Preparing Future Faculty: An Introduction

Sheilah Mann, *Project Director for APSA in PFF IV*

The symposium presents the experiences of the political science faculty and doctoral students who led and participated in the Preparing Future Faculty Project, "Shaping the Preparation of Future Social Sciences and Humanities Faculty" through a grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies to the Council of Graduate Schools.

The Preparing Future Faculty Program was initiated in 1993 by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) and the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) to offer doctoral students training and experience in teaching undergraduates and the professional responsibilities of faculty. APSA, along with the American Historical Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Sociological Association, the National Communications Association and the National Council of Teachers of English were the disciplinary associations that collaborated with the AAC&U and CGS on this, the fourth externally funded project for preparing future faculty. Hence, the project's short name, "PFF IV."

For a full description of the project, the four political science "clusters" of Ph.D. departments in the project, and additional resources for the professional development of doctoral students, see: www.apsanet.org/about/chairs/pff/.

For a comprehensive review of the PFF programs, with a focus on the social sciences and humanities, see the forthcoming monograph, Preparing Future Faculty in the Social Sciences and Humanities: Programs that Break the Mold by Jerry G. Gaff and Anne S. Pruitt-Logan, 2002, Washington: DC, AAC&U and CGS.

Contributors to the this Symposium

Laura L. B. Border has directed the Graduate Teacher Program at the University of Colorado Boulder since 1985. Her interests include improved training for graduate teaching assistants, Preparing Future Faculty activities, and faculty and TA development. She is currently president elect of the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education.

Cheryl Brandt teaches political science as a member of the adjunct faculty at the College of Lake County in Grayslake, Illinois. She has been closely involved with the Preparing Future Faculty program at the University of Illinois Chicago since 2000, beginning as the student representative for the University's PFF Stearing Committee.

Susan E. Clarke is professor of political science at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She was the PI for the political science department's PFF grant and currently serves as the vice-chancellor for academic affairs.

Norman Furniss is professor and director of undergraduate studies in political science at Indiana University. He is working on a study of the politics of higher education with an emphasis on the idea of "profession" in academic life."

Nicole E. Johnson is assistant professor in the department of political science and PFF assistant coordinator.

Jenny Kehl is a doctoral candidate in the political science department at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She is a lead graduate teacher in political science, a program that supports discipline-specific teacher-training activities within 40 graduate programs on the Boulder campus.

Oneida Meranto is associate professor of political science and director of the Native American Studies program at Metropolitan State College where she teaches courses on American national government, Native American politics, and Latin American politics. She became part of the PFF when she recognized what type of benefits would develop with this partnership.

Constance A. Mixon is assistant professor of political science at Richard J. Daley College, which is one of the City Colleges of Chicago. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching recently named Mixon the "Illinois Professor of the Year." She serves as a PFF partner faculty member with the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she teaches a graduate seminar entitled "Teaching Political Science."

Tamar Sat-Net is a doctoral student in the political science department, and PFF student coordinator.

Dick Simpson is professor of political science at the University of Illinois at Chicago and director of the university's PFF Program. He is the author of 15 books and 80 journal articles, magazine articles, and film/videotapes. He recently receive the UIC Award for Excellence in Teaching, the premier teaching award at the university.

Alvin Thornton is associate provost of Howard University and director of the PFF program in political science.

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