

office, i.e., the USIA Office of African Affairs (AF), Office of American Republics Affairs (AR), Office of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EA), Office of East European and Canadian Affairs (WEU) and the Office of North African, Near Eastern, and South Asian Affairs (NEA) and relevant USIA posts overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the USIA contracts officer.

#### Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in proposal evaluation:

##### *Academic Review Criteria*

Proposals are reviewed by independent academic peer panels, with geographic and disciplinary expertise, which make comments and recommendations to the Agency based on the following criteria:

- (1) Reasonable and feasible project objectives which are clearly related to the project plan and activities.
- (2) Appropriate and feasible project plans and a detailed schedule which must include a well-reasoned combination of useful and appropriate teaching, lecturing, faculty development, curriculum development, collaborative research, and outreach. Activities should be clearly related to the project objectives, but not necessarily equally emphasized within the proposal.
- (3) Inclusion of exchange visits of a length which will further the project goals and activities. Visits of one month or less are kept to a minimum (except planning visits); visits of one academic quarter or semester are strongly preferred.
- (4) Promise of the development of expertise and the advancement of scholarship and teaching in the eligible academic disciplines or themes.
- (5) Quality of exchange participants' academic credentials, skills, and experience relative to the goals and activities of the project plan (e.g., language skills).
- (6) Institutional resources adequate and appropriate to achieve the project's

goals. Relevant factors are: the match between partners; the financial and political stability of the institutions; and availability of a critical mass of faculty willing and able to participate.

(7) Evidence of strong institutional commitment by all participating institutions, including demonstration of relevant and successful prior interactions between institutions and an indication of collaborative proposal planning.

(8) Evidence of a strong commitment to internationalization by participating institutions (i.e., developing other international projects and/or building upon past international activities).

(9) An effective evaluation plan which defines and articulates a list of anticipated outcomes clearly related to the project goals and activities and procedures for on-going monitoring and mid-term corrective action.

##### *Agency Review Criteria*

(1) Clear indication that the proposal seeks to establish a truly reciprocal and mutually beneficial institutional affiliation overseas or to innovate an existing affiliation. The benefits do not have to be the same for each partner or precisely balanced, but must be essentially mutual.

(2) Positive assessment of program need, feasibility, and potential impact by the relevant USIA post overseas.

(3) Academic quality, reflected in the academic review panel's comments and recommendations.

(4) Institutional and geographic diversity of the U.S. and overseas institutions (i.e., racial, ethnic, and gender composition of student enrollments; small underrepresented institutions, two-year/community colleges, and institutions in underrepresented geographic locations).

(5) The promise of sustainability and long-term impact which should be reflected in a plan for continued, non-U.S. government support and follow-on activities.

(6) Cost effectiveness (i.e., competitive cost sharing, sufficient number of participant exchanges relative to the project goals and plan).

(7) Institutional track record and ability. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

#### Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be

modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The needs of the program may require the award to be reduced, revised, or increased. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been fully appropriated by Congress and allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

#### Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about July 1, 1996. Awards will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: May 11, 1995.

#### Dell Pendergrast,

*Deputy Associate Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 95-12174 Filed 5-17-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M

#### Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy Meeting

**AGENCY:** United States Information Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** A meeting of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy will be held on May 17 at the national Foreign Affairs Training Center for 10 a.m.-12:15 p.m. The Commission will be given an overview of the National Foreign Affairs Training Center by Acting Deputy Director Barry Wells. At 11 a.m. the Commission will hold a panel discussion on Public Diplomacy Training. The panelists are Mr. Berry Wells, Acting Deputy Director, National Foreign Affairs Training Center; Mr. Gregory Lagana, Director, Training Division, USIA; and Ms. Diana Weston, Chair, Task Force in Public Affairs Training, Department of State.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Please call Betty Hayes, (202) 619-4468, if you are interested in attending the meeting.

Dated: May 12, 1995.

#### Rose Royal,

*Management Analyst, Federal Register Liaison.*

[FR Doc. 95-12173 Filed 5-17-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8230-01-M