

December 5, 2001

Dr. Eamon Kelly, Chair  
National Science Board  
4201 Wilson Blvd., Ste 1225  
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Kelly:

The issues raised in the enclosed filing with an NSF Advisory Committee may need to be reviewed by the National Science Board.

I have forwarded a hard copy of the background documents to you, and copies also are available on [www.policyscience.net](http://www.policyscience.net).

The National Science Board has a right to be unhappy with the poor performance of social and behavioral sciences. The normal processes of researcher application, peer review, and scientific self-correction are not currently operating effectively in these areas. Eye-rolling about the state of the social sciences is common at our leading research universities, and I think that many leading researchers in the social sciences would share such judgments, in private, about the state of their disciplines. I have watched the downward cascade (in part, an unintended effect that began with political and civic limitations crafted by agenda-setting scientific bodies themselves - i.e., issues reviewed in the letter to Dr. Alberts) across two decades. Now, it is a mess: my advice is that Dr. Bradburn and his advisory committee will be unable to solve the problem at their level.

Yours truly,

(Dr.) Lloyd S. Etheredge, Director  
Government Learning Project

[Original sent via email, 12/5/2001]

cc: Drs. Colwell, Greenwood, Richardson, Jones

Attachment: Letter to Dr. Irwin Feller, 12/2/2001