Annual Report
of the
Social Science Research and Instructional Council (SSRIC)
for the 1981-1982 Academic Year

The objectives of the SSRIC are to encourage the use of quantitative methods
in the teaching of the social sciences, to support and disseminate social science
data to students and faculty in the system, to encourage the development of
computerized projects in the system and to support and implement projects which
encourage the use of quantitative skills among the students and faculty in the
California State University system. The organization, composed of faculty rep-
resentatives from each of the campuses, holds three formal meetings and informal
discussions as needed through the year. There are two standing committees, the
Questionnaire Committee (QC) and the Decisions on Faculty (DOF). The QC,
consisting of three members from the Council, facilitates formal discussion
with the Field Poll during the year. The DOF selects faculty for the University
of Michigan Summer Training Programs.

Formal relations with the Division of Information Systems (DIS) and the Council
are carried out during the year with the Chair of SSRIC and relevant members
of DIS. During the three annual meetings the entire Council and representatives
from DIS meet to review and develop projects and to discuss new hardware and
software for the system or for individual campuses.

The meetings and the work of the council are very effective and highly task
oriented. The campus representatives act as information disseminators to the
local campuses on new programs or data bases for students and faculty.

Both DIS and the campus representatives maintain and disseminate computerized
data bases. This structure provides an effective link between DIS and the
system faculty interested in the use of computerized data bases.

The first meeting of the 1981-1982 year, held in the Division of Information
systems in Long Beach, was one of the most informative that the council has
experienced. It covered important topics related to changes in the procedures
for using the library and software facilities on the new machines. The major
focus of the two day meeting was the use of the Cyber equipment recently
acquired by CSUC. There was also a discussion of local Cyber problems with
DIS personnel. Plans were made for the 1982 spring student research conference
at CSU, Dominguez Hills. Other points of discussion included the Field Poll
Faculty Fellowship, the student internship program and questionnaire submission
procedures.

The February, 1982 meeting of SSRIC at CSU, San Francisco, featured an excellent
presentation by faculty at CSUSF to the council on the teaching of quantitative
methods in introductory American government courses. A subcommittee was formed
to revise a faculty development proposal to be conducted during the summer.
The main objective of the proposal was to provide a two week training program

to faculty who had shown an interest in the use of computing but who knew virtually nothing about statistics or the computing facilities. This proposal will be implemented in the summer of 1983. Additional plans were discussed to develop a set of instructional modules which would explain the use of research designs and the accompanying statistics and procedures. It is planned that these modules will be permanently written on the computing system so that students and faculty can easily access them. Much work needs to be done since at least 15 faculty have written modules.

Finally, there was considerable concern raised by SSRIC about the planned removal of the Cyber 174 from the CSU system. The council concluded that this additional resource is vital for the continuance of an otherwise good computing system. When their Cyber 174 accounts are loaded out to their local Cybers, numerous faculty on the council estimated that there will not be enough room. As it stands, there is a diminution of space with the new machinery. An alternative to this impending problem might be to upgrade the local Cybers with additional disk capacity.
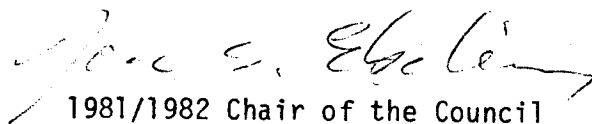
The last meeting of the Council for academic year 1982-83 was held at CSU, Dominguez Hills. Although students are finding it increasingly expensive to travel to the Student Research Conferences, there was a good turn-out of students from the Los Angeles and San Diego campuses. The conference was a success in that it provided students the opportunity to present their research in a formal setting.

Additionally, the Council recommended four faculty from the system to attend the Summer Training Program at the University of Michigan. Reports from those faculty indicate that they found the learning opportunities to be excellent. It should be noted that the Council has encouraged the DIS to acquire and use the OSIRIS SPSS interface package for the data bases coming from the Institute for Social Research at Ann Arbor.

The Council looks forward to the implementation of the Faculty Development project which it will offer in the summer of 1983. SSRIC will continue to provide a faculty link on each of the campuses for those students and faculty who wish to use the computing systems for research and instruction.

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Written and Submitted to the SSRIC by:

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