
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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LETTERS SUCCEED IN RESTORING SOCIAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINES TO OCCUPATIONAL HANDBOOK

The swift and strong response of the social and behavioral science community to COSSA's appeal for letters opposing the proposed elimination of several social science disciplines from the Occupational Outlook Handbook (see COSSA Washington Update, January 28, 1983) has had an effect. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) announced that it has changed its plans for deleting five social science occupations from the 1985 edition of the Handbook.

In responding to a letter sent her from COSSA, BLS Commissioner Janet Norwood wrote:

"We have recently reconsidered our plans for the coverage of the social science occupations in the Occupational Outlook Handbook with a view to retaining as much coverage as our data sources permit for the five occupations that concern you -- geographer, political scientist, anthropologist, historian, and market analyst...[The] introduction to

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LETTERS SUCCEED IN RESTORING SOCIAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINES TO
OCCUPATIONAL HANDBOOK (cont.)

social science occupations will be expanded to include a significant amount of information about the five occupations that will no longer be presented in separate statements. We will include in this section information on the nature of the work, training requirements, earnings, and to the extent possible job outlook...for all social scientists..."

Because the Occupational Employment Statistics Survey does not provide sufficient statistical information on the five social science occupations in question, it will not be possible for the Handbook to list them separately. However, agency officials have assured COSSA that the expansion of the introduction will include information about these occupations that would otherwise have been unavailable.

The large volume of letters received by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics and the Secretary of Labor from social and behavioral scientists and from Congress is reported to have resulted in a heightened appreciation within BLS of the importance of maintaining occupational information on the social and behavioral sciences. Agency staff plan to consult with representatives of the affected disciplines in compiling the expanded introduction to social science occupations in the next volume of the Occupational Outlook Handbook.

HOUSE MARK-UP FOR NSF POSTPONED

The House authorization mark-up of the FY 1984 budget of the National Science Foundation (NSF), originally scheduled for March 10, was canceled until after the Easter recess. Chairman Doug Walgren (D-PA) and members of the Subcommittee have been very supportive of the social and behavioral science research budgets in the past, but there are many new members on the Subcommittee who are unfamiliar with the recent history of NSF budget cuts. The delay in the mark-up provides social and behavioral scientists with one more opportunity to contact members of the House Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Technology. A list of members of the Subcommittee was printed in the COSSA Washington Update of March 11, 1983.

The House Budget Committee's recommendation for FY 1984, passed by the full House of Representatives on March 23, provides for additional research and development funds above the amount requested by the administration, and it is likely that the post-recess authorization for NSF will reflect the newly increased budget figures.

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NIH REAUTHORIZATION TO REQUIRE SOCIAL SCIENTISTS ON ADVISORY
BOARDS

On March 23, the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment completed work on a bill to revise the authority under which the National Institutes of Health (NIH) operate (H.R. 1555). COSSA advocated that the legislation include specific provisions for social and behavioral scientists on NIH Advisory Boards. The legislation requires that not less than four of the 18 appointed members of each NIH advisory board be experts in public health or the social or behavioral sciences. The presence of social and behavioral scientists on NIH advisory boards will encourage the maintenance of viable social and behavioral science research programs in NIH.

The House bill would transfer the National Center for Health Services Research (NCHSR) and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) to NIH. It would also provide \$3 million in budget authority for the National Center for Health Care Technology (NCHCT), an agency that has been without an appropriation since 1982 when its responsibilities were taken over by NCHSR.

H.R. 1555 also provides for the creation of a new Assistant Director for Prevention who is to encourage the coordination, integration, and promotion of the disease prevention programs of NIH. One section of the bill grants new authority for extramural program support for Centers for Research and Demonstration of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and requires the NIH Director to establish 25 such centers over the next three years.

Although Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, has been a consistent supporter of biomedical research and of NIH, there has been some concern expressed over H.R. 1555 and Mr. Waxman's efforts to increase congressional control over NIH. Except for the National Cancer Institute and the National Heart, Blood, and Lung Institute, NIH has been functioning under an open-ended budget authority. This means that the the Congress has limited oversight authority over the operations of the NIH. In contrast, Congress plays a larger role in the National Science Foundation because that agency has an annual authorization. Those who support the continuation of open-ended authorization for NIH argue that increased congressional involvement will foster instability by allowing special interest groups to exert their influence during congressional deliberations and will impede the ability of NIH administrators to move quickly to take advantage of new opportunities in biomedical research.

The bill will be acted upon by the full Energy and Commerce Committee in the next few weeks. Because a comparable bill is not expected to be introduced in the Senate, it is unlikely that the Waxman bill will emerge from the legislative process intact.

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NEW DIRECTOR FOR NCHSR

John E. Marshall, an experimental psychologist who has spent over 10 years in management positions in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), assumed the post of Director of the National Center for Health Services Research (NCHSR) on February 1. NCHSR is located in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) and conducts and supports research on the organization, delivery and financing of health care services. In addition, since the National Center for Health Care Technology (NCHCT) lost its appropriation in 1982, NCHSR has been charged with the added responsibility of assessing the effects of new health care technologies.

In a meeting with COSSA staff, Dr. Marshall emphasized his commitment to supporting social and behavioral science research. He added that he is forced by budget cutbacks and his own priorities to require that researchers supported by NCHSR adhere to the budgets and research schedules they originally proposed. To implement this policy, NCHSR will begin reviewing all grants, including those with multi-year commitments, on an annual basis. Although renewal grants will not be re-evaluated in terms of agency priorities, they will be assessed to determine whether projects are proceeding on schedule and will be subject to cancellation if they are not. Dr. Marshall noted that while he is a scientist, he is also a manager and emphasized that he is committed to seeing that NCHSR-supported research supplies the community of health care providers and administrators with the information they need.

Dr. Marshall expressed an interest in increasing the diversity of social and behavioral scientists on the NCHSR staff. At present, he said, the staff is dominated by economists. It is not clear, however, how far he will allow the agency to go in assessing other than economic and efficacy considerations in health services research and health care technology assessment. For example, he was asked whether NCHSR would support research that assessed the psychological and social effects of heart bypass surgery, a relatively new technology that, although it has not been adequately investigated, appears to have negative effects on patients' marriages, families and work. Dr. Marshall said he had little interest in research that would not directly influence whether surgery would be performed.

NCHSR has acquired in Dr. Marshall a competent and enthusiastic new director. The health services research community is now awaiting the results of his administration's new policies.

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CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

A number of congressional committees heard testimony on social and behavioral science research in recent weeks. The Senate Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space, under its Chairman, Senator Slade Gorton (R-WA), held hearings on the National Science Foundation (NSF) authorization for FY 1984. Among those testifying was Dean William C. Richardson of the University of Washington, who spoke of how the deep cuts in the social and behavioral science programs of the Foundation and the resulting instability in funding affect ongoing research activity in the university. Dean Richardson also emphasized that the instrumentation needs of the social sciences should not be ignored in the effort to respond to the instrumentation needs in other scientific disciplines. The full Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, which is contending with the Committee on Labor and Human Resources for Senate responsibility for the NSF authorization, marked up the FY 1984 authorization for NSF on March 22 at the levels requested by the administration.

The Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee (Chairman, Orrin Hatch, R-UT) held hearings on NSF on March 18. There were two witnesses who testified before the Committee on behalf of research. Dr. Elinor Ostrom, Chairman of the Department of Political Science at Indiana University, testified on behalf of research in the social and behavioral sciences, and Dr. Lattie Coor, President of the University of Vermont, testified on behalf of research in the physical sciences. Dr. Ostrom spoke of the detrimental effects of several years of low funding levels on the social and behavioral sciences and described scientific opportunities in these disciplines that will not be explored without an increase in research budgets.

In the House of Representatives, the Subcommittee on Energy Development and Applications of the Committee on Science and Technology heard testimony from Dr. Thomas J. Wilbanks of Oak Ridge National Laboratory on energy conservation research. Dr. Wilbanks told the Subcommittee that:

"We have an R&D support structure that prepares us to answer questions about machines, not people, even though it is pretty widely agreed that our most fundamental energy problems are not technological. More than four years ago, I pointed out that the social sciences are the only major category of the sciences in which DOE funds applied work but not fundamental research. This is still true, and our understanding of energy use in the United States is one of the victims of this oversight."

Copies of the testimonies mentioned above are available from the COSSA office (202/234-5703).

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FY 1984 WILL BRING POSTAGE INCREASE FOR COSSA ORGANIZATIONS

Under the administration's budget for FY 1984, postal rates for nonprofit groups would increase by 32% for second class publications and up to 77% for third class mail. This will place a heavy burden on the postage budgets of nonprofit organizations that use the mails for scholarly journals, newsletters, and membership materials. Under the Democratic alternative budget, passed in the House of Representatives on March 23, the increase in postal rates would be considerably less -- around 18% for second class publications and from 12% to 14% for third class mail -- but it would not disappear.

Postal rates for nonprofit groups were set by the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. Under provisions of the act, "preferred" mailers such as charities (an Internal Revenue Service category that includes most scholarly associations), schools, libraries, and classroom book publishers would pay a subsidized postage rate scheduled to increase each year until 1987 when they would be paying the full postage on second and third class mail. According to the legislation, these "preferred" mailers should now be at Step 11 of the 16-year phase out. Budget cuts over the past several years have instead placed them at Step 14. The administration's FY 1984 budget proposals for the "revenue forgone" under the subsidy would take the preferred mailers beyond Step 16 at the beginning of the next fiscal year (October 1, 1983).

Shown below are current postal rates and FY 1984 postal rates under different appropriations for "revenue forgone." Column No. 4 shows postage rates under a revenue forgone appropriation of \$760 million (this is close to the level of the House Democratic budget of \$789 million). Column No. 6 shows postage rates under the administration's budget proposal, and Column No. 8 shows unsubsidized postage rates. These figures were provided by the U.S. Postmaster General.

	Current Price Effective January 9, 1983 (1)	Price at Total Revenue Forgone Appropriation of \$802 Million 1/ Effective Increase 10/1/83 Over (1) (2) (3)		Price at Total Revenue Forgone Appropriation of \$760 Million 2/ Effective Increase 10/1/83 Over (1) (4) (5)		Price at Total Revenue Forgone Appropriation of \$400 Million Effective Increase 10/1/83 Over (1) (6) (7)		Regular (Unsubsidized) Rate Level Effective Increase 10/1/83 Over (1) (8) (9)	
		<u>Second Class Publications</u>							
in county	3.6¢	3.9¢	8%	4.1¢	14%	7.1¢	97%	9.1¢	153%
nonprofit	6.6¢	7.3¢	11%	7.8¢	18%	8.7¢	32%	9.2¢	39%
<u>Third Class nonprofit</u>									
Presorted to 5 digits	4.3¢	4.7¢	9%	4.9¢	14%	7.6¢	77%	9.3¢	116%
Required Presort	5.2¢	5.6¢	8%	5.8¢	12%	8.9¢	71%	10.9¢	110%

These prices are appropriate only if prices are implemented on October 1, 1983. If the price implementation date is delayed, higher prices will be required to compensate for the period that lower prices were in effect.

1/ Phasing Step 15.

2/ Between Phasing Step 15 and Step 16.

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SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (NIE)

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

Teaching and Learning Program (T&L)

FY 1983 Budget: It is anticipated that approximately \$1.6 million will be available for awards in FY 1983. It is estimated that 30 to 45 grants will be awarded ranging, from small grants of \$25,000 or less to larger grants with budgets averaging \$50,000.

Program Areas: Research supported by T&L fall under four broad questions: "(1) What basic processes are involved in the acquisition of knowledge and development of intellectual skills? (2) How do different instructional methods and learning environments affect the acquisition and use of intellectual skills? (3) How do linguistic differences and differences in experience affect the way in which knowledge and intellectual skills are acquired and used? and (4) What methods best can be used to determine what has been learned and to assess the outcome of educational practices?" The current grant competition emphasizes the areas of mathematics learning, basic cognitive skills in reading and writing, literacy in a second language, rewards and incentives for teachers, local management of schools and policy implementation.

Disciplines Supported: Psychology, Educational Psychology, Sociology.

Funding Mechanisms: Grants. Deadline for current grant competition is April 22, 1983, for September 1983 awards.

Restrictions on Awards: Proposals for projects of up to three years duration will be accepted, however, initial awards are ordinarily made for one year. Further support is contingent on availability of funds and satisfactory progress.

Review Processes Employed: Peer review.

Contact Persons:

Mathematics Learning	Gloria Gilmer	202/254-5706
Basic Cognitive Skills	Judith Segal	202/254-5706
Second Language Literacy	Blanca Rosa Rodriguez	202/254-5766
Reading Comprehension	Monte Penney	202/254-5766
Writing	Stephen Cahir	202/254-5766

