

Memorandum

To Mr. H. E. Brakebill
Executive Vice Chancellor

Date: September 26, 1973

From: Gerhard Friedrich
State University Dean
Academic Program and Resource Planning

Subject: Systemwide Membership in the Inter-University Consortium
for Political Research

Recent questions and developments concerning the ICPR caused the Division of Academic Program and Resource Planning to prepare the attached document. I wholeheartedly endorse its conclusions. The proposed solution would, I believe, forestall further unpleasantness with the Chancellor's Council of Presidents on this topic.

Gfh

Attachment

cc: Mr. D. Dale Hanner
Dr. Lee R. Kerschner
Dr. Robert O. Bess
Dr. Laurence Baker
Mr. Louis V. Messner
Dr. John K. Foote
Dr. Frank I. Jewett
Mr. Charles H. Wilmot

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Memorandum

To: Dr. Gerhard Friedrich

Date: September 24, 1973

From: John K. Foote



Subject: Inter-University Consortium for Political Research

I have watched, with increasing concern, the actions and correspondence related to systemwide membership in the Inter-University Consortium for Political Research (ICPR). Apparent distortions regarding purposes and arrangements related to this instructional support service have crept into recent communications. It is my hope that a review of our involvement with ICPR may help regain a clearer perspective and produce a genuine, constructive solution.

The concept of a systemwide membership originated with some of our faculty members who had access to Consortium materials and services through the individual memberships of their home campuses. Noticing that they possessed some of the same data bases, they sought ways to avoid further duplication of expenditure and at the same time expand the availability of the materials to other campuses. Concurrently, the ICPR became interested in developing the use of its materials in undergraduate curricula. An ad hoc group of faculty and the ICPR sought assistance from the Chancellor's Office in achieving a viable and efficient arrangement.

Consultation between ICPR and Chancellor's Office representatives resulted in an agreement on price and services. It was determined that the annual \$30,000 fee for system membership represented a savings of \$46,100 over the cost of individual memberships for all of the 19 campuses--a substantial difference even if not all campuses would elect to join the Consortium. The proposal was taken to the Chancellor's Council of Presidents in June 1972. They endorsed systemwide membership and agreed to pay the 1972-73 fee from campus O and E funds.

Subsequent efforts to provide funding on a regular basis in the 1973-74 budget failed. In September 1973, the CCOP again endorsed systemwide membership and agreed to pay the 1973-74 fee from campus O and E funds. It was made clear at that meeting that in the future some other funding method should be developed. However, a recent in-house memo indicated that no systemwide funds for ICPR will be sought for 1974-75.

Two misunderstandings appear in correspondence regarding the fiscal aspects of our ICPR membership. One president has apparently expected Chancellor's Office money from the very beginning, although no such prospects were in fact suggested for 1972-73. Rather, the possibility of systemwide funding was presented for ensuing years, although again no promises were made or could have been made, and the possibility of continued campus support was also advanced. The second misunderstanding views campus membership as a voluntary act. Such an arrangement is not feasible operationally, since there is no way to prevent any campus from using those ICPR data sets which are in computer files that can be accessed through either the timeshare or batch processing networks. Furthermore, the withdrawal of only a few campuses erodes the potential for cost savings achieved by systemwide membership, and increases the share of the other campuses.

Thus, in dealing with the issue of future funding for ICPR, the decision lies between continuation of the systemwide membership or a return to individual campus memberships. In this connection, a brief examination of the instructional values of the materials may be useful.

The 1972-73 academic year may be described as a "start-up" period for the systemwide use of ICPR. Data bases have been acquired, computer programs have been written for both time-share and batch process networks, workshops for faculty have been conducted with funding from innovative program moneys, and some use of the State University Data Center facilities has been made by students in their coursework on several campuses (over 1,700 calls upon ICPR data sets at the State University Data Center alone). In addition, individual campuses have made use of ICPR materials on local computing facilities and rewritten course syllabi to include such materials in 1973-74 coursework. Both local and systemwide activities support the

contention that classroom use of ICPR data sets will mount significantly in the current academic year, perhaps to be limited by the capacity of our computer networks.

The Annual Report of the faculty group overseeing systemwide activities indicates that ICPR materials found classroom use not only in the discipline of Political Science, but also in Economics, History, Psychology, Sociology and Speech Communication. Among the 100 faculty members who attended workshops were representatives of the following disciplines: Administration of Justice, Anthropology, Education, Geography, and Management. The wide interest evidenced by these lists strongly supports the conclusion that ICPR materials will become increasingly important in the curriculum.

The importance of ICPR to instruction in the social sciences and the advantages of a systemwide membership lead me to urge that steps be taken to fund the membership fee for 1974-75 in a manner that does not "inspire" presidential reluctance. A means toward this end might be to augment each campus O and E fund by the required amount so that when the campuses are billed no other program will be curtailed or sacrificed to make possible the campus remittance.

JKF:ln

Attachments

cc: Dr. Frank Jewett
Mr. Charles Wilmot