

**HOUSE AND SENATE PASS
NSF APPROPRIATION** *HS*

The House (July 16) and the Senate (July 22) approved their versions of the FY 1998 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies appropriations bill. In doing so, they provided the National Science Foundation with its recommended funding for the next fiscal year, which begins October 1. Along with providing funding, both House and Senate injected their own priorities regarding the Foundation's activities into the bills.

The House provided \$3.487 billion, a 6.6 percent increase over FY 1997 funding. For Research and Related Activities, \$2.538 billion was allocated. The Education and Human Resources directorate received \$632.7 million, a \$14 million increase over last year. The R&RA number was slightly less than what emerged from the appropriations committee because of a reduction of \$174,000 that was taken on the House floor. The reduction came on an amendment offered by Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA) intended to "send NSF a message."

House Unhappy with Political Science Grant

The message was that NSF should not fund projects that cause consternation for Members of Congress. Professors L. Sandy Maisel of Colby College and Walter Stone of the University of Colorado applied for and received a grant from NSF's political science program to conduct the "Candidate Emergence Study." They were interested in why certain people decide not to run for the House of Representatives. The study randomly selected 200 congressional districts in which key political leaders from both parties would be interviewed, asking them to identify people they believed had the potential to become congressional candidates. In a second round of interviewing, these "potentials" would be asked why they have chosen not to seek office. The study follows a long line of research on candidate

(continued on page four)

**APPROPRIATIONS BILLS
MOVE FORWARD** *HS*

While the Clinton administration and Congress continue to discuss the final details of a multi-year agreement to balance the budget and reduce taxes, the Fiscal Year 1998 appropriations process has begun to accelerate.

Both the House and Senate are hoping to pass as many of the 13 spending bills as possible before the month-long recess begins on August 1. As of July 24, three bills -- Agriculture, Military Construction and VA, HUD, Independent Agencies -- have already passed both the House and Senate. Two others have passed the House -- Interior and Transportation. The Senate has passed five others -- Energy and Water, Defense, Foreign Operations, Legislative Branch, and Treasury/ Postal Service. All the others have emerged from the full House or Senate Appropriations Committees, with the exception of the bill that addresses the District of Columbia.

Unlike in the previous Congress, Appropriations Committee chairmen Rep. Robert Livingston (R-LA) and Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK) have succeeded in keeping most of the veto-inducing legislative riders off the bills. In addition, the appropriators have found that they have been able to be quite generous to many of the agencies and programs within their jurisdictions, since overall discretionary spending has increased somewhat for FY 1998 under the budget agreement. Many of the agencies that fund social and behavioral science research have, so far, fared well. *(see chart on page three)*

INSIDE UPDATE...

- Appropriators Block Census Funds
- More Appropriations News
- NSF Bill Approved by Senate Panel
- Education Secretary, NSF Director Face House Science Committee
- Senate NIH Hearing Looks at Coordination

APPROPRIATORS BLOCK CENSUS FUNDING *MB*

In the latest chapter in the saga of the proposed use of modern statistical techniques in the 2000 Census, the House Appropriations Committee has barred the Census Bureau from spending FY 1998 funds on the testing of statistical sampling of non-respondents.

The House allocated \$381 million for the decennial Census, but is allowing the Bureau to spend only \$100 million, and none of it on sampling. The remaining \$281 million is fenced off, pending further legislative guidance from Congress on how to conduct the Census.

The Senate Appropriations Committee allocated \$354.8 million, but included legislative language preventing the Bureau from making any "irreversible" plans for using sampling to achieve population counts. This wording mirrors a compromise provision adopted by the full Senate during debate on the disaster relief bill (see *Update*, May 19).

Representative Alan Mollohan (D-WV) offered an amendment before the House Appropriations Committee to substitute the Senate language into the House bill and create an independent "Board of Observers for a Fair and Accurate Census" to

monitor the entire Census process, including the 1998 dress rehearsal. Republicans have charged that the use of statistical methods would leave the Census vulnerable to political manipulation. Mollohan's amendment was defeated, 25-33, on a party-line vote.

Clinton Veto Recommended

The issue now moves to the full House, which is expected to consider the appropriations bill in the coming weeks. Commerce Secretary William Daley wrote Congress, saying he would recommend that President Clinton veto the bill if the restrictions are not removed. He said the withholding of funds would "virtually shut down" the Census Bureau.

Congress Threatens Census with Subpoena

On a related note, the General Accounting Office, an arm of Congress, recently released a report supporting sampling to reduce cost and improve accuracy, but commenting that the Census Bureau's poor relationship with Congress is at least partially to blame for its current plight on Capitol Hill. The GAO faulted the Bureau's failure to provide "sufficiently detailed data" to Congress, and said "little margin for missteps, indecision, or miscommunication remains. Full and open disclosure is the only possible antidote to suspicions that the Bureau is failing to fully inform its legitimate stakeholders."

Rep. Dennis Hastert (R-IL), chair of the House authorizing subcommittee on Census issues, charged that, according to GAO staff, the Census Bureau provided the GAO with "partial" information, and "only on the condition that the data was not shown to Members of Congress or their staff." An angered Hastert wrote Census Bureau Director Martha Farnsworth Riche, threatening to subpoena the data should she fail to provide it to him. Several days later, the Bureau complied with the request.

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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 sciences. *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.

FISCAL YEAR 1998 APPROPRIATIONS FOR AGENCIES THAT SUPPORT SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

(all figures in millions, and accurate through July 25, 1997)

Agency	FY 1997 Funding	FY 1998 Proposed	FY 1998 House	FY 1998 Senate	FY 1998 Final
National Science Foundation					
Total	3,270.0	3,367.0	3,487.0	3,377.0	
Research and Related Activities	2,432.0	2,514.7	2,537.5	2,524.7	
Education and Human Resources	619.0	625.5	632.5	625.5	
Dept. of Health and Human Services					
Centers for Disease Control	2,302.2	2,315.8	2,388.8	2,368.1	
Agency for Health Care Policy and Research	143.5	149.0	149.0	139.6	
Asst. Sec. for Planning and Evaluation	18.5	9.0	14.0	9.5	
Nat. Inst. for Child Health and Human Development	631.6	647.3	666.7	676.9	
Nat. Inst. for Aging	484.3	497.1	509.8	520.7	
Nat. Inst. for Nursing Research	59.6	61.1	62.5	64.0	
Nat. Inst. for Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	211.3	219.3	226.2	228.6	
Nat. Inst. for Drug Abuse	490.1	521.9	525.6	531.8	
Nat. Inst. of Mental Health	700.7	728.2	744.2	753.3	
Department of Agriculture					
National Research Initiative	94.2	130.0	105.7	100.0	
Economic Research Service	53.1	54.3	71.6	51.1	
Dept. of Commerce/Census Bureau					
Periodic Censuses and Programs	210.5	523.1	550.1	520.8	
Census Salaries and Expenses	135.0	138.1	136.5	138.1	
Bureau of Economic Analysis	45.9	52.2	47.0	47.9	
Department of Education					
Education Research & Laboratories	123.6	134.5	139.5	126.1	
Education Statistics	50.0	66.3	66.3	52.0	
Assessment (incl. NAGBE)	32.6	38.4	38.4	32.6	
Javits Fellowships	5.9	0	(3.2)	(5.9)	
Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need	24.1	30.0	30.0	30.0	
International Programs	59.8	60.3	60.3	60.4	
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development					
Policy Development and Research	34.0	39.0	39.0	34.0	
Department of Justice					
National Institute of Justice	31.4	50.1	42.6	48.7	
Bureau of Justice Statistics	21.4	21.5	21.5	21.5	
Juvenile Justice	174.5	230.4	237.9	380.4	
Department of Labor					
Bureau of Labor Statistics (federal funds)	308.8	326.6	327.6	320.1	
Natl. Endowment for the Humanities	110.0	136.0	110.0	110.7	
Smithsonian Institution					
Woodrow Wilson Center	5.8	5.8	0	5.8	
U.S. Information Agency					
Educational and Cultural Exchanges	185.0	197.7	193.7	200.0	

APPROPRIATIONS WRAP-UP: ^{HS}_{MB}

- Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees provided generous increases to the **National Institute of Justice**, the research arm of the Justice Department. NIJ, currently receiving just over \$30 million in direct funding, was given \$42.6 million by the House and \$48.7 million by the Senate. The Institute also receives funding from other federal crime programs. NIJ supports considerable social science research on crime control and prevention, and earlier this COSSA Executive Committee Chair Felice J. Levine lauded NIJ research in her testimony before the House panel.
- The House agreed to the administration's proposed large increase for **Education Statistics**, after years of stagnant budgets. The Senate provided a more modest increase. **Javits Fellowships** have again been incorporated into the **Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need** program. The House provided 3.2 million for award continuations; the Senate provided \$5.9 million for new and continuing grants.
- The Senate Interior and Related Agencies funding bill provided \$5.8 million for the **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars**, an amount equal to current funding. The House had provided \$1 million to shut down the Center, saying its work was irrelevant.
- The Senate Interior bill also restored a \$422,000 increase, eliminated by the House, to fully implement the Social Science Program of the **National Park Service**. The program seeks to better understand the social and economic impacts of parks on their surrounding communities and helps the agency implement the Government Performance and Results Act through a visitor survey instrument.
- The House rejected, 328-96, an amendment by Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH) to eliminate all funding for the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. The House provided \$110.0 million, the Senate \$110.7 million.

HOUSE ATTACKS NSF POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDY ^{HS}

(continued from page one)

recruitment, but focuses on those who do not run, rather than those who do. Maisel argued that the study "could tell us a lot about how a democracy works."

When the first round of interviews began, a number of these political leaders notified their member of Congress that this study was taking place. Soon questions were being raised about the study, and Rep. William Clay (D-MO) became its chief critic and took the lead in characterizing it as one that encouraged people to run against current incumbents. NSF sent a letter from Bennett Bertenthal, Assistant Director of the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate, to every member of Congress explaining the study, noting that "the knowledge gained from this study will help illuminate the nature of political participation and contribute to a better understanding of this Nation's political processes." In addition, Maisel had obtained a letter from Rep. Martin Frost (D-TX), Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, explaining the importance of the study. This did not stop the critics.

Following the markup of the House VA, HUD, Independent Agencies appropriations subcommittee, Chairman Lewis, Ranking Member Louis Stokes (D-OH), Clay and Rep. John Peterson (R-PA) asked NSF's Inspector General to prepare a report that examined whether the "investigators are carrying out the program proposal which was approved by the peer review panel." The IG's conclusion was that the research conducted by Maisel and Stone "is fully consistent with the research that was proposed to NSF and that NSF chose to fund."

When the VA, HUD bill reached the House floor, Lewis introduced his amendment to reduce the FY 1998 appropriation for NSF Research by \$174,000, the cost of the Maisel-Stone study. Calling it a "misstep" in the application process for grants, Lewis noted that the study "had caused a great deal of consternation in districts around the Nation." Rep. George Brown (D-CA) and ranking Democrat on the House Science Committee and normally a defender of

social science research, noted that "while we support good research, including good social science research, we think there should be some good judgment displayed over there [at NSF] in setting the groundwork for such items that may turn out to be controversial with the Members of Congress."

Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), who earlier had sent a letter with Rep. David Price (D-NC) to NSF Director Neal Lane supporting the study, argued strongly against Lewis' amendment. Frank asserted that Congress should not be deciding the virtues of individual projects. "The notion that this body should set itself up as a kind of appellate research council is, I think, one of the worst I have heard in a long time . . . I do not think we make a very good set of academic censors." We should refrain from intervening in the selection of individual research projects, Frank asserted.

Stokes and Clay argued that the study could have been funded by the investigators' universities or by the two political parties, but it ought not to fall within the category of taxpayer funded research. Clay, however, continued to argue that the study would find people and "encourage" them to run for Congress against the current incumbents. Lewis' amendment passed by voice vote and the message was sent.

Senate Has Ideas of Its Own and Praises SBE

The Senate provided NSF with a FY 1998 appropriation of \$3.377 billion, a 3.3 percent increase over the previous year, and a \$10 million increase above the President's request. For Research and Related Activities, the Senate allocated \$2.525 billion, a 3.8 percent increase above last year. For Education and Human Resources, \$625.5 million was appropriated, a \$6.5 million boost from FY 1997. The major difference with the House appropriation came in the Major Research Equipment account, where the Senate provided funding for only the first phase of the new South Pole station. The House had provided the full cost of the reconstruction in its FY 1998 recommendation.

The Senate bill included language managing some of NSF's funding. The Senate directed that NSF spend \$40 million for a competitive, peer

reviewed initiative on plant genome research. Pushed by VA, HUD, Subcommittee Chairman Sen. Christopher 'Kit' Bond (R-MO), the initiative comes from recommendations by a federal government inter-agency working group that concluded this was a fruitful area for research. There are also funds for this initiative in other appropriations bills.

In addition, the Senate asked NSF for a stronger explanation of the purposes of the two major initiatives in its FY 1998 budget proposal, Knowledge and Distributed Intelligence Initiative (KDI) and the Life in Earth's Environments (LEE). Unconvinced by the discussion of these initiatives at the Subcommittee's hearing in April (see *Update*, May 5), the Senate "will not make the new funding for these two initiatives available until the agency submits appropriate milestones and guideposts, to be accomplished in fiscal year 1998, and against which the agency can be measured in determining funding for fiscal year 1999."

The Appropriations Committee's report accompanying the bill includes language that expresses its support for "NSF's directorate in the behavioral and social sciences, which has made impressive strides since its establishment." It mentioned, in particular, the Human Capital Initiative, "which guides funding priorities by tying basic research to national concerns which have behavior at their core."

The two versions of the bill will now go to a House-Senate conference committee. The major differences concern the funding for the reconstruction of the South Pole station and the Senate's insistence on spending \$40 million for Plant Genome research. The House leadership has informed the appropriators that no conference reports will be considered until the tax reduction legislation is signed by the President. While staff discussion may begin soon, the results of the conference will likely not occur until September at the earliest.

NSF AUTHORIZATION BILL EMERGES FROM LABOR COMMITTEE HS

Starting its Senate journey to passage, the NSF reauthorization bill was reported out of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. James Jeffords (R-VT), on July 23. There was little debate and the legislation was reported on a voice vote.

The bill reauthorizes NSF for two years and includes a 7.2 percent increase for FY 1998, the same as the House bill, which passed that body on April 24. Authorization bills provide guidance to appropriations committees and agencies, but do not actually provide funding levels. That is done by the appropriations bills (see earlier stories).

The Senate bill (S. 1046) authorizes \$3.506 billion for FY 1998, with \$2.563 billion for Research and Related Activities, and \$645.5 million for Education and Human Resources. Unlike the appropriations bills, the authorization includes recommended funding levels for the directorates. The bill recommends \$129.7 million for the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences directorate for FY 1998. For FY 1999, the legislation asks for \$3.636 billion for overall authorized spending, and \$2.72 billion for Research and Related Activities. Education is authorized at \$684.2 million. The individual directorates are not provided specific amounts for FY 1999.

Because of the Senate's dual committee jurisdiction, the next step for the bill is scrutiny by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation committee. It has 30 legislative days to alter or change the bill or send it to the full Senate. Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN), who chairs the Science, Technology and Space subcommittee on the Commerce committee, is also a member of the Labor committee and helped work on the version that passed that panel. All involved hope that the reauthorization can be completed before the first session of the 105th Congress adjourns.

EDUCATION SECRETARY AND NSF DIRECTOR FACE SCIENCE COMMITTEE HS

On July 23, Secretary of Education Richard Riley and National Science Foundation Director Neal Lane testified before the House Science Committee on the state of science, math, engineering, and technology education in America. Committee Chairman Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) called the hearing the "beginning of a comprehensive review of science and math education in America, from the pre-Kindergarten through post-graduate levels." The Committee intends to hold more hearings through the remainder of the 105th Congress on this subject.

Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY), called the hearing, "the most important happening on Capitol Hill today," and was particularly frustrated by the lack of mainstream press coverage of the event. However, a large number of committee members turned out and were quite interested in eliciting the views of Riley and Lane on a variety of subjects. Both assured the committee that their respective agencies were supporting a large number of programs focusing on improving the state of education in these subjects. They also noted that both agencies were cooperating in a number of areas. Riley constantly came back to the need for national standards and strongly supported President Clinton's call for national voluntary testing. Lane stressed NSF's systemic initiative reform programs at the State, Urban and Rural levels as the way the Foundation serves as a catalyst for education reform.

The members of the committee constantly reminded both witnesses that elementary and secondary education is primarily a state and local responsibility, and therefore the federal role is limited and difficult to define. The major focus of the members' statements suggested that their vision of the federal role was to improve teacher training, particularly in the area of using and teaching technology. Another concern was the lack of science teachers trained in science subjects. Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-NC) noted his state's requirement that all teachers need recertification and part of that process will include technology competence.

A number of members noted complaints from business leaders about the difficulty in finding technologically trained people to hire. Sensenbrenner suggested that the many new technology industries that have helped create such a robust U.S. economy "may be retarded in their growth for lack of a scientifically literate workforce." Rep. Gil Gutknecht (R-MN) noted the small amount spent on educational research, and asked about research in cognition, specifically. Rep. Tim Roemer (D-IN) inquired about follow-up to the White House conference on Children and Brain development.

Much discussion focused on the Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS). This cross-national comparison of achievement in math and science at the fourth and eight grade levels indicated that U.S. students do quite well at the lower level, but fall back behind many other nations by the end of middle school. Why this happens is under scrutiny, Riley said. He did note that unlike the U.S., many Japanese students take algebra and geometry before they finish 8th grade.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) admitted that progress has been made as both NSF and the Department implement their innovative programs, but she summed up the tenor of the hearing by saying "We can do better."

SENATE HEARING LOOKS AT NIH COORDINATION AS

As the Senate prepares to draft an NIH reauthorization bill later this year, the Senate Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety held its second hearing on the National Institutes of Health. The July 24 hearing focused on coordination of research conducted in multiple NIH institutes.

"Scientific research holds the potential for discoveries that are applicable to many different diseases, and because any research in a given scientific or medical field takes place within multiple NIH institutes, and that is how it should be," declared Subcommittee Chair Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN). "[T]he cross-cutting efforts at NIH [National Institutes of Health] are necessary to stimulate research and explore all potential applications for a variety of diseases," he added.

National Institute on Child Health and Human Development Director Duane Alexander told the panel that: "Most of the disorders that are leading causes of death and disability in adults have their origins in health behaviors," that begin in childhood or adolescence." Many of the Institutes are increasing their efforts to shape, modify, or prevent behaviors such as poor dietary choices, smoking, alcohol and drug use, excessive calorie intake, inadequate calcium consumption, deficient physical activity, and injury-risk behavior, he said. The key is the "childhood prevention of adult disease," he informed the Subcommittee.

Focusing on mental health issues, National Institute of Mental Health Director Steven Hyman told the Subcommittee that: "Children with unrecognized mental disorders are at a severe disadvantage for keeping up with their peers, with potential lifelong consequences." "Even when a childhood disorder itself does not persist into adulthood, it can profoundly distort a child's normal psychological and social development, impairing a young person's ability to learn, to develop normal peer relationships, and to function in a family," he continued.

Hyman emphasized that "much of the impetus NIH-wide . . . for expanded child health and mental health research — research collaborations that cross old boundaries — reflects our contemporary standing of the developing brain . . . Today we appreciate and, more critically, have tools to study the integration of nature and nurture, genes and environment." He observed that "because most serious, successful research occurs within disciplines at a single level of analysis, strenuous efforts are needed to cross-pollinate new information to achieve an integrated systems perspective of a given problem . . . The need to share information, coordinate efforts, and collaborate in our science is essential if we are to achieve the overall picture we need of how children grow and thrive, or fail."

The Committee expects to hold more hearings examining NIH soon to develop the reauthorization bill.

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