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2 Scholarly Organizations Say Humanities Endowment’s Council Hasn’t Enough Academics; Chairman Calls Complaints ‘Elitist’

By CHRISTOPHER MYERS
WASHINGTON

Scholars are clashing with the chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities over who should be on the endowment’s advisory council.

The leaders of two major scholarly organizations are opposing a new nominee to the council, saying she does not have a distinguished record as a scholar or administrator.

They say the number of academics on the 26-member council has been declining, making it imperative that the scholars who are appointed have strong records in academia. Critics of the endowment say that if the decline continues, the council may become less effective at judging the merit of grant proposals for scholarly projects.

Lynne V. Cheney, the endowment’s chairman, says the groups’ complaints are “elitist,” politically motivated, and an example of “restricted thinking.” She says the groups’ assessment that the representation of humanities scholars on the council has declined is erroneous.

The National Council on the Humanities provides advice to the endowment’s chairman on policies and procedures, and also makes recommendations on grants. The White House nominates the council members, usually on the recommendation of the agency’s chairman, and nominees must be confirmed by the Senate.

The controversy came to a head over the recent nomination of Carol Iannone, an administrator and English instructor in New York University’s Gallatin Division. That nomination was made last week that the design change, if it were approved, could lead to “substantial” increases in the cost of the subatomic-particle collider and to delays in its construction. Some scientists estimate that the cost of implementing the changes suggested for the magnets could range from $50 million to $100 million.

The continuing debate and the possibility of a cost increase contradict assurances from officials at the s.s.c. Laboratory and the Energy Department that the technical questions surrounding the supercollider’s magnets have been resolved and that further increases in the project’s cost are not in the offing. The Energy Department is overseeing construction of the project, 25 miles south of Dallas.

Only two months ago, Deputy Secretary of Energy W. Henson Moore assured reporters that the department’s final estimate continued on page A21.

U.S. and Dozens of Colleges Tangle Over Loans for Students Preparing for Health-Services Jobs

By SCOTT JASCHIK
WASHINGTON

The federal government and dozens of colleges and universities are fighting over the management of federal loan programs for students who are preparing for careers in health-related professions.

The government, charging that the colleges have violated federal regulations, is demanding that millions of dollars be repaid to it. Officials are threatening to bar institutions that do not repay from the loan programs.

Many of the institutions, however, maintain that the government is applying rules retroactively and unfairly. Some universities are considering suing the government or asking Congress to put an end to the repayment campaign.

Based on Enrollment Formulas

The controversy involves the Health Professions Student Loan Program, in which the Department of Health and Human Services provides money to colleges and universities, which in turn establish loan pools from which students can borrow.

The money is distributed to colleges based on enrollment formulas, and the institutions must match one-ninth of the amount they receive each year from Health and Human Services for the program.

Health and Human Services officials say many colleges failed to put back into their loan pools the interest they earned on pool funds while they were not being used. A department audit has projected that about $42-million was not reinvested. Colleges continued on page A23.

Supercollider Scientists Are Embroiled in Dispute; Outcome Could Raise Project’s $8-Billion Cost

By KIM A. McDoNALD

Scientists working on the Superconducting Supercollider are embroiled in a dispute over the design of the collider’s magnets—a debate that could lead to another increase in the project’s $8.25-billion price tag.

Scientists at the s.s.c. Laboratory in Dallas and at the Department of Energy who are familiar with the discussion said last week that the design change, if it were approved, could lead to “substantial” increases in the cost of the subatomic-particle collider and to delays in its construction. Some scientists estimate that the cost of implementing the changes suggested for the magnets could range from $50 million to $100 million.

The continuing debate and the possibility of a cost increase contradict assurances from officials at the s.s.c. Laboratory and the Energy Department that the technical questions surrounding the supercollider’s magnets have been resolved and that further increases in the project’s cost are not in the offing. The Energy Department is overseeing construction of the project, 25 miles south of Dallas.

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Scholars Say NEH Panel Hasn’t Enough Academic

Continued From Page A19
division offers flexible class sched­
ules, self-designed majors, and a
core reading list of 24 books to its stu­
ents, many of whom hold full­
time jobs. Both the Modern Lan­
guage Association and the Ameri­
can Council of Learned Societies have
lodged formal objections to
Ms. Iannone’s nomination.

The groups say Ms. Iannone
does not have enough experience
as a scholar or as an academic ad­
ministrator to be qualified to advise
the N.E.H., chairman on grant and
policy decisions.

Ms. Iannone has been at New
York University for the past three
years. She is a vice-president of the
National Association of
Commentary, a conservative jour­
nal. She did not return repeated
phone calls.

The M.L.A. protested Ms. Ian­
none’s nomination in a letter last
month to members of the Senate
Labor and Human Resources
Committee, which has jurisdiction
over the humanities endowment. The a.c.l.s.,
followed with a simi­
lar letter last

Stanley N. Katz, the president of
the a.c.l.s., said in his letter: “It
seems to us that if Dr. Iannone is
confirmed, it will set a disturbing
precedent and may lead to a dimi­
nution of the humanities
endowment... of humanities
scholars and public
members as well.”

She wrote that Ms. Iannone was
“well-positioned writer on con­
temporary cultural matters” and
was “well-positioned to advise
the endowment.”

Ms. Iannone’s nomination came
at a time when many of the schol­
ars on the N.E.H. council were
nearing the end of their terms.

Of the nine council members
whose six-year terms expire next
year, eight are faculty members or
administrators. Of those seven,
three are from universities.

‘Ludicrously Low’

Humanities advocates say hope nominations will be
made an eye toward at least
keeping the current repre­
sentation of humanities scholars fre­
versities. Mr. Katz of the a.c.l.s., who
said humanities scholars con­
cluded that represen­
portion of the council’s mem­
He said at least
30 percent of council’s members should
represent humanities scholars.

Added Mr. Katz: “The does not have enough
experience with values and standards in the
humanities, and in most cases academics are going to be the
most fully
led to judge those matters.”

The scholarly groups and
Cheney have disagreed about how many scholars are now accused of hav­
groups, conducted a survey
and concluded that representa­
oney’s method, he still found a
downward trend in the represen­
ment of scholars on the

Mrs. Cheney as well as a
"current and past members of
say, the concerns of scholarly groups are miss­
Leon R. Kass, was a member of the council for seven years be­
said the interests of colleges and
universities were “well-repre­
dent” on the panel. Seven
people recently appointed the council were strong scho­
had said, adding that nearly
thirds of the present members had
or embarrassment.”

"Kass is a professor in the Univ­
ity of Chicago’s Committee on
"Einstein never thought he would
be refused to get involved
and what she called “the quota gain

A Rapid-Fire Exchange

The Modern Language Asso­
otations of a panel member pro­
Iannone’s nomination triggered
rapid-fire exchange of corre­
dence between the associ­
executive director, Phyllis Fran­
lin, and Mrs. Cheney.

Mrs. Cheney wrote: “How this makes me to see the Modern Lan­
guage Association’s Excu­
The M.L.A.'s Phyllis Franklin: Council members should have "records of distinguished service and scholarship or creativity."

Council fall once again into the old elitist pattern."

The M.L.A.'s letter, Mrs. Cheney wrote, assumed "that only one kind of academic is suited to be on the council: someone from a research university who publishes in journals like Publications of the Modern Language Association.""

Political Motivation Seen

Mrs. Cheney's letter went on to say that the N.E.H.'s governing legislation called for council members who would "provide a comprehensive representation of the views of scholars and professional practitioners in the humanities." Ms. Franklin then wrote again to Mrs. Cheney, pointing out that the N.E.H.'s legislation called for council members who have "records of distinguished service and scholarship or creativity." Ms. Franklin argued that Ms. Iannone did not have such a record.

In an interview, Mrs. Cheney charged that the objections to Ms. Iannone were politically motivated. Although both Ms. Franklin and Mr. Katz said in their letters that their complaints were not motivated by politics, Mrs. Cheney said they "doth protest too much." One scholar, who asked not to be identified, said that in making recommendations for council members Mrs. Cheney was herself motivated by politics and was practicing "conservative populism." Mrs. Cheney responded: "I love it. Call me a conservative populist anytime, rather than the opposite, which is a liberal elitist."

Washington Almanac

Congressional Hearings

WASHINGTON

The following hearings of interest to educators and scientists are scheduled for the coming weeks. Since changes frequently occur with little advance notice, it is advisable to check with committees on or near the hearing dates.

SENATE


Education Department and NIH. April 16-18. 23-25. Hearings on appropriations for the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Departments. Contact: Senate Appropriations Committee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. (202) 224-7288.


National Science Foundation. April 24. Hearing on appropriations for the National Science Foundation and the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Contact: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1993. (202) 224-7231.


Science education. April 23. Hearing on appropriations to examine the science-education programs of various federal agencies. Contact: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies. (202) 224-7231.


HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


National Institutes of Health. April 13. Hearing on H.R. 1532, a bill that would reauthorize parts of the National Institutes of Health, make permanent the National Cancer Institute, and make changes in some agency policies. Contact: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. (202) 224-7620.