

The draft statement of purpose for the Coalition follows.

Coalition on the Academic Work Force (CAW)

The growing use of part-time, adjunct and temporary faculty is the most serious of a number of problems affecting the current academic work force. Faced with budget limitations, many institutions find part-time and adjunct faculty appointments irresistibly cost-effective. Yet, often, the terms and conditions of part-time and adjunct appointments are inadequate to support responsible teaching and research. This trend has engaged the attention of a number of national scholarly organizations concerned about the maintenance of quality higher education.

In September 1997, representatives of ten national academic associations agreed to issue a "Statement from the Conference on the Growing Use of Part-Time and Adjunct Faculty," which described trends and consequences, identified guidelines for good practice in institutions that employ part-time and adjunct faculty and presented an Action Agenda for implementation of these good practices. The academic associations that participated in preparing the Statement have invited other organizations to join together in a coalition to address the growing use of part-time, adjunct and temporary faculty and related issues concerning the academic work force.

Purpose

The purposes of the **Coalition on the Academic Work Force** are: (1) to collect and disseminate information on this trend and its implications for students, parents, faculty, and institutions, (2) to articulate and clarify differences in the extent and consequences of these changes within and among the various academic disciplines and fields of study, (3) to evaluate the consequences of these developments for achieving and maintaining quality higher education, (4) to evaluate both short-term and long-term consequences for society and the public good of changes in the academic work force, (5) to

identify and promote strategies for solving the problems created by the inappropriate use of part-time, adjunct and other similar faculty appointments, and (6) to collaborate in action designed to strengthen teaching and scholarship.

Organizational Participation

In joining the coalition, member associations agree: (1) to participate through their administrative, elected, and/or volunteer representatives, as seems most appropriate for each organization, in occasional meetings of the coalition, (2) to bring to the attention of their members, the "Statement from the Conference on the Growing Use of Part-Time and Adjunct Faculty," (3) to present this Statement and Action Agenda to appropriate association governing bodies, (4) to participate in the development of an agenda of continuing coalition work activities intended to encourage the implementation of the good practices identified in the Action Agenda (including, for example, research, member information, development of common position statements, meetings with representatives of other organizations and institutions), (5) to provide minimal financial assistance, as agreed, to support those specific work activities on which all members of the coalition are in common agreement, and (6) to explore opportunities for collaboration on joint work activities outside of the coalition, where such activities are of interest to some, but not all, of the individual associations (including, for example, public information and advocacy).

APSA Supports NSF Budget Increase

In concert with 77 other scholarly societies, higher education organizations, and industry groups, APSA is recommending a budget of \$4.3 billion for the National Science Foundation in FY 2000. This is a \$562 million, or 15%, increase over FY 1999 funding. This figure matches NSF's estimate of its needs as detailed in its FY 2000 request to OMB.

The Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), to which APSA belongs, sent a letter to Congress noting that NSF, the leading federal agency supporting fundamental scientific and engineering research, will be 50 years old in 2000 and that Congress should "build boldly upon the 50 years of successful NSF sponsored research" to maintain "America's preeminence in basic research."

The letter elaborates three arguments in support of increased NSF funding: (1) every dollar invested in the NSF returns many times its initial value in economic growth; (2) fundamental research is the underpinning for achieving advances that save lives, promote prosperity, and improve society; and (3) increased funding means more excellent science and engineering from more excellent scientists and engineers. CNSF noted that all of the 1998 Nobel Prizes winners in chemistry, physics, and economics are current or former NSF grantees.

Whether the funding increase will actually be enacted is highly speculative at this point. In its Budget Resolution for FY 2000, Congress agreed to adhere to the spending limitations in the 1997 Balanced Budget Act and directed the two tax committees, Senate Finance and House Ways and Means, to report significant tax reduction legislation by mid-July. The nondefense discretionary appropriations would likely be decreased substantially if Congress adheres to this resolution, thus thwarting NSF's and CNSF's ambitions for more research funding next year.

Association Alerts

U.S. Members Eligible for Term Life Insurance

Through July 1, APSA members residing full time in the United States who are between 35 and 65 years of age can enroll themselves and their spouses or domestic partners in a group term life insurance plan worth \$50,000 or \$100,000. In addition to easy acceptance, the plan includes an Accelerated Benefits provision that allows insured parties to receive up to 60% of their life insurance benefit