
CONSORTIUM OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

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KEYWORD SEES "RENAISSANCE" AT NSF

Presidential Science Advisor Dr. George A. Keyworth II had the following candid comments to make on the sharp cuts in the National Science Foundation (NSF) social science programs proposed by the Reagan administration in 1981:

I think great courage and wisdom was executed in squashing the daylights out of the NSF's social science programs, as well as the science and math programs, for a very simple reason: in terms of sheer quality, they rated phenomenally low. They were programs that had been driven by a host of small desires in Congress and small desires in constituencies. There was absolutely no sense of direction in any of those programs....There is a lot of important work within the social sciences, and I think you are seeing a rebuilding of the NSF programs. But they're being built anew....There are a number of areas that needed a renaissance -- the cognitive sciences, for example, and we're seeing it....

The remarks, as reported by Science and Government Report (October 15, 1984), were made during a talk on September 24 at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington.

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Dell H. Hymes, *President*

David Jenness, *Executive Director*

While Dr. Keyworth's recognition of the importance of the social sciences may be welcomed by researchers in the various fields, cognitive science is hardly being built anew. Cognitive research has been supported in a consistent, scientifically directed way in the Division of Behavioral and Neural Sciences (BNS) since before 1976. Below are the budget figures, in millions of dollars.

<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
9.3	11.1	12.6	14.4	15.2	13.2	11.4	12.8	14.1

These funding levels include cognitive research in four BNS programs: linguistics, social and developmental psychology, memory and cognitive processes, and anthropology. (There is, in addition, some cognitive or cognition-related research supported in the NSF's Division of Information Science and Technology and the Division of Computer Research.)

The 1984 increase in funding may look like a "renaissance," but it merely contrasts with low levels of funding in immediately preceding years -- levels that would have been far smaller still had Congress accepted the administration's budget requests for those years. The 1984 figure is still not up to the 1979 or 1980 level. Most researchers in the field would probably hold that "rebuilding" was necessitated, not by internal deterioration of the structure, but by injury to its foundation.

NOMINATIONS TO NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD ANNOUNCED

President Reagan has announced the names of three persons he intends to nominate to fill vacancies on the National Science Board. They are:

Dr. Simon Ramo, co-founder and Director of TRW, Inc., also served in an executive position with Hughes Aircraft Corporation. He received the National Medal of Science in 1979.

Dr. June Lindstedt-Siva, Manager of Environmental Sciences for Atlantic Richfield Company, previously taught biology at California Lutheran College.

Dr. Annelise G. Anderson, Senior Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution, was Associate Director for Economics and Government in the Office of Management and Budget from 1981 to 1983.

All three nominees are Californians. Drs. Ramo and Anderson both served on the Reagan-Bush Transition Team in 1980-1981.

GAO RELEASES REPORT ON OHDS

One year after newspaper reports of irregularities in the awarding of research grants by the Office of Human Development Services (OHDS), the General Accounting Office (GAO) has issued the report of its investigation into these allegations. It concluded that OHDS' procedures for complying with Health and Human Services Department (HHS) policy for approving applications out of ranking order could be improved. Furthermore, Assistant Secretary Dorcas Hardy's actions in awarding grants to a former employer "give the appearance of a lack of impartiality."

In September 1983 COSSA charged that OHDS was politicizing the evaluation of proposals and the awarding of grants in the consolidated discretionary grants program (CDP) by approving projects rated by the peer review panel of experts as the lowest of their class, while rejecting others that were highly ranked. The CDP includes social and behavioral science research in the following programs: Head Start, Older Americans, Native Americans, Runaway and Homeless Youth, Child Welfare Services, Child Abuse Prevention, Adoption Opportunities, Developmental Disabilities, and Social Services. Assistant Secretary Hardy was also accused of showing favoritism in the awarding of a grant to her former employer, a university medical center research unit. In the wake of these allegations, Rep. Ike Andrews (D-NC), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Human Resources, asked the GAO to investigate the discretionary programs at OHDS.

The GAO concluded that, although it did not feel OHDS' policy for reviewing grant applications was in violation of HHS guidelines, there was a clear need for improvement in the process. GAO noted that while HHS' policy allows OHDS officials to use discretion when approving applications, the policy requires documentation of reasons for funding applications out of the ranking order established by the independent review process. The report further noted, "Our review of Fiscal 1983 decisions memoranda showed that decisions to not award grants in ranking order were frequently documented by the word 'no.' For example, in 1983 for one of the priority areas, OHDS did not award 35 grants within the ranking order, but in only four cases did OHDS justify its decision with reasons more explicit than 'no.'" OHDS agreed that the documentation of funding decisions could be improved, and said that beginning with the 1984 award process their reasons would be more explicit.

Gordon Raley, Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Human Resources, considered the GAO report "a surface investigation" with not "as much depth as we had hoped for." He also noted that the Congress took appropriate action during 1984 to correct some of the abuses the report mentioned, and while he welcomed OHDS' promise to improve their review process, the new Congress would continue to closely monitor the agency's actions.

LEGISLATIVE LEFTOVERS

The fate of several items COSSA has followed during this legislative session remains unclear. Two amendments of interest to social and behavioral scientists were added to an unrelated authorization bill during the final days of the just-concluded 98th Congress. In addition, the President has yet to decide whether he will sign or veto the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reauthorization bill.

The National Bureau of Standards (NBS) authorization bill (H.R.5172) became the vehicle for two amendments. The first was the change in the basic charter of the National Science Foundation (NSF) that added "engineering" as a basic mission of the Foundation. (See profile of the National Society of Professional Engineers in this issue.) Since once again this year the jurisdictional dispute between the Senate's Committee on Labor and Human Resources and its Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space prevented the passage of an NSF authorization bill, the engineering amendment was added to the National Bureau of Standards bill.

The second item added was the "Manufacturing Sciences and Robotics Research and Development Act" (S.1286). This amendment authorizes \$200 million over the next four years for grants and contracts to conduct research and development in the improvement of manufacturing methods and processes. (For background see "Senate Passes High-Tech Legislation," Update, June 29, 1984.) However, there is speculation that the President may pocket veto (simply not sign) the NBS authorization bill.

The White House is also sending clear signals that the President may veto the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reauthorization bill (S. 540). Apparently the White House is getting large amounts of mail, much of it opposing the new institute of nursing. COSSA and some of its member associations have sent telegrams to the President urging him to sign this long-negotiated compromise which includes provisions specifically suggesting the appointment of social and behavioral scientists to NIH advisory councils.

// AFFILIATE NEWS //

The Society for Research in Child Development announces its SUMMER INSTITUTE ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY, to be held June 15-28, 1985, at the University of Texas-Austin. Emphasis will be on integration of research and policy at national, state and local levels. Faculty members, recent PhDs and advanced graduate students are encouraged to apply. Travel stipends are available. The application deadline is January 15, 1985. For more information, contact the Washington Liaison Office, Society for Research in Child Development, 100 North Carolina Avenue, SE, Washington, DC, 20003; 202/543-9582.

NIA RECEIVES HEALTHY INCREASE FOR FY 1985

In the FY 1985 final appropriation for National Institutes of Health (NIH) agencies, the 25 percent increase voted the National Institute on Aging (NIA) will be welcomed across the board, according to agency officials. Some 40 more investigator-initiated research grants can be paid, thus raising the acceptance/rejection ratio. The chief extramural granting units of NIA are the Biomedical Research and Clinical Medicine Program (BRCMP) and the Behavioral Sciences Research Program (BSRP). In recent years the granting level of the former has been four times that of the latter.

The increase in funds, provided by Congress at a sum larger than the President's request, will also improve the situation with training grants, and young investigator and career development awards. A recent program announcement, for example, invited well-established training programs in various scientific fields relevant to aging to apply competitively for additional funds for training in biomedical, behavioral, or social aspects of aging. Both predoctoral and postdoctoral trainees can be supported; trainees must make a commitment to careers with a major emphasis in aging-related research and training; and there is a payback requirement for training support greater than 12 months.

Application receipt dates are February 1, June 1, and October 1, 1985. Interested training program directors should contact the Associate Director of the BRCMP or the BSRP.

COSSA SEEKS INTERN

The Consortium of Social Science Associations is currently seeking applications for the position of intern with the COSSA office in Washington. The internship will last three to six months, preferably beginning in January 1985. The internship does not provide a stipend, but will afford the successful applicant the opportunity to gain experience in the legislative process and public policy. Applicants should be graduate students or have completed at least two years of study towards a degree in one of the social or behavioral sciences.

The duties of the intern will include assisting the COSSA staff in the preparation of the FY 1986 budget analysis; monitoring research management at federal agencies; an independent project related to the intern's research interests; and general administrative duties.

Applicants should submit a resume and letter outlining their interests no later than November 30, 1984.

SCIENTIFIC LOBBYING GROUPS: NSPE

The Update continues its series on the scientific and scholarly groups that are currently involved in advocacy and educational activities on behalf of research, with a look at the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE).

In the final days of the just-concluded 98th Congress an amendment to the National Bureau of Standards authorization bill gave the NSPE a major victory they have been seeking all year. This amendment would change the National Science Foundation's (NSF) basic charter to include "engineering" in almost every place "science" is mentioned in that Act. The success of NSPE in changing the NSF charter indicates that this 50-year-old, 80,000 member society is playing a significant role in representing engineers' interests in Washington.

In 1978 NSPE decided that in order to better influence events in Congress they needed to become "more political." Thus, they formed a Political Action Committee (PAC) that in the last election cycle contributed over \$300,000 to 200 congressional candidates. James Dalton, Director of the Legal and Government Affairs Division, defends the PAC against those in the scientific community who view PACs with horror. He claims it has been a success in "giving us exposure we've never had before" and in electing members of Congress who are "more supportive of science and technology."

The Legal and Government Affairs Division includes five registered lobbyists, none of whom are engineers. In addition to getting engineering into the NSF charter, NSPE focuses on such issues as engineering education, hazardous waste management, product liability law, developing a capital budget for the United States, and altering the decision process on federally supported construction grants. The society works in coalitions with other disciplinary engineering associations, higher education groups, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). They have made common cause with COSSA in supporting increased appropriations for NSF. They rely heavily on their 50 state societies for grass-roots lobbying efforts. The NSPE has also gained favorable publicity by sponsoring MATHCOUNTS, a nationwide mathematics contest for school children modeled on the national spelling bee.

The NSPE communicates with its members through a monthly magazine, Engineering Times, and a bimonthly newsletter, Professional Engineering News. NSPE's lobbying activities are viewed by Kathy Prager, Deputy Director for Legal and Government Affairs, as a "responsibility to their profession to help shape the public policy decisions that affect them."

SOURCES OF RESEARCH SUPPORT: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program

The Office of Postsecondary Education of the Department of Education offers Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships as incentive awards to meritorious students undergoing advanced training in modern foreign languages and related area studies. The fellowships are awarded through approved institutions of higher education with nationally recognized programs of excellence. Priorities for the FY 1985 program include projects which combine language and area studies with professional studies such as business, law, or journalism; students studying the less commonly taught languages and cultures of non-Western countries; and students or faculty members enrolled in cooperative, advanced, intensive foreign language programs in the United States or abroad.

FY 1985 Funds Available: The program anticipates a budget of \$7.2 million which would allow 800 awards to be made.

Funding Mechanism: Awards are made to institutions of higher education which then provide the fellowships to students and faculty members.

Review Process: Peer review panels

Disciplines Funded: In area studies, highest consideration will be given to projects in the disciplines of anthropology, economics, geography, humanities (other than history), linguistics, political science, sociology, and other professional fields, depending upon the world area involved.

Restrictions on Awards: Stipends of \$5,000 will be offered for an academic year fellowship and \$1,250 for a summer intensive language fellowship. Travel expenses of up to \$500 may be requested.

Deadline: December 16, 1984

Contact: Dr. Joseph F. Belmonte or Dr. Ann Schneider
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