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Hackney, Sheldon: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1993): Speech 07

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11 December 1992

**Criteria for the Selection of a Chair of the
National Endowment for the Humanities¹**

This position, vital to the cultural life of the nation, demands the talents and skills of a distinguished leader who has compiled an imposing record of accomplishment in the humanities and significant administrative experience. The new chair should fuse intellectual attainments with political and diplomatic skills of a high order, so as to establish and maintain a cordial and effective working relationship with the President, the Congress, the academic community, and the public. He or she should be a person of demonstrably broad cultural sympathies and interests, an effective manager, and a persuasive advocate for the transformative power of the humanities for both individuals and society, and a catalyst for heightened awareness of the role the humanities play in a democracy. Finally, the chair must be committed to the goals of the NEH as presented in the Declaration of Findings and Purposes in the enabling legislation (copy attached).

¹Prepared by the Executive Committee of the National Humanities Alliance as a contribution to the search for a new chair for the National Endowment for the Humanities.