without the editorial judgement of the White House." The idea, he said, is that the statistics will change quite rapidly, with the health statistics changing once a month. There is "incredible amount of information on the link."

Sondik, who has a 20-year career at the National Institutes of Health, most recently as the acting director of the National Cancer Institute, will also serve as a senior advisor to the Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala on health statistics.

## HOUSE NSF REAUTHORIZATION

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increased workload, that the S&E reduction would bring. NSF, she pointed out, spends only four percent of its budget on administration. Asking NSF to eliminate one directorate, Lofgren stated, "suggests the agency is being forced into significant change prior to developing a realignment plan. ... Rather than impose a congressional mandate for a specific organizational change in NSF, it seems to me it would be more reasonable to mandate a thorough review of the operation with an accompanying plan to achieve administrative cost reductions and improve efficiency of operations." Lofgren's amendment lost, 170-243.

### Research Gets Increased Authorization

Rep. Steve Schiff (R-NM), Chairman of the Basic Research Subcommittee, sponsored a successful amendment, to add \$41.2 million to the Research and Related Activities account. The amendment increased that authorization to \$2.382 billion, still below the President's FY 1997 request of \$2.472 billion. Rep. George Brown's (D-CA) attempt to restore the funding levels for NSF and other agencies in the bill to the President's requested levels also went down to defeat, 176-235.

The full House overturned the Science Committee's 23-22 vote to change the name of NSF to the National Science and Engineering Foundation. The 339-58 vote on an amendment offered by Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-MI) will maintain NSF as the National Science Foundation.

As noted above, this authorization bill is unlikely to pass the Senate. Also, the appropriations committee has begun its march toward the actual allocation of funds for the agencies. As the accompanying story notes, the decisions concerning NSF, particularly the Salaries and Expenses line, demonstrate that often the appropriators are not too concerned with the actions of the authorizers.

## HOUSE NSF APPROPRIATIONS

(continued from page one)

Education programs. The Subcommittee funded the NSF's Salaries and Expenses account at the requested level of \$134 million, ignoring the authorization committee's attempt to reduce the amount by \$7 million from last year's appropriations.

Also included in the bill was a general across-the-board reduction of 1.3 percent on all accounts. This action occurred as a precautionary measure in case the Subcommittee went over its allocation. The House, in its attempt to move appropriations bills quickly, did not wait for the outcome of the House-Senate conference on the FY 1997 budget resolution before dividing the budgetary pie among the thirteen appropriations subcommittees. The Senate resolution provides \$5.8 billion more for domestic discretionary programs than the House resolution. The House-Senate conference committee on the budget resolution approved an increase of \$4.0 billion. This should give the House subcommittees more maneuvering room and raises the possibility of improvements in the NSF numbers as the appropriations process moves forward.

## NSB RELEASES SCIENCE INDICATORS

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The National Science Board, the policy arm of the National Science Foundation, has released its biennial report to Congress, *Science and Engineering Indicators, 1996*. The report presents a quantitative examination of the U.S. science and technology enterprise. It includes a myriad of tables and charts concerning: science education at the K-12 level; characteristics of undergraduate and graduate science education; the science and engineering workforce; the financial resources and institutional linkages of the research and development system; the infrastructure of academic R&D; technology development and diffusion; public attitudes and public understanding; and the economic and social significance of scientific research. There are also many international comparisons.

In addition to providing all the data, the NSB also issues a statement of views to accompany the transmission of the report to Capitol Hill. In this

statement the Board attempts to articulate the major issues facing science and engineering (S&E) research and education and bring them to public attention. This year's statement focuses on the need for change brought about by the demise of the Cold War rationale for federal support of R&D.

The NSB notes that the previous arguments for science and technology, to ensure security and defense, has, in recent years, been joined by a focus on investment in this enterprise based on civilian needs. "The research and education institutions comprising the U.S. S&E enterprise now must reassess and redefine their roles and objectives for a new era," the Board proclaimed. To do this, organizations and programs will have to adapt. Taking note of the recent federal budget battles leading to limited resources, the Board says this necessitates "an even stronger imperative to choose wisely and to weigh existing S&E activities."

Indicating that overall growth in U.S. support for R&D has not kept pace with inflation in the 1990s and that federal outlays have been falling in real terms since 1987, the Board suggests that "current circumstances dictate reconsideration of federal research priorities and decision rules on areas, levels, and directions of federal funding." In addition, even though the academic sector has remained the nation's largest performer of basic research, growth in federal obligations to this sector has slowed in the 1990s to half the rate of the 1980s. International collaborations and government, academia, and industry partnerships are presented as new opportunities that must be enhanced.

### New Science Budget Process Needed

Echoing the National Academy of Sciences' report, *Allocating Federal Funds for Science and Technology* (see *Update*, March 4), the Board recommends a new R&D budget making process within the Executive Branch and Congress. According to the NSB this new process should: 1) pay careful attention to the complex connections and mutual dependency among U.S. R&D performers; 2) weigh the long term consequences of specific funding decisions; and 3) coordinate federal choices and trade-offs strategically within science and technology and across science and technology and other budget categories.

In discussing the needs for a well-trained workforce, the Board points out the problem of untrained teachers, especially at the elementary level. In 1993, less than four percent of elementary mathematics and science teachers had majored in mathematics, mathematics education, science or science education. Although the high school numbers suggest improvement, almost 40 percent of math teachers and almost 30 percent of science teachers at this level did not major in the subjects they are teaching. To address these and other issues, the Board endorses continuation of system-wide revitalization efforts. This approach currently makes up a large part of NSF's efforts in K-12 education. The Board also argues that the new funding constraints should require agencies to take into account the impacts on human resource development of their funding decisions. The Board also promotes the use of networking and information technologies, libraries, museums, community colleges, and S&T centers "to increase public understanding of science and technology and to assist the workforce in adopting new skills."

Another major challenge of the new environment is to make the integration of research and education at the nation's colleges and universities "a national objective." Criticized by some in Congress, notably Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), for creating an S&T system that often separates the two, the Board points out that many institutions of higher education "make research experience a regular part of the undergraduate education in science." However, the Board admits that all is not perfect and that greater efforts are needed to "promote public awareness of model higher education institutions and programs that have demonstrated leadership in strengthening the synergy between research and education."

### Increased Public Understanding Important

Finally, convincing the public to maintain support for the S&T enterprise, particularly public funding of it, remains a challenge. Although 70 percent of Americans believe the benefits of scientific research outweigh any present or potential drawbacks, and science is generally regarded in higher esteem than other institutions of American life, there are potential problems. A study, conducted by Jon Miller and Linda Pifer of the Chicago Academy of Sciences and presented in the report, indicates that only about one-quarter of U.S. adults understand the nature of

scientific inquiry well enough to make informed judgments about results reported in the media. Miller and Pifer found that this holds true for understanding basic economic concepts as well. Although more years of formal schooling correlated with better understanding of scientific concepts, it does not hold for economic concepts. They also found that only one in ten Americans pays attention to science and technology policy issues, but 40 percent "expressed a high level of interest in science discoveries and the use of new technologies." One finding, that 44 percent of the sample understands that "humans developed from earlier species of animals," has come under attack by some religious fundamentalists for suggesting that knowing this represents a "fact" of knowledge.

## JUSTICE RESEARCH GRANTS AVAILABLE MB

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research arm of the Department of Justice, has announced several major solicitations to carry out research and evaluations of programs authorized by the 1994 Crime Bill.

### Community Policing

NIJ will sponsor evaluations of community policing, much of which will be carried out by locally initiated partnerships between researchers and police departments. Proposals are sought in the following areas:

- Evaluations of strategies for moving police departments further toward community policing and of police problem-solving strategies and tactics.
- Research in the changing roles of the police profession and organization as departments continue to move toward a community oriented policing philosophy.
- Research in the relationship of the police to the community as co-producer of safety and public order.
- Locally initiated research partnerships.
- Reconceptualizing measures of police performance.
- Examination of police integrity.
- Research regarding law enforcement family support.

### Sentencing and Corrections

NIJ will assess the effect on public safety and other effects on the expansion of correctional capacity and sentencing reforms. The research and evaluation strategy includes:

- A national evaluation of the sentencing initiatives of the 1994 law.
- Topical research and evaluation on questions such as the cost and public safety impacts of changes in sentencing in policy; the differential impacts of sanctions of recidivism; and unintended consequences of policy changes.
- Evaluation partnerships of state and local correctional agencies with research institutions.

### Violence Against Women

NIJ is requesting new research and evaluation related to the 1994 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA.) Proposals are requested in two areas:

- Evaluations of the purposes of STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecution) Grants. This will encompass law enforcement and prosecution training programs, victim services, data collection, and programs among Indian tribes.
- Research and evaluation on a broad range of programs, policies, and practices related to violence against women, including spousal violence and assault.

For more information on these programs, contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at (800) 851-3420 or e-mail: askncjrs@ncjrs.org

## MARRETT FAREWELL RECEPTION HELD KS

Cora Marrett has served as the first Assistant Director for the Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Sciences Directorate at the National Science Foundation for almost four years. At the end of July she will leave NSF and return to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. On June 6, the SBE community in Washington celebrated Marrett's tenure at a farewell reception held at the Helen Dwight Reid Foundation ballroom.

COSSA, the American Psychological Association, the American Sociological Association, and the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences co-sponsored the reception attended by over 75 people. Brief remarks lauding Marrett's leadership were delivered by COSSA Executive Director Howard Silver, APA Executive Vice President Ray Fowler, ASA Executive Officer Felice Levine, and Federation Executive Director David Johnson. All acknowledged Marrett's success

in making SBE an integral part of NSF, particularly in the face of initial skepticism about the new Directorate and the recent hostility from the House Science Committee. Marrett responded by thanking both her colleagues inside NSF and those in the external community for their support in helping to build the directorate.

NSF continues its search for Marrett's replacement. A successor is expected to be named in the near future.

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### **SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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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.

#### **Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation research**

The Research and Demonstration Projects (R&D) Program supports discrete research, demonstration, training, and related projects to develop methods, procedures and technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, independent living, employment, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially those with the most severe disabilities.

**Research Priorities:** The NIDRR does not currently support a focused research effort to address critical issues unique to women with disabilities. The Secretary invites applications to undertake research projects that address these topics, including the identification of intervention strategies that can be addressed through research. Research projects might propose to address one or more of the following research needs: analysis of the income status of disabled women; documentation of employment status and identification of employment barriers; design and testing of leadership development models; and an analysis of the existing data about violence and abuse toward women disabilities.

The Secretary is also interested in supporting projects that study the need for and feasibility of a comprehensive research effort on the unique problems of women with disabilities, and develop an agenda for future research.

**Deadline:** The deadline for transmittal of applications is July 15, 1996.

**Funding:** There is \$250,000 available to fund one award for a project period of 36 months.

**Contact:** For additional information please contact: William H. Whalen, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Switzer Building, Room 3424, Washington, DC 20202, (202) 205-8801.

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Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality  
Sociologists for Women in Society  
Southern Sociological Society  
Southwestern Social Science Association  
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