

# Communications

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### To the Editor:

In what is becoming a tradition (see my letters to *PS* in the Fall issues of 1972, 1973 and 1974), I wish to present the results of my monitoring of the sex participation balance at our annual meeting. My tally for 1975 reveals that female visibility in our proceedings slipped slightly from what had been attained in 1973 and 1974, though there were some areas of advancement.

In the last issue of *PS* Maria Falco, one of the two section chairpersons for 1975, described her difficulties in locating female participants for her set of panels. It has been suggested to me that there are few women in the Epistemology and Methodology area. In my analysis for 1974, I indicated that I thought she had gotten off on the wrong foot by naming males to head all seven of her panels. Based on the records I've kept from other conventions, I have concluded that the factor of chairwomanship makes a decided difference in the female participation rate.

The other woman to head a section placed females at the head of five of her eight panels.

This was actually half of the female chairperson total for the whole convention. Twelve of the 60 women to appear as paper givers or workshop participants at convention did so in the five panels with chairwomen in this section. (The sex selection tabulation for all ten panels headed by women: 19 women out of 50 paper givers or workshop participants, 3 out of 10 discussants.)

Thus women fared even worse in the sections on Comparative Politics—Western Areas, Comparative Politics—Communist Areas, and Public Administration and Organizational Theory. Impressionistically, I would hesitate to ascribe these areas as devoid of female talent. (The panel with the greatest freeze-out of women was that on Legislative Resources and Legislative Oversight. Its chairman, discussant and ten paper givers were all male.)

For the first time women were featured in our plenary sessions. The Association's Committee on the Status of Women should be commended for developing the plenary sessions on women (which, incidentally, was the only one of the three Section 15 plenary meetings to include women; perhaps the stag nature of such gatherings is still their characteristic) and the so-called "program chairperson's roundtable" for the

	Chairpersons	Paper Givers and Workshop Participants	Discussants
1975	10.6% (10/95)	12.3% (60/484)	9.8% (17/174)
1974	12.2%	13.4%	10.0%
1973	11.8%	11.2%	13.6%
1972	5.7%	11.4%	12.1%

Section	Chairpersons	Paper Givers and Workshop Participation	Discussants
1. Political Theory	25.0%	8.0%	16.7%
*2. Epistemology and Methodology	0	7.4%	7.1%**
*3. Political Science as a Profession	62.5%	31.7%	0
4. Comparative Politics—Western Areas	0	2.6%	8.3%
5. Comparative Politics—Developing Areas	0	10.0%	33.3%
6. Comparative Politics—Communist Areas	0	4.5%	5.3%
7. International Politics	0	12.8%	0
8. Executives and Legislatures	14.3%	6.5%	14.3%
9. Political Organization and Political Action	0	25.0%	0
10. Public Administration and Organization Theory	0	6.7%	0
11. Constitutional Law and Judicial Behavior	0	12.9%	12.0%
12. Public Problems and Public Policy	12.5%	22.9%	9.0%
13. Federalism, Old and New	0	15.8%	14.3%
14. Political Involvement and Political Behavior	11.1%	10.2%	10.0%
15. The American Polity	33.3%	33.3%	—

\*Headed by a woman.

\*\*The lone female discussant was Ms. Falco herself!

only all-female panel at the convention. (See the Summer *PS* for the history of the two projects.)

There were three other panels treating issues of especial concern to women (3.5, 12.7, and 14.4). All three were headed by women and had females as 9 of the 16 paper givers and one of the three discussants.

Almost a third (19 out of 60) of the female contributions as paper presenters came as part of a team. Yet only 13.7% of those who participated in team efforts were women.

I note with approval that the Women's Caucus of the Association is planning ways of communicating to distaff political scientists tips on how to go about getting selected for convention panels. In the absence of female entree to the "old boy network," this orientation should encourage more women to run the gantlet.

Martin Gruberg  
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

### To the Editor:

Having recently re-entered the world of the employed and thus realizing again the extent to which having an institutional affiliation affects all aspects of one's professional life, I would like to suggest a few ways in which the APSA could help to alleviate some of the annoyances of unemployment. These suggestions are important since, I believe, they will help the unemployed to retain some contact with the profession and to increase their employability. Unemployment is not going to go away even if the APSA ignores it, as it has been doing.

First, the most debilitating aspect of unemployment is lack of access to research materials. While some university libraries have open stacks, most of the good ones do not and do not like to extend privileges to "visiting scholars" with no home institution. The APSA could provide each unemployed member with a letter (if he asks for it) requesting that he be given access to stacks for research purposes. Circulation privileges would still, I fear, have to be individually negotiated.

Another problem is the lack of interaction with colleagues. This is especially difficult if one has moved to a new area. The APSA should provide each political science department with a list of all local members and request that departments notify these members of seminars, lectures, and other events at which a scholar could keep up his contact with developments in the field and meet professional colleagues.

Third, the Association can do a few things to relieve the financial burden of unemployment. Dues should be assessed at the \$12.00 student level rather than at the "under \$12,000" regular members fee of \$20. There should not be a limit on the number of years this would be permitted. Meeting registration fees for unemployed members should be waived or greatly reduced, and a reduced registration fee should also be made available to graduate students. Since the meetings are a critical part of the

recruitment process, we should encourage, not discourage, attendance by unemployed members. Finally, unemployed members who are giving papers at meetings should be reimbursed for the costs of typing and reproducing them. Again, we should not be placing strong disincentives on activities which could help a person find a job. (Members who have part-time teaching positions should also be eligible for at least some of the above fee reductions.)

Fourth, we should all try to remember that a person is not necessarily a bad scholar because he is unemployed. We should try to avoid placing him last in line for consideration for panels at meetings, for having papers reviewed, for reviewing books and papers, and for selection for Association office and other professional duties. Indeed, unemployed members may be our greatest untapped resource, for they often have the time and the incentive to work hard at these professionally more peripheral tasks.

These steps are concrete, not too costly, and relatively easy to effect. They could help to prevent the drifting out of the profession of a number of valuable scholars by allowing them to continue research and interaction with colleagues, keeping in contact with political science and simultaneously adding to their credentials and thus to their chances of getting a job. This is a small additional investment beyond the larger one we have already made in recruiting and training these scholars, and a worthwhile one both for the individuals in question, for the Association, and for the profession.

Susan G. Hadden  
Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy  
Clark College, Atlanta

### To the Editor:

Permit me to call to the attention of the profession that the Texas Legislature now has enacted a statute which prohibits the central education agency (TEA) from requiring the use of Competency/Performance-Based Education (C/PBTE) in teacher preparation and certification programs in this State.

Texas was the first state to "mandate" this single approach to teacher preparation, and (as you will recall) the APSA unanimously adopted a resolution against that mandate at its 1973 Annual Meeting. More than two dozen other States have moved toward, or actually now require, use of C/PBTE in their teacher certification programs. It is, therefore, of interest and importance to many political scientists and colleagues in other disciplines which contribute to teacher preparation that Texas, the state which led the movement to begin with, now becomes the first state to *prohibit by law* its education agency and State Board of Education from requiring this approach in its colleges and universities.

Enacted as an amendment to the Texas Education Code (Section 13.032 as Subsection "C") and signed into law by Governor Dolph Briscoe on June 19, 1975, the operative clause of the new statute states that the Texas Board of

Education "may not require an institution to teach a particular doctrine or to conduct instruction on the basis of, or in accordance with, any particular pedagogical method, whether expressed in terms of behavioral or performance-based objectives, competencies, or other explicit assessment devices."

Perhaps this action will give new heart to opponents of mandated C/PBTE from Arizona to New York to Florida where the decision seems to be going the other way.

Ellis Sandoz  
East Texas State University

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