

Association News

Opportunities for Political Scientists

Catherine E. Rudder
Executive Director

Political Science at NSF

APSA has worked closely with the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) to establish a separate directorate for the social sciences at the National Science Foundation (NSF). As you may know, we were successful in that effort. Cora Marrett, professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, has been named the assistant director for the new Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate at NSF.

In the political science program at NSF, we have a terrific team with Frank Scioli serving as Political Science Program Officer and Jim Campbell of LSU in the new rotator position. The Political Science Panel is composed of: Melissa Collie of the University of Texas, Austin; John Hibbing of the University of Nebraska; Gary King of Harvard; Gary Miller of Washington University; Helmut Norpoth of SUNY at Stony Brook; Duncan Snidal of the University of Chicago; and Harvey Starr of the University of South Carolina.

While we could be better funded, there is a considerable amount of money available at NSF for political science research. Moreover, there are huge increases in the Education and Human Resources Directorate (a 44% increase over last year), and Jim Campbell informs me that little support is going to political science in this area primarily because we are not applying. For specific announcements you should consult *PS: Political Science & Politics* and the back pages of the *Personnel Service Newsletter*. Both Jim Campbell (202/357-3955) and Frank Scioli (202/357-9406) would be glad to answer

your questions. Also, see the article by Scioli and Campbell in "The Profession" section of this issue of *PS*.

Political Science in the Humanities

You should also know that on the humanities side of our research, the National Endowment for the Humanities has been doing very well in the scramble for scarce federal dollars. The lesson for political science at NSF and NEH is that *good proposals should not be held back because of fear that there are inadequate funds*. You should also be aware, however, that there is a funding crisis in national humanities fellowships. The ratio of applicants to recipients for American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) fellowships this year is 23:1. The Guggenheim ratio is almost as unfavorable. At ACLS, on whose board I serve, we are sharpening the criteria to reduce the ratio for ACLS fellowships and, of course, looking for additional sources of funds.

Funds for Area Studies

In the realm of area studies, Congress enacted the National Security Education Act, known as the Boren bill, at the end of its 1991 session. This legislation creates an endowment for area and language studies for undergraduates to study overseas, for graduate student fellowships and for institutions for curriculum development. Thirty-five million dollars can be spent this fiscal year from a pool of \$150 million that is expected to grow to \$.5 billion. Because these funds come from the defense side of the budget, the program, under the current budget rules, has to be administered by the Department of Defense. As you might guess, this program—as attractive as the money is—is fraught with potential liabilities. Efforts are underway now to

make sure that academic values prevail in the implementation of this legislation.

On another international note, you should know that ACLS is poised to assume the administrative and financial responsibility for the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China (CSCPRC). The governance structure will remain the same as currently exists at the National Academy of Sciences where the CSCPRC currently resides.

USIA: Speaking Abroad

Occasionally I receive calls from members interested in securing information on USIA's AMPARTS program. This program sends scholars abroad to lecture. The director of AMPARTS is Jill Emery. The head of the Political and Social Processes division is Than Lwin (202/619-4720), and the head of the Programs in Foreign Policy and Economics is John Williams (202/619-4750).

Political Science Representation on National Bodies

APSA represents you and your fellow faculty members on a myriad of national bodies. These include: National Humanities Alliance, Consortium of Social Science Associations, American Council of Learned Societies, Social Science Research Council, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Council on Education, International Political Science Association, American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics, National Coordinating Committee for the Preservation of History, Coalition for National Science Funding.

If you would like information on any of these groups or have concerns you would like me to press with these organizations, please let me

know. Also, I would be delighted to hear from you any time you have questions about or suggestions for APSA.

Affirmative Action Report: Women and Minorities in APSA

Michael Brintnall and Kate Petty
American Political Science Association

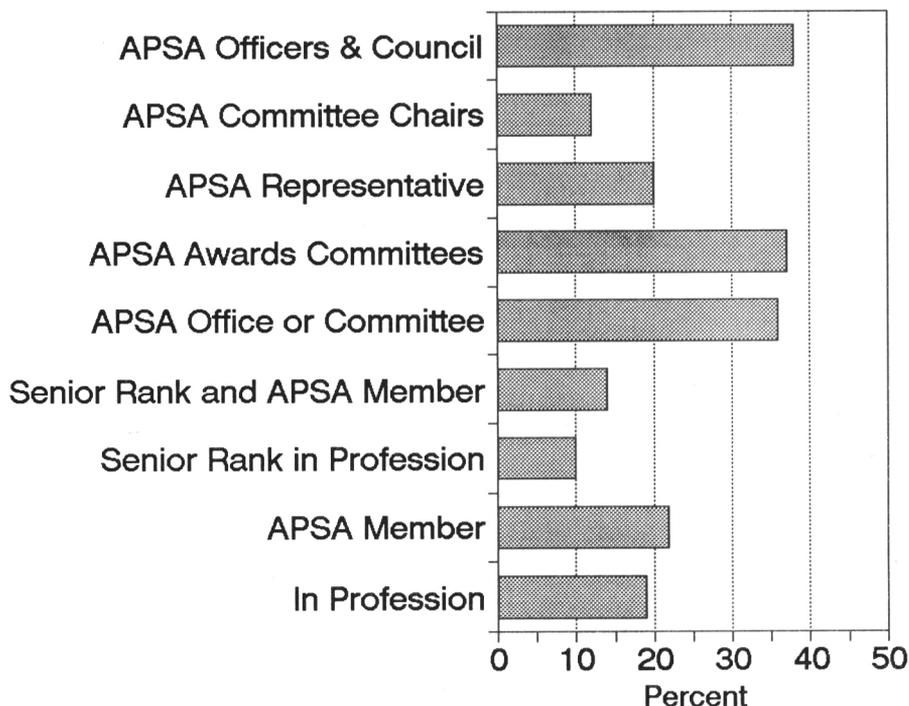
In recent years the Association elected its first woman president, nominated an African American president-elect, and hired a woman executive director. Assuring opportunities for women and minorities to participate in elected and appointed positions within APSA has been an important aspect of its nomination and appointment process, and current evidence shows the success of this effort. Of the 193 elected or appointed positions in APSA, 77, or 40%, are held by women or minority members. By comparison, women and minorities are 24% of total Association membership, and 16% of APSA members who hold senior ranks (associate or full professor) in their institution, the group most often tapped for elected and appointed office.

Elected positions in the Association are those of officer and Council member. Appointed roles include chairing or serving on standing committees, such as the Departmental Services Committee, the Committee on Professional Ethics, Rights and Freedoms, or the *PS* or *Teacher* editorial boards; service on awards committees; and designation as a representative to other organizations, such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). This report looks at elected and appointed positions held by women and minorities, in comparison to membership in APSA and numbers in the profession. It also compares overall rates of participation to previous years.

Participation by Women

Women hold 36% of the total elected and appointed positions within the Association. They hold

FIGURE 1.
Positions Held by Women in APSA, by Percent of Each Group



38% of the elected posts as council members and officers, chair 12% of the standing committees, hold 37% of the positions on awards committees, and are 20% of the APSA representatives to other organizations.

By comparison, women are 22% of all APSA members, and 14% of Association members who hold senior rank. Figure 1 displays the percentages, showing participation of women in the Association, membership in the Association, and proportions in the profession as a whole. By and large, the number of women officers and committee members in APSA far exceeds their share of the membership or the professoriate, with the notable exception of appointment as committee chairs.¹

Minority Participation

Minority participation in APSA elected and appointed positions also exceeds membership rates.² Minorities hold 13% of all elected and appointed positions within the Association. Minority members fill 15% of the elected posts as council members and officers, 12% of the standing committee chairs, and 7% of seats on awards committees. No

minorities serve as APSA representatives to other organizations.

Again to compare, minorities are 3% of APSA membership overall, and also of the Association membership that holds senior rank. These proportions are all shown in Figure 2. As is the case with women, minorities' participation in leadership positions within the Association generally exceeds their representation in APSA and the professoriate.

Numbers of Asian Americans are growing in the profession and equal 4% of the political science professoriate and 3% of APSA membership. However, only one Asian American presently holds an elected or appointed office in APSA, a matter the Association may want to explore in the future.

Conclusion

A report in the March 1989 *PS* detailed participation throughout the 1980s. Throughout that decade, women and minorities held 42% of the elected and appointed offices, excluding awards committees.³ At the start of the 1990s, women and minorities made further gains, hold-