

The Organization of the Social Sciences Computing Cooperative

Fall, 1989

The Social Sciences Computing Cooperative has developed over the past 20 years to provide computing services to organizations in the social sciences on the Madison campus. The Founding Member of the Coop was the Center for Demography and Ecology. The Department of Sociology and the Department of Rural Sociology joined together as sustaining members in 1984 with the Institute on Aging joining later in the same year. The Institute for Research on Poverty is the most recent member, joining in 1989. The Coop also serves the Applied Population Laboratory, the Havens Center for the Study of Social Structure and Social Change, the Letters and Sciences Survey Center, and the Mental Health Research Center although they are not sustaining members.

The Coop is supported by sustaining member organizations and their individual members. Components of the Coop's costs are paid directly by member organizations and their individual members. There is no fee-for-service charge. Thus, the Coop is the creature of its sustaining member organizations.

The Chairs and Directors of those organizations meet annually to review the expenses of the previous year, to consider the Coop's expenditure plan for the coming year and to undertake their part of its support. The admission of new organizations to the coop requires a unanimous vote of this group. An organization may leave the coop at will but must give six months notice.

Policy guidance and oversight of the Coop is provided by a Steering Committee made up of faculty representatives of the sustaining member organizations appointed by the Dean of Letters and Sciences on the recommendation of the relevant Chairs and Directors. Steering Committee members are appointed for a three year term.

The steering committee recommends one of its members to the dean as Chair of the Coop. The Chair is in charge of routine oversight of the Coop and is supervisor of the Coop's employees. The Chair receives one course released time a year from the College for this service and two month Summer Salary from the Coop. The Chair's normal term of service is three years with each year being reaffirmed to the Dean by the Steering Committee