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WASHINGTON UPDATE

- Bush nominates 2 scholars to humanities-endowment council
- Organizers of Harvard AIDS meeting protest U.S. travel policy
- Student-loan agency changes practice on borrowers' questions

President Bush has nominated two political-science scholars—Michael J. Malbin of the State University of New York at Albany and Harvey C. Mansfield, Jr., of Harvard University—to the advisory council of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Their nominations have aroused considerably less interest than that of Carol Iannone, a teacher and administrator in New York University's Gallatin Division.

Several scholarly organizations, including the Modern Language Association and the American Council of Learned Societies, have protested the nomination of Ms. Iannone, saying that her record as a scholar is not distinguished enough to merit membership on the council.

Lynne V. Cheney, the chairman of the N.E.H., has said that the groups' objections to Ms. Iannone are politically motivated. Ms. Iannone is vice-president of the National Association of Scholars, a conservative group devoted to maintaining traditional values in the curriculum.

Senate aides said last week that Ms. Iannone's nomination was "pending," and that the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee might consider the three nominations in a meeting this month.

So far no one has criticized the nominations of Mr. Malbin and Mr. Mansfield.

Phyllis Franklin, executive director of the Modern Language Association, said that she thought the records of both nominees were "impressive."

Both Mr. Malbin and Mr. Mansfield are politically conservative, but Ms. Franklin said that was not grounds for objecting to their nominations. She denied that the M.L.A.'s opposition to Ms. Iannone was politically motivated.

"We simply think people ought to have the credentials that suggest they're going to be able to speak with some wisdom and genuine knowledge about scholarship and the humanities," she said.

—CHRISTOPHER MYERS