

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM: SW

DATE: July 25, 1973

TO:

RWR		
JEB		

COMMENTS:

SUBJECT: RF Scholarships and/or Fellowships in Environmental Affairs

Preliminary talks with RWR have revealed interest in a possible program of Rockefeller Foundation fellowships and/or scholarships in environmental affairs, under the Quality of the Environment program. Some of our thoughts are recorded here as a basis for further talks within the Foundation.

Rationale

In the United States and internationally concern for the environment is building up and still is at an early stage. A number of new institutions, public and private, have been created in the last two or three years to deal specifically with environmental problems. Others such as universities and some independent research centers (i.e., Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Resources for the Future) are taking on new responsibilities related to the environment. Many are in the early stages of the development of their new interests and some are restructuring their organizations to give greater emphasis to environmental affairs. For the most part, new programs are being molded by individuals whose own backgrounds have been in one of the traditional disciplines; yet, many major environmental problems and issues are much broader in scope and progress toward their solution will involve unique mixes of biological, social, and physical science considerations intertwined with legal, political and administrative aspects. This suggests that preparation now of individuals for future leadership roles might be considerably improved by arranging for selected, outstanding young people to obtain unique training and experience -- tailored to these future needs as closely as present understanding will permit -- through a sustained Rockefeller Foundation scholarship and fellowship program in environmental affairs.

As the Foundation continues to assist institutions to develop new capabilities for dealing with environmental problems and issues, it could through

July 25, 1973

its established procedures plus some innovation embark on a new and unique program of training of U.S. environmental specialists. Such a program might enable those having in-depth training in one field of specialization to broaden their preparation in ways considered likely to make them of particular usefulness to society in the years ahead.

The Rockefeller Foundation has already provided for some new combinations of training at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels in past grants to other institutions. It also has enabled two physicists and one biologist to obtain wider experience through employment by The Rockefeller Foundation as program associates.

The Foundation has extensive knowledge of and contacts with institutions and authorities in the relevant scientific fields, as well as in areas of law and public administration. It has worked with and supported a number of the centers of specialization in environmental affairs both in the U.S. and abroad.

For these reasons, it would seem timely for The Rockefeller Foundation to explore seriously the desirability and feasibility of initiating a new scholarship/fellowship program in 1974 at least on a substantial experimental basis. It should be possible to reach a decision in time to present a proposal to the Trustees in December.

Possible Combinations of Training

There are at least two groups of basic disciplinary specialities which are important to resolution of critical environmental issues. First, there are the sciences, among which one could immediately list ecology, agriculture, forestry, chemistry or biochemistry, physics or biophysics, medicine and health, engineering, economics, sociology, fisheries and marine science. A second group of specialities would include for example, public administration, law and especially international law, and possibly political science and journalism; these are among the specialities in which leaders of the future may need capabilities. It is suggested that Rockefeller Foundation awards be limited to certain combinations of specialization involving the two groups of specialities (such as marine science and international law, or ecology and public administration). The particular combinations for initial emphasis by the Foundation probably should be identified by consulting with leaders in the various fields and with authorities at centers of specialization in environmental affairs. In looking at future needs, one should consult as much with potential users of such talent as with those who would produce it.

Fellowships or Scholarships -- or Both?

An early point to be resolved would be whether to include or provide for both scholarships and fellowships or to place emphasis on a single type of award. A few thoughts about each type of award are given for discussion purposes.

July 25, 1973

Under a scholarship program, individuals who had obtained a bachelor's or master's level degree (or even the Ph.D.?) might be enabled to add a totally new field at a different institution. In considering use of scholarships there are considerations which deserve attention:

1. Probably most candidates for scholarships would not be on the staff of existing institutions but would compete for awards as uncommitted individuals. Fellowships on the other hand might involve preparation for career advancement for persons already employed at important institutions and careers in the environmental field.

2. Training of scholars would be relatively costly if it is assumed that a person would require on the average a period of three years to add a second speciality and obtain a second higher degree. Such scholarships probably would cost a total of \$30,000 each at present prices.

3. Some scholars might require special preparatory training for a second field as a result of lack of prerequisites normally satisfied in undergraduate years. The Foundation would need to consider allowing for this preparation, determining if it would be worthwhile in the case of gifted individuals.

A Rockefeller Foundation fellowship program in environmental affairs might offer more flexibility in approach. For example:

1. Individuals who already have completed specialized training in one field might be given support for periods of experience and study in another field, say for one year to eighteen months, with no second degree involved. Or, in the case of individuals who can continue to work at their present job, taking on the new speciality through part-time study, the Foundation might be able to give partial support over a longer period of time. The Foundation could be quite flexible in its approach, tailoring its support to the needs of the individual and the institution for which he works.

2. Fellowships for study or work at foreign universities or centers could probably be arranged more easily than scholarships. And, if it is envisioned that the Foundation might help to create an international corps of environmental specialists then it probably would be preferable to concentrate at the advanced or fellowship level.

3. Arrangements for specialized study in environmental affairs might be made for university faculty or staff of other institutions while such staff members are on sabbatical leave. For these persons the Foundation would provide only partial support.

International Exchange

Some awards of fellowships or possibly even of scholarships might involve study at a foreign center where fluency in a second major language (French, German, Russian, Spanish, Chinese) might be required or acquired. The importance

July 25, 1973

of enabling some fellows or scholars to work or study abroad should be considered as possible contributions both to the Quality of the Environment and to the Conflict in International Relations programs of the Foundation.

Selection of Scholars or Fellows

It is suggested that if a substantial program of fellowship or scholarship awards is to develop that there be public announcements of the expected awards and that suitable announcements be sent to all institutions where outstanding candidates might be found, that awards be on a competitive basis, and that a panel of authorities be formed to make the selections.

Composition of the Panel

Persons chosen to serve on the panel should represent not only leading educators but agencies or interests which would be concerned with employment of trained individuals. Among members of the 10-12 person panel there might be:

1. Rockefeller Foundation officers representing the Quality of the Environment and the Conflict in International Relations programs.
2. Scientists representing important areas of specialization not represented on the Rockefeller Foundation staff in New York.
3. Authorities in areas such as law, public administration, journalism.
4. Representatives of major national and international environmental institutions.

The work of the panel might be facilitated by assigning responsibility to a RF-New York program officer for relationships with the panel, the development of an appropriate dossier on each candidate including checking of references if need be, and preparation of materials for consideration by the panel at periodic meetings. This New York program officer would of course work closely with the Scholarship Office which in turn would administer the program in the usual way. The Foundation's scholarship officer should sit in on meetings of the panel when selections are being made.

Periodic Workshop or Symposium

Awardees might be assembled annually or every two years for a period of three days to one week for intensive discussions of major environmental issues.

July 25, 1973

At such conferences the Foundation might arrange for a few leading authorities in the environmental field to join the discussions with the awardees, giving the awardees additional unique experiences and an opportunity to become acquainted with major personalities. With some imagination it should be possible to structure the agenda for each meeting in such a way that the conference becomes a highlight in the training period of the young people.

It is hoped that the above notes will serve to stimulate discussion of a possible Foundation program of scholarships or fellowships in environmental affairs. It is anticipated that this subject will be placed on the agenda of the QE Program Committee at one of its first meetings in the fall.


S. W.

msl

cc: JHK