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Council Establishes Committee on the Status of Lesbians and Gays in the Profession

At the April 11, 1992, Council meeting, on the recommendation of

September 1992

the Task Force on the Status of Gays and Lesbians in the Profession and the Administrative Committee, the APSA Council established a new Committee on the Status of Lesbians and Gays in the Profession as a new standing committee in the Association. The Committee will formally

begin work on January 1, 1993.

Last fall, the Council created the Task Force to prepare a charter for a permanent committee. President James Q. Wilson appointed Jean Elshtain to chair the task force, and Mark Blasius, L. Sandy Maisel, and Sarah Slavin to serve with her on it. The Task Force drafted both a proposed charter and a background report, which were adopted by the Council.

The proposal adopted by the Council is as follows:

Proposal of the Task Force on the Status of Gays and Lesbians in the Profession and the Administrative Committee

February 14, 1992

The Administrative Committee and the Task Force on the Status of Gays and Lesbians in the Profession join in recommending:

1. That the American Political Science Association establish a Committee on the Status of Lesbians and Gays in the Profession;
2. That the Council of the Association appropriate sufficient funds to meet the costs of the operation of the Committee during its first year and for subsequent years;
3. That the Committee consist of five members appointed by the President of the Association to staggered three-year terms;
4. That the Committee be charged with articulating and promoting a policy of non-discrimination against and collegiality towards lesbians and gays in the profession of political science.

In light of this general charge, we further recommend that the work of the Committee, once established, include, but not be limited to, the following goals:

- a. to undertake an empirical study of the current status of lesbians and gays in the profession, culminating in a report to the Council and distribution to the membership;
- b. to explore the need for a senior political scientist with *ex officio* status on the Committee to serve as a resource for the Committee and as advisor to individual political scientists and departments regarding issues of non-discrimination and collegiality;
- c. to underscore that research about lesbians and gays in politics should be judged by standards ordinarily used for evaluating scholarship in the discipline;