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CONFERENCE COMMITTEE DECIDES NSF, HUD APPROPRIATIONS

On June 26, a House-Senate conference committee met to settle the differences between the two houses on the HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations bill which includes funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The bill that emerged from the conference included \$1.302 billion for research and related activities and \$87 million for science education activities at NSF. Total appropriations for the National Science Foundation for FY 1985 will be \$1.502 billion, which matches the administration's request. Eliminated from the bill was the House language directing NSF to increase by \$5 million spending for research in the social and economic sciences. However, the Senate language requiring the transfer of \$5 million from NSF's science and education activities to the Directorate for Biological, Behavioral and Social Sciences for learning and cognition research was maintained.

The Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) at HUD was funded at \$16.9 million, closer to the House mark of \$15.9 million than to the Senate mark of \$20 million. The bill included language that will improve the review process for contract selection at PD&R.

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Dell H. Hymes, *President*

Roberta Balstad Miller, *Executive Director*

GAO SUPPORTS NIE DIRECTOR

The General Accounting Office (GAO) has ruled that Manuel Justiz, Director of the National Institute of Education (NIE), acted properly and reasonably in awarding a contract for a School Technology Center to Harvard University. The Bank Street College of Education had protested Dr. Justiz' decision, claiming its proposal was ranked higher by a peer review board and was lower in cost.

In denying Bank Street's protest the GAO made it clear that the agency director had the discretionary power to overrule peer review boards, provided it was done "reasonably" and was "consistent with the solicitation's evaluation criteria." The GAO noted in this case that the power to award contracts is given by statute to the Director and he can only be overruled for "unreasonableness, abuse of discretion, or violation of procurement statutes or regulations." Since the GAO found no evidence that these occurred in the disputed decision, Dr. Justiz was upheld.

The decision announced by Dr. Justiz in September 1983 caused considerable controversy in the education research community. Dr. Justiz subsequently appointed a panel of outside experts to review NIE's contract selection procedures. In addition, Representative Ted Weiss (D-NY), Chairman of the House Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee, is conducting his own investigation into NIE that may lead to hearings in the fall.

SENATE PASSES HIGH-TECH LEGISLATION

The Senate, by voice vote, has passed the Manufacturing Sciences and Technology Research and Development Act of 1984 (S.1286). According to its sponsor, Senator Slade Gorton (R-WA), the act would help restore and enhance American technological leadership and innovation in manufacturing.

Of interest to social and behavioral scientists are provisions of the bill that authorize the Secretary of Commerce to award grants and cooperative agreements to nonprofit research institutions, private industry, and colleges and universities to conduct research in advanced manufacturing methods and processes. The bill also directs the Secretary to analyze the long term competitive capability of specific domestic technology-sensitive industrial sectors and establishes a program to identify the effect on workers of advanced manufacturing methods, including the need for retraining displaced workers.

A companion bill (H.R.4415) sponsored by Representative Don Fuqua (D-FL), Chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, is expected to come before the House after the summer recess.

SENATE VOTES TO ESTABLISH PEACE ACADEMY

On June 21, the Senate voted to establish a United States Academy of Peace to train U.S. and foreign leaders in the non-violent resolution of conflicts. It authorized \$23.5 million for two years for the academy to conduct educational programs and to support peace researchers through stipends, grants, and fellowships.

The Peace Academy was attached as an amendment to the Department of Defense (DOD) authorization bill (S.2723) passed by the Senate. The House version of the DOD authorization bill does not include the establishment of the Peace Academy. A House-Senate conference committee will meet soon to decide its fate.

Chief Senate sponsor, Spark Matsunaga (D-HI), said adoption of the Peace Academy by the Senate "hopefully marks the end of a long, and at times frustrating, uphill battle extending over two decades for me." COSSA testified in favor of the academy in 1982, saying it would play a critical role in funding peace research and research training.

RESEARCH FUNDING IN AUSTRALIA

In the wake of a record number of applications, Australia's principal source of federal funding for non-medical academic research, the Australian Research Grants Scheme (ARGS) has \$A25 million available to it for calendar 1985 awards. Valuation of proposals for 1985 is conservatively estimated at \$A65 million, meaning there will be a shortfall of at least \$A40 million to meet the needs of the research community. If no extra money is received for 1985, the ARGS committee may have to reject about 50% of applications, and seriously prune on-going projects carried over from previous years.

The biggest increase in proposals for 1985 funding is in engineering and applied research (applications up by 40% over 1984). Social science proposals are up by 19% and proposals for plant and animal research are up by 24%. The ARGS had hoped to launch some initiatives for 1985 by way of new categories of awards, but without adequate funds it is likely that some would be scrapped, including "career fellowships" to provide long term career structure for established talented researchers.

ARGS awards do not include salary components for principal investigators, most of whom are tenured and whose salaries are met by the employing institutions. They are mainly directed towards funding project support staff, services and equipment.

GAO REPORTS ON PREPUBLICATION AGREEMENTS

A recent report by the General Accounting Office (GAO) disclosed that over 120,000 federal employees have signed lifetime prepublication review agreements requiring them to submit for possible censorship any writings concerning the sources and methods of intelligence gathering. Since 1981, when an existing executive order was given a new interpretation, employees with access to certain types of classified intelligence information have been required to sign prepublication review agreements. Before 1981, employees with access to this information had to sign agreements stating only that they would not disclose information.

The GAO report was prepared at the request of Representative Jack Brooks (D-TX), Chairman of the House Government Operations Committee, and Representative William D. Ford (D-MI), Chairman of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

The requirement in effect since 1981 differs slightly from the prepublication review provision in President Reagan's National Security Decision Directive 84 (NSDD 84), which would cover information concerning intelligence activities as well as the sources and methods of gathering intelligence. (See "House Holds Hearings on National Security Legislation", COSSA Washington Update, March 23, 1984, which includes the text of the resolution approved by the COSSA Executive Committee opposing NSDD 84.) The President has withdrawn the prepublication review provision of NSDD 84 for the remainder of this session of Congress.

GAO said that the number of employees who have signed the agreement was incomplete because some key agencies, such as the Justice Department and the Office of Management and Budget, were not among the 43 agencies that responded to the survey on which this report is based, and because the survey only included current employees. The accounting office also reported a significant increase in the number of publications which the administration has reviewed in the past year.

SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR CONGRESS, COSSA WASHINGTON UPDATE

The House and Senate are scheduled to recess on June 29 for the Democratic Convention and the district work period. They will reconvene on July 24 and then recess for the Republican Convention on August 10.

The next issue of the COSSA Washington Update will be published on July 27. It will include reports on the Labor/Health and Human Services/Education appropriations bills which were being marked up by the respective House and Senate appropriations committees as this issue of the Update went to press.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS IN THE EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL BRANCHES

The June 1 and June 15 issues of the COSSA Washington Update provided information on several congressional fellowship programs available for social and behavioral scientists. Those programs provide researchers with the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the legislative and political process and the opportunity to share the significance of research in their disciplines with policy-makers.

In a similar vein, social and behavioral scientists are eligible to participate in fellowship programs in judicial and executive branch agencies. These programs provide scholars with "hands on" experience in the inner workings of federal agencies and the opportunity to work with their staffs in Washington.

Below are descriptions of three such programs and information on applying for federal fellowship programs.

Judicial Fellows Program. Established in 1973, the Judicial Fellows program offers a unique opportunity to professionals for creative work and first-hand experience in the field of judicial administration. The program is designed to attract outstanding talent from fields such as public administration, the behavioral sciences, business management, operations research and systems analysis, as well as law. Two or three fellows are chosen to spend one year working with top officials in seeking to improve judicial administration. Fellows serve in the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in the Federal Judicial Center, or the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. Besides the day-to-day activities of their assigned office, fellows are given specific projects to undertake. These projects have included studies of past innovation; research and analysis of ethical implications; studies on the use of arbitration, mediation and administrative tribunals; and research on foreign systems of justice. The Judicial Fellows Program is designed for professionals in the formative period of their career development. The fellowship is ordinarily for one year, beginning September 1. Candidates should have one or more post-graduate degrees and at least two years of professional experience. A multi-disciplinary background and experience is highly desirable. Potential contributions that the applicant might make to the judiciary during the fellowship period weigh heavily in the selection process. Salary is negotiable based upon the salary structure of the Federal Judicial Center and the salary history of the fellow. The deadline for applications for the 1985-1986 competition will be in November, 1984. For more information, contact the Judicial Fellows Program, Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme Court, Washington, DC 20543; 202/252-3400.

AAAS Science, Engineering, and Diplomacy Fellowships. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) sponsors a fellowship program for persons in any area of the natural or social sciences or any field of engineering. Science, Engineering, and Diplomacy Fellows spend one year working either in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs of the Department of State, or in one of the bureaus of the Agency for International Development (AID). State Department fellows work in areas of foreign policy such as developing and negotiating procedures with coastal nations for the conduct of marine scientific research; working on issues related to energy technologies and the problems of less developed countries; and assisting in areas of U.S. nuclear non-proliferation policy. AID fellows work on issues of international development policy, such as health and population, analysis on the role of marketing in farming systems research, and studies of epidemiology of malnutrition. The program includes an orientation on foreign affairs, executive branch and congressional operations, and seminars on issues involving science and technology and public policy held throughout the year. Applicants for this program should have a Ph.D. or its equivalent in years of experience. The next deadline for applications will be in February, 1985. For information contact the Science, Engineering and Diplomacy Fellows Program, AAAS, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036; 202/467-4475.

White House Fellowships. The White House Fellowship is a highly competitive opportunity to participate in the federal government. Fourteen to twenty persons are selected to work for one year as full-time employees of the government, working in a Cabinet-level agency, in the Executive Office of the President, or with the Vice President. The duties of White House Fellows vary, but may include writing speeches, attending conferences, drafting proposed legislation, answering congressional inquiries, or conducting briefings. Any U.S. citizen is eligible to apply for the White House Fellows program. There are no specific educational or professional prerequisites. Fellows are paid based on experience and education, generally not higher than a GS-15 level. Applications for the 1985-1986 Fellowship Year may be submitted between September 1 and December 1, 1984. For information contact the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, 712 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20503; 202/395-4522.

The next issue of the Update will include information on other Washington fellowship opportunities for social and behavioral scientists.

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.

Social Security Administration
Office of Family Assistance

The Office of Family Assistance in the Social Security Administration funds research and demonstration projects on topics related to the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. State, public, or non-profit organizations (including institutions of higher education) may apply for funds from this office under Section 1110 of the Social Security Act. Different priority areas are announced each year. For FY 1984, research proposals are currently being solicited in two Section 1110 priority areas: cost effective overpayment recovery techniques and demonstrations of computer matching in eligibility determination and redetermination. Projects for proposals in other areas may be submitted, and a limited number may be approved pending available funds.

Purpose of Program: To improve methods and techniques for the management, administration, and effectiveness of public assistance programs

FY 1984 Funds Available: Approximately \$2.4 million is available for both continuation awards and new projects.

Funding Mechanisms: Grants

Review Process: Agency review panels

Disciplines Funded: No restrictions

Restrictions on Awards: Projects may be funded up to two years.

Deadlines: Proposals for FY 1984 funds must be submitted by July 31, 1984.

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