

Association News

Report of the Executive Director, 1984-85

Thomas E. Mann

The vital signs of the Association remain strong. We continue to enjoy surpluses in our operating accounts without any increases in dues or fees to members. (See Table 1.) The market value of our Trust and Development Fund has grown to \$1.4 million, while our endowed program

funds have now surpassed \$250,000. Membership in the Association continues to edge up after a decade-long slide. (See Table 2.) Registration at the annual meeting has been high, and our most recent meeting in Washington, D.C. drew the largest attendance in 15 years. With the addition of the Presidency Research Group, the number of Organized Sections in the Association has grown to nine, and their membership and level of activity continues to increase. (See Table 3.)

TABLE 1
Budget Summary, 1979-1985

Year	Income	Expenditures	Surplus
1979-80	\$ 930,157	\$ 929,857	\$ 300
1980-81	1,007,675	977,328	30,347
1981-82	1,117,201	1,043,255	74,446
1982-83	1,202,078	1,094,415	107,663
1983-84	1,323,074	1,247,529	75,545
1984-85*	1,400,000	1,350,000	50,000

*Projected.

TABLE 2
APSA Members, 1974-85

Year*	Regular	Associate	Student	Retired	Life	Family	Total	
							Individual	Institutional
1974	7,793		4,006	217	101	137	12,254	3,504
1975	7,335		3,912	206	100	149	11,702	3,648
1976	7,428		3,603	245	96	134	11,506	3,588
1977	7,228		3,076	270	95	142	10,811	3,466
1978	7,094		2,655	301	97	154	10,301	3,338
1979	6,845		2,335	310	91	148	9,729	3,339
1980	6,592		2,159	344	91	135	9,321	3,337
1981	6,423		1,901	349	92	129	8,894	3,283
1982	5,838		1,984	388	97	134	8,441	3,156
1983	5,764		2,068	382	104	130	8,448	3,018
1984	5,891		2,511	378	111	151	9,042	3,059
1985	5,879	106	2,595	411	116	166	9,273	2,996

*January of each year.

TABLE 3
Organized Section Members, June 1985

Organized Section	Number of Members
Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations	281
Law, Courts and Judicial Process	501
Legislative Studies	369
Policy Studies	553
Political Organizations and Parties	387
Public Administration	561
*Conflict Processes	120
*Representation and Electoral Systems	140
*Presidency Research	—

*New.

The major publications of the Association are also in good shape. We are in the midst of a successful transition of editorial offices of the *American Political Science Review* from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to the University of Iowa and Washington University. Managing editor Dina Zinnes and book review editor Steven Seitz have turned over their primary responsibilities to Samuel Patterson and Robert Salisbury, although the Illinois office will remain open to complete work on the September and December 1985 issues. Catherine Rudder continues to develop *PS* as a journal of political ideas and news of the profession. The budgets for both the *APSR* and *PS* have been increased to accommodate larger issues. Sheilah Mann remains editor of the third quarterly publication provided to Association members, *NEWS for Teachers of Political Science*, and oversees the publication of a Project '87 quarterly magazine, *this Constitution: A Bicentennial Chronicle*, which is available to APSA members at a reduced rate.

The health of the Association is also seen through the scope and quality of its substantive programs. Here I believe the signs are equally good. Our Congressional Fellowship Program, now in its 32nd year, continues to give political scientists, journalists and other professionals from the United States and abroad a unique opportunity to increase their understanding of Congress and the American political system. We are on the verge of endowing one and possibly two

fellowships, which will help us in our efforts to obtain a more secure funding base for the program. Project '87, our joint undertaking with the American Historical Association, recently organized a conference to mark the bicentennial of the Mount Vernon Conference, published *Lessons on the Constitution*, a supplement to high school courses in American history, government and civics, and ran a third series of faculty seminars on the United States Constitution. This spring CONGRESS: WE THE PEOPLE, a 26-part television series jointly produced by WETA and the Association, received certificates of merit from the Ohio State Awards and the American Bar Association. A new small grants program was launched, with 10 awards made from among 79 applicants. The Association's publication list continued to grow this past year, with additions that include the 1985 *Membership Directory*, a new edition of *Careers and the Study of Political Science*, and a series of instructional units on comparative politics, produced as part of National Public Radio's Global Understanding Project.

The Association also took a more active role in the area of international political science. A grant was received from the National Science Foundation that allowed the Association to make travel awards to 50 scholars participating in the 1985 World Congress of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) in Paris. Plans are well underway to have us host the 1988 IPSA World Congress in Washington, D.C. Ad hoc committees on

political science in China and in the Soviet Union developed plans for discussions on the state of the discipline between American and Chinese scholars and between American and Soviet scholars. An APSA delegation recently returned from China with agreement for a series of collaborative projects with the Chinese Association of Political Science. A proposal has been made to the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) for a general colloquium series between U.S. and Soviet political scientists. Finally, the Council has established a Committee on International Political Science, charged with developing relationships between American political science and political science in other nations.

One area of particular concern to the Association and to President Richard Fenno is the very serious problem of the recruitment and retention of minority graduate students in political science and the promotion and tenure of minority faculty. Blacks still comprise only three percent of all political science faculty, and the sharp decline in the number of blacks entering Ph.D. programs over the last decade means that prospects for increasing that percentage are bleak. How can we increase the number and promote the success of minorities in the political science profession? That question has been the subject of discussions organized by the Association at the University of Chicago and at regional association meetings with department chairs and other interested members. A number of activities are being planned, including a conference on black politics and a summer institute for black undergraduates. We hope to have a number of concrete projects underway next year.

This is not an easy time to recruit graduate students, with the well-publicized uncertainties of the academic job market and the availability of other, more economically attractive alternatives. Enrollments in political science Ph.D. programs are now a third of what they were in the late 1960s, and the number of Ph.D.s awarded each year, already down from a high of 885 in 1976 to 542 in 1983, will almost certainly drop even more. These changes in enrollments are a natural

adjustment of supply to demand, but they threaten to reduce the overall quality and diversity of the newest cohorts of political scientists. Our challenge is to devise ways of encouraging the more talented undergraduates to pursue graduate study in political science without further imbalancing supply and demand.

Our success in this effort will be tied partly to overall conditions in higher education and partly to the particular status of political science. There is nothing we can do to alter the number of 18-year-olds or the percentage of high school graduates who decide to enter college. But there are things we can do to heighten the attractiveness of political science as an undergraduate and graduate course of study. The Educational Testing Service has decided to develop an advanced placement test in political science for high school students, and we will do whatever we can to support this effort. The bicentennial of the United States Constitution gives us an opportunity to show high school teachers and the general public that political science can make an important contribution to citizenship education. We are also producing undergraduate teaching materials that might help attract political science majors and ultimately graduate students from among the ablest undergraduates.

It is also important to do whatever we can to bolster the standing of political science in the Washington community and to enhance the public reputation of our discipline. Our efforts through COSSA to advance the interests of the social sciences and our recent report on "Political Science and the Humanities" are particularly important in this regard. So too are the projects which use television to convey insights from our scholarship to a larger audience.

Perhaps the most useful thing we can do to make political science a more attractive profession is to capitalize on our extraordinary diversity. We need Chinese and Latin American specialists to identify with political science as much as students of American politics. Political scientists managing programs in the public sector and those doing political risk analysis for private corporations ought to

have as great an incentive to stay active in the profession as faculty members. And women, blacks and Hispanics should be drawn to graduate work by the promi-

nent examples of women, blacks and Hispanics who have enjoyed successful and rewarding careers in political science. □

Index of APSA Reports in *PS* Summer 1984-Spring 1985

American Political Science Review

Samuel C. Patterson Named Managing Editor of <i>Review</i>	Fall 1984	806
Report of Managing Editor, 1983-84	Fall 1984	912-915
Report of Book Review Editor, 1983-84	Fall 1984	916-918
Editorial Offices of <i>APSR</i> Move to Iowa	Winter 1985	95

1984 Annual Meeting

Political Language to be Featured at Lasswell Symposium	Summer 1984	603
Lasswell Symposium Analyzes Political Language	Fall 1984	801-804
DeWitt Collection to be Displayed at Annual Meeting	Summer 1984	605
Annual Meeting Draws Largest Attendance in Fifteen Years	Fall 1984	793-795
Presidential Selection Reform Debated at Annual Meeting	Fall 1984	798-800
Gwendolen Carter Honored by APSA	Fall 1984	804-805
Association Elects New Officers	Fall 1984	807-808
Brademas, Kempton, Kennan and Simon Receive Awards	Fall 1984	795
APSA Awards Presented at the 1984 Annual Meeting	Fall 1984	961-969
Herbert Simon to Receive Madison Award	Summer 1984	603

1985 Annual Meeting

Political Change to be Program Theme for 1985 Annual Meeting	Summer 1984	610-619
Proposals Welcomed for 1985 Annual Meeting	Fall 1984	817-826
New Orleans Revisited: The More Things Change, The More They Stay the Same	Spring 1985	260-272
Richard Irish to Lead APSA Job Clinic	Spring 1985	272-273,278
Placement Service Set for Meeting	Spring 1985	273
Roommate Matching Service Available for New Orleans	Spring 1985	274
APSA Offers Free Child Care at Annual Meeting	Spring 1985	274
APSA Short Courses	Spring 1985	280
Rules for Annual Business Meeting and Association Elections	Spring 1985	345-351
Preliminary Program	Spring 1985	356-528

1986 Annual Meeting

Section Chairs Welcome Proposals for 1986 Annual Meeting	Spring 1985	285-286
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Awards

Herbert A. Simon to Receive Madison Award	Summer 1984	603
Brademas, Kempton, Kennan and Simon Receive Awards	Fall 1984	795
Nominations Sought for 1985 APSA Awards	Fall 1984	811