

**Resolution on the elimination of major types of political science research from support by
the National Science Foundation**

Whereas, on March 20, 2013 the United States Senate approved an amendment by Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) to the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013 that limits the use of federal funds in the National Science Foundation's Political Science Program to topics related solely to national security and economic competitiveness;

Whereas, the Congress subsequently passed this bill with the Coburn amendment intact and which President Obama has signed into law;

Whereas, in 1950, when the United States Congress established the National Science Foundation, it wisely mandated that the merit of proposals for funding by the National Science Foundation would be evaluated by independent experts using only rigorous scientific criteria;

Whereas, this principle of expert peer review safeguards the honesty, integrity, and quality of the research process and has served the nation well in advancing research in the physical and life sciences, the social and behavioral sciences, and the arts and humanities;

Whereas, this process of expert peer review has become a model for the world-wide advancement of science in all fields;

Whereas, the elimination of any area of research on the basis of political motivation threatens the integrity of the rigorous scientific review process that the National Science Foundation and other relevant federal agencies use to fund research that advances knowledge and informs debate on public issues;

And, whereas, the restrictions place upon areas of political science research embodied in the Coburn amendment to the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013 is a "slippery slope" can serve as a precedent to render all scientific research potentially vulnerable to political considerations and pressure;

Therefore, the University Senate of Stony Brook University urges the Congress to support and maintain a scientific review process for research in political science through the National Science Foundation by repealing the Coburn amendment;

And further, the University Senate urges its members and members of the constituencies that they represent to contact their federal legislators and to insist that they take action to repeal the Coburn amendment and to ensure that review of research proposals to all federal agencies will be judged solely on their scientific merits and not on political consideration.