

The Canadian Political Science Association/
Association canadienne de Science politique



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Association's activities over the past year have focussed largely on problems raised by possible changes at SSHRCC and by the change in government in Ottawa. While your Association has also launched new initiatives--thanks to the hard work of many of our members--we have had to make numerous expressions of concern, opposition, and support for measures others are contemplating, measures that will affect all political scientists in Canada.

The change implied in the victory of the PC government has led to a number of concerns. The most important is the level of SSHRCC funding over the next few years. Despite PC electoral commitments to increase the funding for R & D, including the social sciences, the current emphasis on budget restraint does not leave much room for optimism. The SSHRCC has prepared a five-year programme which has been submitted to the government. While all of us may not agree entirely with the priorities of the Council, in general we share its concern about the long-run decline in research funding. One of our primary tasks during the year has been to try to generate support for the SSHRCC proposal. In tandem with the vigorous efforts of the Social Science Federation your Association has written and will continue to write letters to those key people in Ottawa who will be making the critical decisions on levels of funding for the SSHRCC. Last year's SSFC-led lobbying effort on behalf of social scientists paid off with increasing commitments from the Liberals. We hope to be even more successful this time around.

A second area of concern has been the research grants policies of the SSHRCC. In October 1983, your Board approved the Chandler-McRoberts report; this study, which outlines the Association's priorities for research funding, has been forwarded to the Council. The report is being revised in light of some new developments, particularly the Council's apparent concern with the principle of peer review and the methods of research grant appraisal. The Board of Directors at its November 1984 meetings endorsed a statement strongly supporting the continued application of peer review in Council decision-making. That statement was initially drafted by David Elkins (UBC) and you will have read it in your March 31 "Bulletin."

In December 1984, we received an invitation from the SSHRCC-organized Crocker Committee (Special Committee on Research Grants) to comment on a variety of issues relating to research funding. Unfortunately, the Association was given only a few weeks to reply to complicated questions about SSHRCC principles and practices. Since the Board of Directors could not meet, we submitted to the Committee our previously-stated positions on research priorities and peer review.

Originally, the Crocker Committee hoped to make its recommendations to the Council by May. It appears now that this deadline cannot be met. Hence, we will have an opportunity during our deliberations at the Learned's to discuss many of the issues raised in the Crocker Committee's terms of reference. We will have a revised version of the Chandler-McRoberts report, including elaboration of previous statements on peer review, research priorities, and the like. It appears, then, that we as an Association will be able to take a strong stand on issues that will affect us as researchers. Our timing may not be so unfortunate after all.

In discussing problems arising from the new government and from the internal reviews of the SSHRCC, I should emphasize the tremendous help we are receiving from the Social Science Federation. This organization has taken the lead in responding to critical new circumstances and, in general, has developed thoughtful positions on a variety of issues. Our profession has been well-served by the revitalized SSFC; and where we could not, because of timing problems, always act (the President cannot pass off his opinions on some key issues as representative of the entire Association!), the Federation has promptly developed persuasive positions.

THE MEMBERSHIP QUESTION

While the long-range funding prospects of the Association remain in the hands of a new government, we cannot sit back and wait for government decisions. As administrative support from the SSHRCC appears to be increasingly determined by numbers rather than by the range and excellence of programmes sponsored and organized by scholarly associations, our long-term health will depend ultimately upon the size of our membership. Here we face a matter of grave concern. Over the past year, we have lost some 100 members, leaving a total of around 1200. This figure includes membership in the Société--which, incidentally, has actually increased its own numbers. While Joan has done a great job in keeping costs to a minimum, and while we have a slight surplus this year, we cannot continue losing members. Martha Fletcher's committee on membership will produce some ideas to recoup our losses--and to expand our clientele--but this is surely an area where each member of the Association can make an important contribution by encouraging colleagues who are not presently members, graduate students, and other persons interested to join.

Compared to most scholarly groups, we provide a range of activities and services which benefit everyone from graduate students to emeriti. Travel funds for the Learned's, International Workshops, the new Directory of Canadian Political Scientists, the Essex programme, PIP, OLIP, our Journal and "The Bulletin", numerous interventions to the SSHRCC and government on your behalf--all of these and many more come from the annual membership fee. I know of no other academic association that does so much for so little. This part of the report must necessarily be a plea. I hope you will respond.

CANADIAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The new anglophone editorial team has completed its first year. Bob Boardman and Herman Bakvis (Dalhousie) and Grace Skogstad (St. Francis-Xavier) have demonstrated that the transition from the prairies was smooth, and that they have maintained the traditional high standards of the publication. Grace has been in Ottawa on a sabbatical year. Working out of the CPSA offices, she has offered encouragement and a source of wise counsel to the day-to-day functioning of the Secretariat. The staff has very much enjoyed having her there!

Nos remerciements aussi à Jean Crête (Laval), co-directeur, et à Graciela Ducantzenzeiler (Montréal), secrétaire à la rédaction et responsable des recensions. Bienvenue à François-Pierre Gingras (Ottawa) et Lucille Beaudry (UOAM) les nouveaux rédacteurs francophones. Il me plaît beaucoup que la première "orientation de la science politique" en français a été publiée dans le Rcsp numéro de décembre 1984. To John McMenemy, CJPS Managing Editor, our continued thanks. Our Association benefits in untold ways from John's penchant for punishment, and from his infinite patience. Few have served the CPSA so long and so well.

"THE BULLETIN"

Allan Tupper has graciously agreed to begin a second term. "The Bulletin", which has gone through many transformations, is an essential instrument for communicating among ourselves. Allan has regularized its appearance and format and has established a solid network of departmental representatives with the consequence that our members can feel confident they are up to date on the important issues before the Association, on new opportunities and, of course, on a little gossip.

LA SOCIETE QUEBECOISE DE SCIENCE POLITIQUE

The brevity of the comment indicates the truth to the adage that no news is good news. Thanks to the negotiations that led to the Agreement/accord with la Societe, signed in January 1984, our relations have entered a new era of cordiality, cooperation, and collaboration.

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

One of my first tasks as President-elect was to select someone to chair the 1985 Programme Committee. I immediately turned to André Bernard (UQAM) who in previous years had served the Association so diligently. Whatever my judgement on other matters, this one was correct. André and his committee have worked hard to organize this year's meetings. Having attended André's first organizing session in Guelph last year, I was impressed by his early efforts to collect the committee and by his emphasis on rigorous procedures--including deadlines. We are all very grateful to André and his associates for organizing what I hope will be the biggest and the best. I should add, also, that thanks to the collaboration between André, Fred Fletcher (York) and Michael Atkinson (McMaster)--all former Chairs of the programme committee--we will soon have a handbook for future chairpersons. This should relieve some of the pressures for this important position, and provide new incumbents with helpful hints from their predecessors.

STATE OF THE ART SEMINAR

This year's meeting of department heads was graciously hosted by Bishop's University. Andrew F. Johnson did an excellent job in organizing our sessions and providing hospitality. The meetings were, as usual, very useful. We had an opportunity to go over the new Qualman (Laval) Report which continues the work of providing statistics on political science enrolments across Canada. These figures give a good profile of our teaching problems and prospects, and can be used to good purpose by, for example, department heads wishing to extract more funds from recalcitrant deans! The figures certainly belie the often-heard assertion that undergraduates are flocking to the professional faculties. The Qualman report will (as was its predecessor) continue to be updated each year, and modifications are being worked out to make it an even more important source of data about our undergraduate activities. We are all indebted to Harry and the persons assisting him at Laval for this most important project.

The meetings this year welcomed several interesting guests: Ted Skaperdas from Marionopolis College, to speak to the chairpersons about the teaching of political science at the community college level; Professor William Culver (SUNY), to describe the chairpersons group at the APSA; and Professor Pierre Patenaude from the Faculté de droit at

l'université de Sherbrooke, to talk about the teaching of political science in institutions like his own where it does not have a separate faculty status.

We also discussed matters relating to financial restraints at universities (focusing on Henry Jacek's (McMaster) creative accounting techniques!); the role of the chairperson; new positions available in the field, and so on. Although we were unable to obtain an SSHRC grant for our meeting, the universities and departments provided the funds to permit more than 30 chairpersons to attend.

INTERNSHIPS PROGRAMMES

As your President, I had the pleasure of attending the annual dinner for the Parliamentary Internships programme at the House of Commons restaurant. A short address to 200 tycoons and politicians was a daunting experience, but in my discussion with MPs and interns, I was able to reinforce my previous impression of how very important this programme is, not only for the students, but for our profession as a whole. The comments I heard were very enthusiastic. Donors and recipients alike acknowledged readily the benefits of the PIP. The internships provide not only excellent training and education, but also open doors for subsequent careers. I was very pleased to meet former students of mine, now graduates of PIP, holding important and impressive positions in a variety of fields. The accolades I heard for PIP Director Bob Jackson (Carleton), were numerous. He has done an outstanding job with the programme and I am pleased to express our gratitude publicly. Michael Atkinson (McMaster) will be the CPSA representative, other than the Programme Director, to the Selection Committee. You will note that a new pattern has evolved: the Board and the Programme have agreed to the principle of regional rotation of this function. We are grateful to Agar Adamson for having filled it for 84/85 and to Barry Cooper (Calgary) for 83/84.

What Bob has done at the Federal level is repeated in the other such programme we sponsor: The Ontario Legislature Internships Programme. Fred Fletcher (York) has agreed to serve a second three-year term as Director. The Board's request that he stay on was an easy decision to arrive at: Fred has done an excellent job and has had particular success this year in raising funds in the private sector, in expanding the number of interns, and in providing them with a most enriching experience. This vitality of the two internships programmes is rewarding to all of us: as departments face increasingly difficult financial restraints, as tuition fees increase, and as prospects of academic employment are anything but bright, at least in this area our Directors have been able to move ahead.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES

All associations occasionally have to adjust their procedures to changing conditions and new challenges. Your Board of Directors at its November 1984 meeting voted to tidy up our rather cumbersome practices with regard to major appointments. We found that some people had three year terms, some four, some one, and some other variations. The question of reappointments was also irregular. The Board decided that in future all major appointments will be for a three-year term, with an extension of a further three years if agreeable to both parties. After six years, the Executive will establish or act as a review committee to assess the needs of the position and to make a new appointment. Incumbents will not be disqualified from reapplying.

A Committee (Chair: Ken Carty, UBC; Jean-Pierre Gaboury, Ottawa; and Don Smiley, York) is also considering some changes to our Constitution. Particularly, it

