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Section News

Public Policy

Professor Kenneth Bickers, department of political science, Indiana University, has been appointed editor of *Policy Currents*. The newsletter will be based at the IU Workshop on Political Theory and Policy Analysis. Further information will be forthcoming in the next issue. Ken Bickers can be reached at kbickers@indiana.edu.

Foreign Policy

By vote of its members, and in order to fully reflect the interests of its members, Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy has changed its name to just Foreign Policy.

Washington Insider

Faculty Express Satisfaction with their Career Choices

Ninety percent of full-time faculty at two- and four-year institutions were satisfied with their career choices, according to a nationwide survey of 15,111 faculty members conducted in 1999 by the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center. *The American Faculty Poll* found the high level of job satisfaction even though 40% of faculty members considered leaving academia at some point in their careers due to low salaries, a depressed job market, or politics within their departments or institutions. Not surprisingly, tenured faculty were more satisfied with their careers than were faculty still on the tenure track. However, faculty at institutions without tenure were more satisfied than their tenured colleagues. Copies of the report sponsored by TIAA-CREF are available from Voon Chin Phua, TIAA-CREF, 730 Third Ave., 21st Floor, New York, New York 10017-3206; vcphua@tiaa-cref.org.

Doctoral Students Shift Their Focus in the Job Market

Doctoral students prefer tenure-track appointment, but are more willing than new faculty members to consider nontenure-track jobs, and jobs at a broader range of institutions, so finds *The Faculty Recruitment Study*. The survey was conducted in early 2000 by the Project on Faculty Appointments at Harvard University. The two major conditions that sway doctoral student's willingness to take nontenured positions are geographic location and the balance between teaching and research. Doctoral students are also casting a wider net in their job search than new faculty. Only 12% of students said they expected to apply to only research institutions, in contrast with 74% of faculty who reported having applied to research universities. Among students, 94% planned to apply to comprehensive state colleges, 57% to liberal arts colleges, and 47% to community colleges. Faculty tended, however, to have a narrow job search with only 37% reporting they had applied to liberal arts colleges, 29% to comprehensive state colleges, and 5% to community colleges. Additional information from *The Faculty Recruitment Study* is available online at www.hpfa.org.

Commerce Department Proposes to Empower Census Director

On June 20, the Commerce Department issued a proposed rule that would give the Director of the Census Bureau final authority over whether to release data adjusted through sampling. The rule will go into effect after a 45-day comment period. Secretary William Daley issued the proposed rule before leaving to head the Gore presidential campaign in response to a "Statement on the Feasibility of Using Statistical Methods to Improve the Accuracy of Census 2000", prepared by Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt. The director's commitment to statistically-adjusted or sampled numbers to gain greater accuracy is not shared by some members of Congress. During hearings of the House Subcommittee on the Census on June 22, Subcommittee Chair Representative Dan Miller (R-FL) challenged the merits and legality of the rule change. Miller questioned whether the Census Bureau Director, himself a political appointee, might not use the proposed delegated power to manipulate census data for partisan purposes. Prewitt affirmed that he was interested in producing the most accurate census not in influencing the outcomes of state and federal elections.

NSF Celebrates 50th Anniversary, Promises More Funds for Social and Behavior Sciences

The National Science Foundation celebrated its 50th anniversary on May 10, 2000. Looking forward to the twenty-first Century, NSF Director Rita Colwell called the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate "one of the most important directorates of NSF in the next 20 years and beyond." Addressing the Advisory Committee to NSF's SBE, Colwell again voiced her commitment to a major initiative for the SBE directorate in the Foundations's FY2003 budget. Norman Bradburn, assistant director of SBE, announced the appointment of Miron Staf, former director of the Committee for National Statistics at the National Academy of Sciences, to coordinate the proposed initiative.

Colwell emphasized that the contributions of NSF-supported research are not widely recognized, a point driven home by the House appropriations subcommittee's reluctance to fund the proposed 17.3% increase in the NSF FY2001 budget, recommending a 4.3% increase instead. Currently, all discussions of the NSF budget have been suspended.

While reluctant to increase resources to NSF, members of the House Appropriations Committee, echoed their Senate colleagues and urged agencies to increase funding for social and behavioral sciences. The commitment to acquiring greater understanding of how and why people behave the way they do was reflected in the committee-approved allocation of \$125 million for a National Campaign to Change Children's Health Behaviors.