

# The Profession

## Introduction to Employment Information in Political Science

As the job opportunities for young political scientists became scarcer last year and this, it became clear to the council of the Association that it ought to review the Association's role in this area. The Council directed the committee on Program Planning and Review to survey the problem and make recommendations to it within the year. In addition, at least, one other committee of the Association (The Committee on the Status of Women) and one ad hoc group (Committee for Rational Recruitment in Political Science) have developed proposals for reforming the marketplace for political scientists. Individual political scientists and the Washington staff of the Association have also been constructively concerned.

As of mid-June, 1970, the main outcomes of this activity and concern would appear to be the following:

1. The Council has, on recommendation by the Committee on Program Planning and Review, adopted a policy statement that **it is the professional obligation of all political science departments to list publicly all vacancies for which they are recruiting.** A task force of the Committee is presently drawing up guidelines for the implementation of that policy in a much-expanded Personnel Newsletter for the coming academic year.
2. The Washington staff has been exploring new employment opportunities for political scientists. Announcements have been placed, for example, in the *State Government Newsletter* and *Nation's Cities*. Government agencies have also been encouraged to recruit social scientists through the Association placement service, and plans are under way to list some of these opportunities in the Newsletter.
3. The Council at its June meeting agreed to the creation next-year (1970-71) of a standing committee of the Association with full-time responsibility for problems of placement and the market.
4. The Program Chairman is setting up a special panel on the marketplace for the September, 1970, meetings in Los Angeles.
5. There also appears to be considerable agreement that the Association ought to collect and disseminate periodically some data on the supply of "new" political scientists and the demand for them.

The articles below represent the first attempt to gather and present some useful data on the marketplace. The first of the two reports is an APSA staff report based on a questionnaire sent to 93 doctorate-granting departments of political science. Its limitation to graduate departments restrict its findings largely to estimates of "supply." Happily, however, Martin O. Heisler of the University of Maryland was sending a questionnaire to a much broader universe of political science departments, in cooperation with the Association. He here makes the first report of his findings. His data speak to estimated "demand" in the near future for young political scientists. Taken together, these two reports will hopefully raise discussion and planning somewhat above the level of total conjecture.

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