
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

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VALEDICTION: A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As some of you may have heard, I have resigned as COSSA's Executive Director, effective June 15, to become the Director of the Division of Social and Economic Science at the National Science Foundation. Although the leave-taking of an Executive Director does not call for so comprehensive an assessment as an annual report, it does provide an opportunity for a discourse on where the organization has been and where it is headed. This is particularly useful for COSSA which, despite a history reaching back nearly 15 years, formally established an office in Washington only three years ago.

Over these three years, COSSA has evolved from an ad hoc effort to counteract the effects of proposed federal budget cuts in the social and behavioral sciences to a permanent

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Dell H. Hymes, *President*

Roberta Balstad Miller, *Executive Director*

organization that represents the social and behavioral science research community in Washington. Although it is too soon to judge how successful the Consortium has been, it is clear that there has been some restoration of the targeted, anti-social science budget cuts of 1981 and 1982 and that the social sciences are more visible and effective in dealing with the Congress. Despite this, however, federal social and behavioral science research budgets are still at risk -- as are many items in the federal budget -- because of high budget deficits and the pressures to reduce them. For this reason, there is an ongoing need for COSSA to continue its legislative activities in the foreseeable future.

Over the longer term, COSSA's most important task will be to educate the Congress, the Executive branch, and even the general public about the importance of social and behavioral science research. Many of the problems which emerged in 1981 were due to the fact that there was little understanding of social and behavioral science research outside the research community. As a consequence, there was little public or political support for maintaining federal research budgets in these sciences. Only a strong and expansive educational program will persuade those with scant appreciation for social and behavioral science research that this research is, as a National Academy of Sciences study maintains, a "national resource." A critical start has been made in this educational effort through the COSSA congressional seminars and the series of COSSA Occasional Papers for legislators and the public, but a great deal more must be done.

As an organization, COSSA has changed and expanded considerably over the past three years. The original ten member organizations continue to be COSSA's mainstay in terms of financial support and policy guidance. But during this period, they have been joined in COSSA by 25 affiliates and 33 institutional contributors (listed on the last page of this newsletter). Like no other organization in the social and behavioral sciences, COSSA now spans and unites our various disciplines and research interests.

This union of breadth and diversity has been -- and will continue to be -- a major strength of the Consortium. The strong support extended to COSSA by the research community over the past several years has permitted an expansion of the staff and the activities of the organization to meet the problems faced by the social and behavioral sciences in Washington. COSSA's financial stability will, however, always be dependent upon annual renewals of financial support from social and behavioral scientists through their organizations and educational and research institutions.

COSSA has been very fortunate in receiving other kinds of help and assistance over the past three years. A supportive Board of Directors and a capable and experienced Executive Committee have guided the organization. The Executive Committee, made up of the executive officers of COSSA member associations, has been and will continue to be an essential factor in maintaining continuity in COSSA. In addition, the willingness of the research community to support COSSA has been critical in its development. That support, together with the continuing leadership of the COSSA Executive Committee, the guidance of the Board of Directors, and the competent and now experienced COSSA staff, will, I am confident, stand COSSA in good stead in the coming years.

Roberta Balstad Miller

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The Executive Committee of the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) has established a Search Committee to select candidates for the position of Executive Director. Members of the committee are William V. D'Antonio of the American Sociological Association, Thomas E. Mann of the American Political Science Association, and Millard Ruud of the Association of American Law Schools. Dr. D'Antonio is chairman of the committee. The committee will be accepting nominations for the position until June 15. Interested individuals are urged to send their resumes to the Executive Director Search Committee, COSSA, 1200 Seventeenth Street, NW, Suite 520, Washington, DC, 20036.

HOUSE PASSES NSF APPROPRIATION

By a vote of 282 to 109, the House of Representatives passed the FY 1985 appropriation for HUD-Independent Agencies. This bill includes the appropriation of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and adds \$5 million to NSF's Biological, Behavioral, and Social Science Directorate (BBS) for social science research. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee plans to mark up the NSF budget on June 6. After the Senate has passed its appropriation for HUD-Independent Agencies, a conference committee of both houses will then meet to resolve differences in the two bills. Both the House and the Senate added funds to the NSF authorization for the social, behavioral, and information sciences research programs in BBS.

6/1/84

CANADIANS DISCUSS SOCIAL SCIENCE POLICY, LOBBYING

A special session on lobbying by social scientists was held in May as part of the annual General Assembly of the Social Science Federation of Canada. Although there have been no research budget reductions in Canada on the scale of those in the United States, the budget of the Social Science and Humanities Research Council was scheduled for a reduction instead of an increase next year. There is concern among many in the Canadian research community that rising federal deficits will increasingly work to the detriment of social science research budgets in the future. Dr. Stuart Smith, Chairmen of the Science Council of Canada, presented the keynote address to the Federation. He assured his listeners that the government would need the social sciences in the future, but said that the research community and the government must work together to ensure that the social sciences will be there when they are needed.

To this end, a conference on the future of the social sciences in Canada will be held in Ottawa on October 3-5, 1984. The conference, which will be sponsored by the Science Council of Canada, is intended to bring together social scientists from all disciplines to discuss federal policies governing levels of research support and the political role of social scientists in defense of research funding. Among the issues which Dr. Smith would like the conference to consider is the balance of federal support between basic and applied research in the social sciences. The Science Council of Canada is an advisory body to the government. It is perhaps most similar to the President's Science Advisory Council (PSAC), a body that advised U.S. Presidents from 1957 through 1973.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM COSSA

Two publications, Health and Human Behavior and Education and Economic Competitiveness Abroad, are currently available from the COSSA office. Health and Human Behavior contains four papers which examine the ways in which behavioral factors contribute to the causes and treatment of health problems in the United States. The three essays in Education and Economic Competitiveness Abroad deal with the importance of foreign area studies, foreign language skills, and international exchanges in the development of competitive U.S. economic markets abroad.

To obtain these publications, send \$2.00 per volume to cover the cost of postage and handling to Eileen Chotiner in the COSSA office. The new address is: Suite 520, 1200 Seventeenth Street NW, Washington, DC 20036 (telephone: 202/887-6166).

CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

One means of bridging the gap between the academic community and the Congress is through a congressional fellowship program. By working in Washington under one of the many congressional fellowship programs, academic researchers can gain valuable experience in the legislative and political process and share the significance of research in their disciplines with policy-makers.

A number of COSSA Members and Affiliates sponsor congressional fellows. Candidates are required to have a Ph.D. (or a dissertation near completion) and to have demonstrated a strong interest in the application of their discipline to policy issues.

Most programs seek to provide fellows with insight as to productive directions for future research, policy implications of existing research, and the opportunity to contribute their research knowledge to the policy process. Fellows are asked in turn to submit written reports to their sponsoring organization sharing the knowledge they gained through the fellowship. Fellows generally serve as legislative assistants on the staffs of individual Senators and Representatives or on the staffs of congressional committees. Among the activities fellows may be involved in are drafting legislation, assisting in hearings and floor debates, analyzing background information, and responding to constituent inquiries.

Several sponsoring organizations, with information on how to apply for a fellowship, are listed below:

American Political Science Association (APSA). APSA sponsors a fellowship program for individuals who have received the Ph.D. in political science within the past 15 years or have nearly completed their dissertation. Fellows serve for a 10-month period, attending a one-month orientation session in November, then spending nine months working in Congress, half of the time in the House and half in the Senate. The stipend is \$16,000 plus some benefits. The next application deadline is December 1. For more information, contact Catherine Rudder, APSA, 1527 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20036; 202/483-2512.

American Anthropological Association (AAA). To be considered for the AAA Congressional Fellowship Program candidates must be a member of AAA and have a Ph.D. in anthropology or be a Fellow of the Association. Doctoral candidates who will complete their dissertations by July 1 and be assured by October 1 that the doctorate will be awarded are also eligible. The AAA program offers a stipend of \$18,000 and

is administered by the APSA Congressional Fellowship program. AAA Fellows follow the same schedule as APSA Fellows. Applications for AAA Fellowships must be received by February 15. For more information, contact the Congressional Fellowship Program, AAA, 1703 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20009; 202/232-8800.

American Psychological Association (APA). APA sponsors two Fellows, one in scientific psychology and one in psychological applications. Applicants must be an APA member, have a Ph.D. in psychology and a minimum of two years post-doctorate experience. The fellowship period is one year, beginning in September. The program is administered by the Congressional Science Fellowship Program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The stipend is \$26,000. The next deadline for applications will be in December. For more information, contact the APA Congressional Science Fellowship Program, APA, 1200 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20036; 202/955-7600.

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD). SRCD offers Congressional Science Fellowships in Child Development in connection with the Congressional Science and Engineering Fellows Program of the AAAS. Applicants must be scientists or professionals at the post-doctoral level from the social, behavioral, or health sciences concerned with children. SRCD Fellows serve for one year and receive a stipend of \$23,500 to \$29,000. Applications must be submitted by November 15. Inquiries should be made to Barbara Everett, Society for Research in Child Development, 100 North Carolina Avenue, SE, Suite 1, Washington, DC, 20003; 202/543-9582.

American Sociological Association (ASA). In its Summer Fellowship Program, the ASA provides support for a Washington fellowship for an ASA member with a Ph.D. in sociology. The appointment is for 2-3 months. Unlike the programs listed above, ASA Fellows may choose to work either in a congressional office or federal agency which has expressed an interest in having a resident sociologist. The ASA fellow receives a \$5,500 stipend. The next deadline for applications will be in April, 1985. For more information, contact the American Sociological Association, 1722 N Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20036; 202/833-3410.

The next issue of the COSSA Washington Update will provide information on other Washington fellowship programs offering support to social and behavioral scientists.

NEW COSSA AFFILIATE, CONTRIBUTOR

The back page of the COSSA Washington Update contains an updated list of COSSA Members, Affiliates, and Contributors. We are pleased to announce that the American Society of Criminology has become a COSSA Affiliate and that Florida State University has become a COSSA Contributor.

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

National Institute of Mental Health
Survey and Systems Research Branch

The Survey and Systems Research Branch is located within the Division of Biometry and Epidemiology of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). This Branch maintains the only national data base on mental health services and patients, conducts national surveys of all mental health facilities and their patients, and provides evaluation support for the NIMH Program on the Chronically Mentally Ill. The Branch is currently being reorganized into two branches: Survey and Reports Branch, and Service Systems and Economics Research Branch. Grant applications are being sought for the Mental Health Service System Research program. (This is an on-going program).

Purpose of Program: The Mental Health Service System supports research which will increase understanding of mental health delivery systems in order to improve clinical and administrative practice, assist policy development, and advance relevant theory and methodology. The program includes the study of mental health service delivery systems located in the specialty mental health, health, and other human services sectors (i.e. educational, correctional, social service, rehabilitation, military, and self-help settings), and their interactions and linkages.

FY 1984 Funds Available: \$2 million was available for this program in FY 1983; a similar amount is expected to be awarded in FY 1984.

Funding Mechanisms: Grants

Review Process: Peer review committee

Disciplines Funded: There are no restrictions; particularly relevant would be sociology, organizational psychology, evaluation research, and anthropology.

Restrictions on Awards: Most grants awarded are for a 3-year period with budgets in the \$125,000 to \$150,000 range.

Success Ratio: In FY 1983, 50% of submitted proposals were approved for funding; 25% were actually funded.

Deadline: Application submission dates are July 1, November 1, and March 1.

Contact: Dr. Ronald W. Manderscheid, Chief
Survey and Systems Research Branch, NIMH
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Linguistic Society of America

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Eastern Sociological Society
Economic History Association
Evaluation Network
Evaluation Research Society
History of Science Society
International Communication
Association
International Studies Association
Law and Society Association

National Council on Family Relations
North Central Sociological Association
Northeastern Anthropological Association
Population Association of America
Regional Science Association
Rural Sociological Society
Social Science History Association
Society for American Archaeology
Society for the History of Technology
Society for Research in Child
Development
Society for the Scientific Study
of Religion
Society for Social Studies of Science
Southwestern Social Science Association

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