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Conference Group on Representation and Electoral Systems Reports on Negotiations

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The Spring 1984 issue of *PS* (p. 283) summarized negotiations between the

Conference Group (CG) and the International Political Science Association (IPSA) for inclusion of a Special Meeting on representation and electoral systems at the 1985 (Paris) meeting of IPSA. Here is an update report concerning these negotiations as of June 15, 1984.

Our proposal for the Special Meeting was disapproved by the IPSA Program Committee on the ground that they had more requests for such meetings than they could accommodate. The following compromise alternative has been developed with the IPSA Secretariat. The IPSA conference program will list an organization meeting of an IPSA Study Group or Research Committee on Representation and Electoral Systems. It will be necessary that it be held at a time that will not conflict with any of the regularly scheduled panels. Therefore the undersigned has proposed to the IPSA Secretariat that our meeting be scheduled for 5:15-7:15 p.m. on any of the following dates at their option: August 17, 18, or 19. The meeting will be co-chaired by Vernon Bogdanor and myself. The principal purposes of the meeting would be: (1) to discuss the proposal that there be an IPSA Study Group or Research Committee on Representation and Electoral Systems; and (2) to afford an opportunity to interested participants to share their current research findings and plans. To the latter end the following procedure will be used: participants wishing to present papers or statements of work in progress will be encouraged to put summaries on wall posters in the assigned conference room and have copies of their papers ready to be dispensed and discussed with interested participants. Materials for the posters will be provided at the conference Secretariat. People interested in presenting papers in accordance with the above described procedure are requested to send the title of the paper to the undersigned at their earliest convenience so that it may be listed in the conference program. We trust that this procedure will be sufficient to enable participants to obtain whatever funding their universities can provide.

There is a possibility, but no assurance, that partial reimbursement of travel expenses of participants in this session can

be obtained from U.S. government sources; potential participants interested in applying for such grants should correspond with the undersigned to that effect at their early convenience. Date of receipt of such requests may be one of the criteria applied by the committee administering the grants.

Efforts continue to reorganize the CG as an official section of APSA. Members of the Association wishing to support this development are urged to write to CG Co-Chair Joseph Zimmerman, Graduate School of Public Affairs, SUNY, Albany, NY 12222, expressing their sentiment, including willingness to pay \$3 annual section dues. Additional details can be found in the Spring 1984 *PS* (p. 283). □

Editor's Note: The following report is reprinted from COSSA Washington Update, May 18, 1984.

The Impact of the Budget Cuts on NSF Programs

Now that several years have passed since the major budget cuts of FY 1981 and FY 1982 were imposed on the social and behavioral science programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF), it is possible to gauge some of the effects of these cuts. The tables printed here, prepared from data supplied by the National Science Foundation, present a rather clear story. Table 1 shows the average annual award in constant dollars in the various social and behavioral science programs at NSF. Table 2 shows proposal success rates, or the proportion of proposals submitted to NSF that were funded. Table 3 gives the total number of proposals submitted to NSF by program. The "year" in the tables refers to the fiscal year. The Decision and Management Science Program and Regulation and Policy Analysis Program of the Division of Social and Economic Science are not listed in these tables because data were not available for those programs over the entire period shown.

The cumulative effect of the budget cuts is apparent from a quick look at the

tables. There was, overall, a reduction in the success rate of submitted proposals in 1981. Although the success rate began to rise again in most programs in 1982 and 1983, this was due in large part to the fact that the total number of proposals submitted to NSF was declining. (See Table 3.)

The most telling evidence of the impact of the budget cuts is provided by the figures showing the size of the average annual award in constant dollars. In a number of programs, the value of the average grant declined by as much as 50 percent or more. Overall in the Division of Social and Economic Science, the average grant was 40 percent smaller in 1983 than it had been in 1980. So even if a research proposal were awarded funding, the level of funding was considerably reduced from earlier levels.

The tables printed here can only show administrative evidence of the effects of the budget cuts on NSF programs in the social and behavioral sciences. Although they do not provide evidence of how the budget cuts affected the substance of research or how that research was conducted, some general conclusions can be drawn. First, many social and behavioral scientists were discouraged by the FY 1981 and FY 1982 budget cuts from submitting proposals to the Foundation. Submission rates declined, and we can assume that a number of promising research ideas were not pursued.

The initial decline in the success rates of competitive proposals suggests that this discouragement was well founded. NSF had less money available to fund research projects in the social and behavioral sciences and fewer proposals were funded. Moreover, even if a social scientist were fortunate enough to receive a grant, he or she was faced with a sharp reduction in the size of that grant when compared to previous years. Whether awards were smaller because proposals were scaled down before they were submitted to NSF or because NSF only had funds to support part of what was requested is not clear from these tables. The effect, however, is the same: fewer, smaller, and, perforce, less ambitious research projects were funded by NSF in the social and behavioral sciences

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immediately after the budget cuts than before.

NSF budgets for social and behavioral science research have since been rising for several years. At the present time, some of the programs in the Behavioral and Neurosciences Division have reached

their FY 1980 levels and a number of programs in that Division of Social and Economic Science are approaching that level. The task now facing the social and behavioral science community is to consider ways to leverage those funds and use them most efficiently.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

TABLE 1
Average Annual Award (in constant thousand \$)

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Division of Social and Economic Science	26.4	20.6	21.5	17.0	13.9	13.0
Economics	30.3	26.3	26.2	18.5	14.2	12.8
Geography	28.7	14.7	16.5	13.3	10.2	9.3
Measurement Methods and Data Resources	132.5	32.7	59.4	40.1	35.3	27.6
Political Science	24.2	16.7	18.1	15.9	19.0	13.3
Law and Social Science	16.0	16.3	19.4	15.5	13.6	13.1
Sociology	24.0	22.1	21.2	18.7	13.3	15.3
History and Philosophy of Science	10.7	12.5	9.6	7.0	5.2	5.4
Division of Behavioral and Neural Sciences (selected programs)						
Psychobiology	22.4	17.3	15.4	16.4	15.5	15.4
Memory and Cognitive Processes	23.7	21.1	22.7	17.4	19.7	18.6
Social and Developmental Psychology	23.5	19.2	21.6	16.6	21.8	21.4
Linguistics	17.1	14.7	16.4	15.4	13.0	12.5
Anthropology	12.0	12.1	15.2	13.5	11.9	10.3

Source: National Science Foundation data.

TABLE 2
Success Rate of Competitive Proposals (in %)

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Division of Social and Economic Science	38.4	40.7	36.7	30.7	34.7	35.5
Economics	52.5	53.7	47.6	37.7	37.8	43.0
Geography	34.8	34.8	31.7	30.8	39.1	35.4
Measurement Methods and Data Resources	36.8	38.6	27.7	26.7	38.6	50.9
Political Science	36.4	39.8	33.8	39.1	42.6	36.7
Law and Social Science	46.3	29.0	20.3	18.1	29.7	24.0
Sociology	23.6	28.5	28.2	22.5	30.7	33.3
History and Philosophy of Science	43.7	42.3	39.5	36.4	40.6	45.6
Division of Behavioral and Neural Sciences (selected programs)						
Psychobiology	29.6	29.4	32.2	29.7	32.1	27.6
Memory and Cognitive Processes	24.1	23.0	32.6	21.6	32.9	25.9
Social and Developmental Psychology	23.6	23.0	22.5	19.9	28.3	21.7
Linguistics	34.6	27.9	38.1	28.8	47.8	40.7
Anthropology	30.4	31.9	32.4	31.9	36.0	34.1

Source: National Science Foundation data.

TABLE 3
Competitive Proposals Received

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Division of Social and Economic Science	1275	1160	1381	1293	1183	1089
Economics	348	320	373	301	347	257
Geography	130	135	115	111	81	85
Measurement Methods and Data Resources	36	47	77	76	44	44
Political Science	130	156	167	116	98	163
Law and Social Science	95	65	152	137	94	112
Sociology	251	218	254	174	134	124
History and Philosophy of Science	209	197	201	133	185	139
Division of Behavioral and Neural Sciences (selected programs)						
Psychobiology	273	266	247	230	193	202
Memory and Cognitive Processes	162	169	134	108	88	125
Social and Developmental Psychology	224	239	217	103	94	116
Linguistics	204	219	159	121	72	109
Anthropology	708	614	637	507	418	532

Source: National Science Foundation data. □