Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession

The Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP) was extremely active in 1987. In addition to arranging technical sessions and social events at the annual and regional meetings of the economics associations, CSWEP updated and produced *Women in Economics*, a roster of women economists containing information such as employer, educational background, fields of specialization, and number of publications. Copies were sent to the chairs of economics departments that grant Ph.D.s for use in filling faculty positions, as well as to all CSWEP members. Many thanks are due to Joan Haworth, the Committee's Membership Secretary, and her staff for completing this demanding task on time, updating CSWEP's mailing list throughout the year, and preparing special tabulations of the roster for employers who requested them.

Another major activity was to publish three issues of the CSWEP *Newsletter*. This year, the *Newsletter* has continued to focus on helping younger faculty members advance their careers, with articles on topics such as searching for senior academic jobs and surviving the tenure process. Each issue also contained a description of a particular economist's current job or career path, a book review, and a listing of job openings. The Committee thanks Katharine Lyall, who is now arranging for articles to be written, and Toni Foxx, who is responsible for the *Newsletter*'s production, for the excellent jobs they are doing.

Following a presentation by Belle Sawhill (CSWEP's former Chair) on double-blind reviewing to the AEA's Executive Committee, Orley Ashenfelter (Editor of the *American Economic Review*) proposed examining the effect of single- vs. double-blind reviewing procedures using manuscripts submitted to the *AER*. The evaluation is being conducted by Rebecca Blank of Princeton University, with considerable cooperation from the *AER*'s staff. The Committee is encouraged that more information on this topic is being gathered, although we continue to advocate the adoption of double-blind reviewing as a matter of principle—primarily because it is fairer for all groups against whom discrimination may exist, such as economists at less prestigious institutions or women.

The project to examine differences in the career paths of men and women with Ph.D.s in economics, which is being conducted by Sue Berryman and Arthur Kennickell and funded by the Russell Sage Foundation, has made little progress this year because of a lack of access to confidential data that are maintained by the National Academy of Sciences. These difficulties have recently been resolved and empirical results should be available in 1988.

Two new projects were begun this year. To facilitate employers' use of the roster of women economists, Judy Lave will work with Joan Haworth and her staff to prepare listings of women researchers by field and years of experience. The appropriate listings will automatically be sent to employers submitting job announcements for the CSWEP *Newsletter*. To keep the information current, the data for the roster will be updated each year (using the AEA's mailing list and questionnaires sent to those already on the roster); we will continue to produce "hard" copies of the roster only every other year.

The second project stems from a suggestion by Alice Rivlin to examine the process by which sessions and papers are chosen for the AEA's annual meeting. In the past, presidents-elect have used somewhat different approaches, including various ways of encouraging participation on the program by broader groups of economists. Recently, both Robert Eisner and Joseph Pechman have been particularly supportive of CSWEP's goals and have expanded the Committee's responsibilities for arranging sessions. But do the characteristics of participants in the final program or of the authors represented in the *Papers and Proceedings* depend on the

way the meeting was organized? For example, does using a program committee matter? We will examine these questions using data about recent annual meetings.

Finally, the Committee thanks Belle Sawhill, who completed her three-year term as Chair this year, for her extensive contributions. For example, she provided the impetus for a serious examination of the effects of single- vs. double-blind reviewing. She also initiated and obtained funding for the project that is comparing career paths of men and women economists. Karen Davis, whose term also expired this year, contributed much as well. In particular, she took major responsibility for reviewing the papers presented at CSWEP-organized sessions at the last two annual meetings to determine which would appear in the *Papers and Proceedings*.

NANCY M. GORDON, *Chair*