

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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BBS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS FOR LAST TIME *HS*

The Advisory Committee to the Biological, Behavioral and Social Sciences (BBS) directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF) met for the last time on October 31 and November 1. With the announcement of the split of BBS into a Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) directorate and a Biological Sciences (BIO) directorate, the committee no longer will exist.

The advisory committee of seven biologists, one psychologist and one sociologist heard NSF Director Walter Massey describe his reasons for dividing the directorate. Massey said that the arguments he heard from the social, behavioral and economic science community about the need for an intellectual home and a visible spokesperson for these sciences in the federal government convinced him that creating the SBE directorate was "worth the opportunity" and "the right thing to do." He noted that in addition to the SBE community, he discussed this issue with members of Congress and officials at the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Although some concern was raised about the cost of a separate directorate, there was minimal opposition to the move, according to Massey. He also suggested that he was "very pleased" with the reaction to his decision so far and that he looked forward to working with the new Assistant Director (AD) for SBE.

Frank Harris, Acting Assistant Director for SBE, outlined for the advisory committee the process for selecting the new AD. Letters have been sent to leaders in the SBE community requesting that nominations be forwarded to Director Massey by December 2. NSF is planning both internal and external reviews of the potential candidates. Harris noted that Massey has worked quickly in selecting new ADs for other directorates at NSF, and the hope is that the process could be completed within three months. Earlier, NSF officials had expressed the desire that the new SBE Assistant Director could be on board by March 1 1992. (in time for the beginning of the congressional

appropriations process on NSF's FY 1993 budget request.)

Harris also noted that present plans are to include the new SBE in the FY 1992 operating plan, which will be sent to the Congress by the end of November. For the purposes of the plan, the divisional structure would involve a transfer of the current Social and Economic Science Division and the behavioral part of the Behavioral and Neural Science (BNS) Division to SBE, along with the International Programs and the Science, Resource Studies program from the old Scientific, Technological and International Affairs directorate (STIA).

During a discussion of the FY 1992 budget situation, current BBS Assistant Director Mary Clutter suggested that the increases for BBS programs would be around 8 percent, though not necessarily across-the-board.

Despite assurances that the long-term structure of the SBE directorate would be left to the new Assistant Director, the advisory committee was asked to comment on reports from four working groups of current NSF program directors, representing possible divisional configurations. Paul Chapin, current program officer for Linguistics,

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delivered the report of the working group on Cognitive and Psychological Sciences. Chapin suggested that three programs (social psychology, language sciences, and human cognition and perception) currently in BNS would make excellent programs within a cognitive and psychological sciences division.

The advisory committee strongly endorsed a Cognitive and Psychological Sciences division in SBE that would relate closely to a proposed Neuroscience division in BIO. Linda Smith, a psychologist from Indiana University, argued for the establishment of a formal mechanism to facilitate this relationship. A number of members of the advisory committee remained concerned about the placement of psychological and cognitive science and neuroscience into two separate directorates.

Michael Musheno, current program officer for the Law and Social Science program, spoke for the Social and Organizational Sciences working group. Included in this possible division are the current programs in political science, sociology, law and social science, and measurement methods and statistics in the social sciences. Musheno reported that the working group wanted the potential division to be called Social Sciences. He also noted that this division would fund the increasing amount of transnational and international research. The working group also discussed possible programs in demography and criminology, concluded Musheno.

Bob Bordley, current program officer for the Decision, Risk and Management Science (DRMS) program, reported on the working group for Economics and Management Sciences. Bordley

noted that economics is the science of choice in a market context, while DRMS is the science of decision-making in a managerial context. Both of these fields are interested in emphasizing rational choice so a division combining these two programs was a natural, he said. The working group decided that the new division should have three programs -- economics, DRMS, and the economics of global change.

Finally, John Yellen, current program officer for the Anthropology program, summarized the report of the working group on Anthropology and Geography. Yellen said that both these "old established disciplines" seek to understand human behavior in an environmental context, and share attention to the temporal dimension. He also noted that NSF is the key source of funds for basic research in these two disciplines. The working group advocated four programs: physical anthropology, cultural anthropology, geography and regional science, and archaeology.

After hearing from the working groups, the advisory committee was not convinced that their divisions represent the best way to set up SBE. Barbara Heyns, a sociologist from NYU, argued that reliance on a disciplinary-based divisional structure could preclude the vast amount of interdisciplinary work in the social sciences from finding a home within NSF. She advocated a "problem-area" focus. Dick Louttit, current division director of BNS, supported Heyns, noting that the "standard disciplines are not where the science is happening." John Hildebrand, a neuroscientist from the University of Arizona, and chair of the advisory committee, suggested the strong need for more "market research" to generate informed input from the SBE community on this issue.

Along with a new Assistant Director, the SBE directorate will have to establish its own advisory committee. With last week's meeting, the BBS Advisory Committee is now part of NSF history.

APPROPRIATIONS NEWS: NSF BILL SIGNED, LABOR/HHS/EDUCATION CONFERENCE COMPLETED *HS*

President Bush signed the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations bill on October 30. In signing the bill, the President noted that the National Science Foundation had not received from the Congress all the funding for

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The Consortium of Social Science Associations represents more than 185,000 American scientists across the full range of the social and behavioral sciences, functioning as a bridge between the research world and the Washington community. Update is published fortnightly. Individual subscriptions are available from COSSA for \$50; institutional subscriptions, \$100, overseas mail, \$100. 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

research he requested in his budget submission in February. Congress reduced the requested increase from 16 to 11 percent. The NSF still awaits the passage of the Defense Department appropriations bill to provide it with the balance of the funding for its Antarctic research program assumed in the VA-HUD bill (see UPDATE October 7, 1991).

The conference committee on the **Labor, HHS, Education appropriations** bill completed its work on October 30. While the specifics of this massive bill are unavailable at press time and will appear in the next issue of UPDATE, it appears that the reduction to the funding of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) threatened by the passage of the Helms amendment that eliminated funding for two surveys (see UPDATE September 23, 1991) has not occurred. It appears that most of the reduction taken by the Senate for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, including most of the new funds for the Boskin initiative to improve economic statistics, was restored by the conference committee. The Labor bill still faces a threatened presidential veto over a provision that would overturn the Executive Order preventing doctors from providing advice to pregnant women about all medical options available, including abortion

A second continuing resolution was passed by Congress and signed by the President to keep the government operating until November 14. At this moment, nine of the thirteen appropriations bills have become law. The Interior and Related Agencies appropriations bill, which includes \$175.6 million for the **National Endowment for the Humanities**, awaits the President's signature. The Defense Department appropriations bill is in conference, and while the Foreign Operations appropriation has passed the House, it has yet to pass the Senate.

NIH INTRODUCES WOMEN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE STUDY DESIGN JA

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently introduced a preliminary design for its large-scale Women's Health Initiative (WHI), a chief priority of the new NIH Director, Bernadine Healy. A prospectus of the study design was made available to groups interested in presenting comments at a public meeting held on October 28-29.

As described in the prospectus, the Women's Health Initiative will focus on prevention and

treatment of the three leading causes of mortality and morbidity among women-- cardiovascular disease, cancer, and osteoporosis--with two goals in sight. The first is to "evaluate the effectiveness of specific untested preventive approaches" to the diseases, including hormone replacement therapy, low-fat dietary pattern, and calcium and Vitamin D supplementation. This will occur in a large clinical trial of 65,000 to 75,000 women ages 50 to 69 years.

The second goal of the WHI is to "evaluate strategies to achieve healthful behaviors that have established value, including smoking prevention and cessation, improved dietary pattern, achievement and maintenance of optimal weight, increased physical activity, and early cancer detection." This goal will be addressed in a community trial which will involve organizing a range of community resources to engage in counseling, education, and peer support to encourage healthy behaviors among women. The community trial will consist of 20 randomized, matched pairs of communities (one in each pair will receive the interventions, the other will not). Study participants will be women ages 45 through 75 residing in communities with populations of 30,000 or more.

The prospectus underscores that efforts will be made in both components of the study to ensure participation among women from economic classes, geographic regions, and ethnic and racial groups that usually are underrepresented in major health trials, and to design interventions that are socially and culturally sensitive.

COSSA Comments on Plan

In testimony prepared for the public meeting, Judy Auerbach, COSSA Government Liaison, presented COSSA's evaluation of the WHI study design, focusing on the role of social and behavioral science within it. She noted that consideration of social and behavioral factors was evident in the community trial component of the study, but virtually absent in the clinical trial component.

Auerbach applauded the community trial's recognition of "cognition, attitude, intention, and behavior" as essential elements in both the development and the prevention of cardiovascular disease, cancer, and osteoporosis among women. Furthermore, she underscored the value in using families, peer groups, religious institutions and community organizations to develop socially and culturally-appropriate intervention strategies, since these identify women as "whole, social human

beings--not merely individual organisms with specific disorders."

Auerbach was critical that this same attention to social and behavioral factors in women's health was not evident in the clinical trial component of the WHI. She noted that, according to the prospectus, the focus of the clinical trial will be on the risk-benefit ratio of hormone replacement therapy, low-fat diet, and calcium and Vitamin D supplements on cancer, cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis; and the primary goal of the trial will be to measure the clinical outcomes of these interventions. Auerbach mentioned the prospectus' claim that each treatment intervention will be assessed for its effect on quality of life and that the relationship of compliance to clinical outcomes will be examined, but she noted that "neither quality of life nor compliance measures are defined."

Auerbach underscored the importance of developing and employing valid and reliable measures of quality of life and compliance--or adherence--behavior in order to assess their effect on treatment of diseases. "Aside from general health measures obtained by self-reports, dynamics of quality of life that should be investigated include everyday experiences such as how well study participants are sleeping and eating, and their general state of mind," she said.

Regarding compliance behavior, Auerbach reported, "we know from behavioral research that people are less inclined to self-administer prescribed doses and treatments when they experience discomforting side effects." She noted that this has been documented in the case of hormone replacement therapy--one of the WHI clinical trial's chief intervention strategies. Auerbach also mentioned the difficulty in monitoring adherence to drug and diet regimens accurately, when "patients are untruthful about their behavior in order to avoid being reprimanded by their health care provider." She suggested that this latter behavior might be an outcome of a gender dynamic between doctors (who are mostly male) and female patients, which is an important, yet relatively unexamined factor in treatment outcomes.

Finally, Auerbach cited the lack of mental health factors in the entire WHI, and identified the importance of drawing psychiatric profiles and histories of study participants and assessing mood and hostility and the use of medications for their potential effects on clinical outcomes.

COSSA's comments, and those of other organizations, will be considered in the development of the final WHI protocol and will be available to the NIH staff preparing the request for proposals and contracts.

For a copy of the WHI prospectus or Auerbach's testimony, please contact COSSA.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PANEL NAMED; SOCIAL SCIENCE UNDER-REPRESENTED *MB*

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) recently appointed the members of the Committee on Environmental Research, a panel created by 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, to be chaired by physicist Dale Corson, Emeritus President of Cornell University, will be a proposal to establish a 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.

Anthropologists, sociologists, and geographers long have been in the forefront of support for strengthening environmental research and training, and some in these disciplines have been active in the movement to create an NIE structure. However, members of these communities are nowhere to be found on the NAS panel, which draws its members almost exclusively from the natural and physical sciences, except for one economist.

In announcing the panel members, the Academy stated that "federally supported environmental research in the U.S. has focused primarily on human health and welfare..." This view is not shared by many in the social and behavioral sciences who believe that the Environmental Protection Agency gives short shrift to the human aspects of environmental issues. Support for this research has been voiced by prominent members of the science community. In a 1990 White House conference on global change, D. Allan Bromley, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology Policy, stated, "the behavior of human beings, economically and

politically, will be a major determinant of future changes in the environment." The House Science Subcommittee chaired by Rep. Rick Boucher (D-VA) recently held two days of hearings on the government's global change policies, using the occasion to note the need for more focus on social science research in this area. The National Science Foundation has supported research on the human dimensions and economics of global environmental change. Given this, the composition of the panel is particularly disappointing to many in the social and behavioral sciences and can only diminish hopes that this study would adequately address the full range of environmental research issues.

To obtain a complete listing of panel members, please contact COSSA.

NEW LAW HELPS HISTORIANS GAIN ACCESS TO STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS *MB*

Historians are praising a law, signed last week by President Bush, which will both declassify most State Department documents over 30 years old, and improve the accuracy of the State Department's official history of U.S. foreign policy.

These provisions, which were included in the State Department Authorization Act of 1992 and 1993, long have been advocated by history organizations, led by the American Historical Association (AHA). Page Putnam Miller, Executive Director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, said historians were "extremely pleased" with the results of their efforts to obtain increased access to State Department records.

The act marks the first time Congress has legislated on the issue of declassification, a policy previously governed by executive orders from the President. Controversy has arisen over the increasing number of documents the State Department has released in incomplete form and over charges that the State Department's "Foreign Relations of the United States" (FRUS) series is historically inaccurate.

For example, a recent volume of FRUS that discussed the 1953 coup that reinstated the Shah of Iran failed to mention the prominent role of the CIA in this event, despite the fact that former

AAAS ANNOUNCES FELLOWSHIPS *MB*

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is now accepting applications for its Science and Engineering Fellowships program.

AAAS offers fellowships in four programs: Congressional, Diplomacy, Executive Branch, and Environmental. The application deadline is January 15 for all programs, except Environmental which has a deadline of February 15.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting: Fellowships Office, American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1333 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, Phone: (202) 326-6600.

intelligence officials have written about their involvement in the coup. Last year, historians on a State Department advisory group resigned in protest of the department's policies on declassification and FRUS.

In signing the multi-faceted State Department legislation, President Bush expressed concern that the declassification provisions encroached on his executive privilege regarding state secrets.

The bill also included language ending Cold War-era restrictions on critics of the United States from entering the country or travelling abroad. These were part of a "Free Trade in Ideas" proposal pushed by many groups, including COSSA, for several years.

NUTRITION MONITORING RESEARCH PLAN ANNOUNCED *MB*

As part of its implementation of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990, the Department of Agriculture has released its ten-year research plan. The Act, which became law late last year, was authored by Rep. George Brown (D-CA), who now chairs the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

The act requires the creation of a 10-year comprehensive plan for nutrition monitoring and

related research as part of the National Nutrition Monitoring System (NNMS). NNMS measures food and nutrient consumption, knowledge, attitudes, and behavior assessments, nutrition and related health measurements, food composition and nutrient data bases, and food supply determinations. NNMS data are used in public policy formulation -- identifying groups and geographic areas at risk, evaluating the quality of U.S. food supply, measuring progress toward achieving the objectives of federal programs such as Healthy People 2000 -- and also are used in scientific research, such as examining the relationship between knowledge, attitudes and health behavior, food composition analysis, and economic and health research.

There are three major objectives of the act: to develop 1) continuous and coordinated data collection, 2) improved comparability and quality of data, and 3) a broadened nutrition monitoring research base.

For a complete listing of the proposed research plan, contact Ms. Alanna Moshfegh, Human Nutrition Information Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 6505 Belcrest Road, Room 366, Hyattsville, MD 20782. Phone: (301) 436-8457.

HUMPHREY ARMS CONTROL FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE *MS*

The United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency recently announced it will conduct a competition in 1992 for one-year Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowships in support of unclassified doctoral dissertation research in arms control and disarmament. Law candidates for the Juris Doctor or any higher degree also are eligible if they are writing a substantial paper in fulfillment of degree requirements.

The fellowship stipends for the Ph.D. candidates will be \$5,000 plus applicable tuition and fees up to a maximum of \$3,460. Stipends and tuition for law candidates will be prorated according to the credits given for the research paper. Fellows must be citizens or nationals of the United States and degree candidates at a U.S. university.

The application deadline for the awards is March 15, 1992. Awards will be for the twelve month period beginning in September, 1992 or January, 1993. For more information, please write: Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, Operations Analysis, U.S. Arms Control and

SOCIO-ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION JOINS CONSORTIUM

COSSA is pleased to announce that the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics has joined the Consortium as an Affiliate member. We look forward to working with the organization in the years ahead.

Disarmament Agency, Washington, D.C. 20541.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FELLOWSHIP AVAILABLE *MS*

The Pew Faculty Fellowship, established to enhance the study of international affairs through incorporating the case method of instruction into teaching, announces that applications are available for its 1992-1993 fellowships.

Twenty-four fellowships will be awarded to full-time faculty at accredited institutions of higher learning who teach international affairs courses in areas of government, political science, economics, and history. The fellowship is a year-long program that provides faculty from leading colleges and universities with instruction in the case method of teaching.

Each Pew Faculty Fellow receives tuition, travel, and expenses to participate in an intensive two-week summer institute on case teaching, writing, and course design at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and in two follow-up workshops. Fellows also receive a stipend of \$9,000 to adapt or develop, and teach within the next academic year, an international affairs course that incorporates the case method.

To request application forms and further information, contact: John Boehrer, Director, The Pew Faculty Fellowships in International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, 79 John F. Kennedy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, / (617) 495-8295. Application deadline is January 31, 1992.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE *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.

**Reduction of Cancer Risk Behaviors in
High-Risk Youth**

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) invites applications for studies to develop, evaluate, and disseminate effective cancer risk reduction methods and materials, and prevention intervention strategies for populations of high-risk youth, i.e., children or youth aged 10 to 18 years who are living in families or households with incomes below the poverty level.

Application Procedure: A grant application kit (form PHS 398, rev. 10/88) and instructions, may be obtained from the Office of Grant Inquiries, Division of Research Grants, Westwood Building, Room 449, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892, telephone (301) 496-7441.

Eligible Applicants: Applications may be submitted by non-profit organizations, public and private entities such as universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, units of State and local governments, and eligible agencies of the Federal Government. Applications from minority individuals and women are encouraged. Foreign organizations are eligible to apply, and domestic applications may include foreign components.

Award Requirements: Applicants for National Institutes of Health clinical research grants will be required to include minorities and women in study populations.

Funding Mechanism: The mechanisms of support for this announcement are the research project grants (R01) and the First Independent Research Support and Transition (FIRST) award (R29). Except as otherwise stated in this program announcement, awards will be administered under the PHS grants policy as stated in the PHS Grants Policy Statement.

Review Process: Applications will be assigned on the basis of established Public Health Service referral guidelines. Applications will be reviewed for scientific and technical merit in accordance with the usual NIH peer review procedures. Following study section review, the applications will receive a second-level review by an appropriate national advisory council.

Deadlines: Application receipt dates are as follows: February 1, 1992, June 1, 1992 and October 1, 1992.

Contact: For additional information contact, Dr. Michael Anderson, Ph.D., M.P.H., National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, Executive Plaza North, Room 218, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892-4200, telephone (301) 496-8577.

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Law and Society Association

Midwest Sociological Society
National Council on Family Relations
National Council for the Social Studies
North American Regional Science Council
North Central Sociological Association
Operations Research Society of America
Population Association of America
Rural Sociology Society
Social Science History Association

Society for Research on Adolescence
Society for Research in Child Development
Society for the Advancement of
Socio-Economics
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Society for the Scientific Study of Sex
Southern Sociological Society
Southwestern Social Science Association
Speech Communication Association
The Institute for Management Sciences

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