

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

## Editor Nominations Sought for *Political Research Quarterly*

The four-year term of Lyn Ragsdale and Bill Dixon, the current editors of the *Political Research Quarterly*, will expire on June 30, 2000, and they do not wish to serve a second term. While the editor's term has been five years in the past, it is now four years, renewable for two years. Accordingly, nominations for the editorship for the term beginning July 1, 2000 and extending to June 30, 2004 are now being sought. Rodney Hero, President of the Western Political Science Association, has appointed a search committee consisting of Richard Brody, Stanford University, Chair; Susan Olson, University of Utah (ex officio); Karen Remmer, University of New Mexico; Randy Siverson, University of California, Davis; and Walt Stone, University of Colorado, Boulder. Applications and/or requests for more information should be submitted to Richard Brody, Department of Political Science, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305-2044. Phone: 650/323-2705. Fax: 650/723-1808. E-mail: brody@leland.stanford.edu.

Nominations of prospective applicants are also encouraged. On request, information will be supplied regarding levels of support appropriate to the position. Typically, graduate assistant support, faculty released time, and operational funds are part of appropriate support from the home university. Some examples of home university support packages can be found on the WPSA web site at [www.csus.edu/acaf/wpsa/](http://www.csus.edu/acaf/wpsa/). The University of Utah provides additional support to the editor. Copy editing and printing are handled by the University of Utah.

Applications must be accompanied by a curriculum vitae and by a letter from the appropriate administrative office of the nominee's university, at the level of Dean or above, certifying that institution's willingness to commit appropriate support. For full consideration, please submit nominations by July 15, 1999 when the committee will begin its review. It is anticipated that the final decision will be made at the Western Political Science Association's meetings in March 2000.

Western Political Science Association

before death if diagnosed as terminally ill. To enroll or request further information, contact Albert H. Wohlers & Co., 1440 N. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge, IL 60068-1400; (800) 503-9230; info@ahw.com.

## Charting a New Course: The National Endowment for the Humanities at Year 2000

William R. Ferris, Chairman, *National Endowment for the Humanities*

The year 2000 marks the 35th anniversary of the National Endowment for the Humanities. At this important moment for both the nation and the agency, NEH plans to chart a new course for federal support for the humanities in the United States in the twenty-first century. The initiatives that we propose for the year 2000 will significantly expand the impact of humanities throughout the nation.

After several years of flat funding at the \$110 million level, the Endowment and the administration have requested that Congress increase our funding to \$150 million in fiscal year 2000. This appropriation request would be used to offset the 36% funding cut NEH sustained in FY1996—a reduction significantly larger than those borne by most other federal agencies whose budgets were cut that year. In the wake of that reduction, the Endowment was forced to close down many of its core grant programs, lay off a quarter of its employees, and downsize many of the agency's functions.

Since 1996, the number of grants NEH has been able to award to humanities educators, scholars, and institutions has diminished. We now fund only one-third the number of summer seminars and institutes for teachers that we were funding before the FY1996 cuts. Endowment-supported films and museum exhibitions available to the public in the year 2000 will fall to approximately 28 hours of television and 13 museum exhibitions at 25 venues, down significantly from the 71 television hours and 36 exhibitions at 200 venues that were available to citizens in the mid-1990s. And, the number of