

Council Approves Free One-Year Membership for New Ph.D. Students

The APSA Council approved a new program to offer free one-year memberships for first- or second-year Ph.D. students. The Association and graduate departments would team up to provide the memberships, with the doctoral programs supplying APSA with an accurate list of names and mailing addresses for their first- and second-year Ph.D. students and also splitting the costs of the referred students' memberships.

The Council believes offering students free Association memberships at the start of their doctoral studies will help speed their integration into the profession. Secondary goals are to have faculty in Ph.D.-granting departments encourage their students to join APSA and to enlarge the pool of potential life-long Association members.

Second-year Council member Eileen McDonagh of Northeastern University proposed offering the free memberships at the April meeting of the Council. University of North Carolina professor and APSA Treasurer James Stimson worked with APSA staff over the summer to iron out the details and came forward with McDonagh's proposal in August. The full Council approved

the measure with minor amendments.

The Council was also briefed on a proposal to extend free subscriptions to the *Personnel Service Newsletter* to graduate student members. However, no action was asked for or taken at the August meeting.

Currently, the Association offers several benefits targeted at student members. These include:

- lower membership dues
- dissertation awards
- minority identification and fellowship programs
- regular placement reports
- a web page for graduate students, "The Graduate Student Connection" (www.apsanet.org/opps/grad)
- graduate student travel grants to the Annual Meeting
- eJobs and the Annual Meeting placement service
- articles of particular interest to graduate students in *PS*
- programs of particular interest to first-time teachers, like the syllabi project, the Coalition on the Academic Workforce, and the Preparing Future Faculty program
- two special receptions at the Annual Meeting
- a soon-to-be-published guide to finding nonfaculty jobs.

ence department at University of Oklahoma. Panelists included David Breaux, Mississippi State University; Anne Costain, University of Colorado, Boulder; William E. Hudson, Providence College; and Barry Rundquist, University of Illinois, Chicago. The conference was on Wednesday's Professional Day held during the APSA Annual Meeting.

The primary catalyst of the discussion was the report from the Committee on Education and Professional Development on how the profession can address the preparation and placement of political science Ph.D.s and support the professional development of newly appointed faculty. Department chairs and faculty are invited to review "Department Responsibilities for Doctoral Programs and Employment in the Discipline: A Report of the APSA Committee on Education and Professional Development" online (www.apsanet.org/about/chairs/responsibilities.cfm) and send comments and suggestions to dsp@apsanet.org.

The objective of the report is to strategically facilitate departmental initiatives and activities on behalf of doctoral professional education and continuing professional development of new faculty as well as to help prospective Ph.D. students make informed decisions when choosing a doctoral program and to assist new faculty in learning about prospective employers. The committee's principal suggestions for accomplishing these objectives were to create (1) a voluntary "roster" of Ph.D. departments and the efforts they report making to train doctoral graduates for their scholarly and faculty responsibilities, and (2) a voluntary "register" of departments indicating which provide support for the career development of their junior faculty and what kind of support is offered.

Information collected for the roster and registry could be used to develop guidelines for the types of resources departments should make available to students and faculty.

The participating department chairs favored the objectives of the proposed programs, but recommended modifications in the design and implementation. The Committee is revising the report in response to the suggestions.

2000 Conference for Political Science Department Chairs

Panelists and department chairs from over 30 graduate and undergraduate departments participated in an intriguing discussion of departmental responsibility for professional training and career success at the 2000 Conference for Political Science Department Chairs. The co-

chairs of the conference were Charles Johnson, chair of the Committee on Education and Professional Development and of the political science department at Texas A&M University, and Ron Peters, chair of the Departmental Services Committee and of the political sci-