



May 22, 2025

Dr. Adam Howard
Director, Office of the Historian
Foreign Service Institute
U.S. Department of State

Dear Dr. Adam Howard,

The American Political Science Association (APSA) is deeply concerned to learn that Dr. James Goldgeier's and Dr. Elizabeth Saunders' positions on the Advisory Committee for Historic Diplomatic Documentation at the State Department (the Committee), have been terminated without explanation or notice. Dr. Goldgeier, the former chair of the Committee, was nominated by APSA and served as APSA's representative on the Committee. Dr. Saunders was an at-large member of the Committee.

The Committee was established on a permanent basis by the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-138, 105 Stat. 647, codified at 22 U.S.C. § 4351 *et seq.*). The objective and scope of activities, as described in the Committee charter, is as follows:

"The Committee shall, in accordance with P.L. 102-138, Sec. 198, review records, and advise and make recommendations to the Historian of the Department of State concerning all aspects of preparation and publication of the Foreign Relations of the United States historical series, including the review and selection of records for inclusion in the series."

The law also stipulates that the Committee shall be comprised of nine members, six of which are to be appointed from a list of nominations submitted by six professional scholarly associations, including APSA (22 U.S.C. § 4356(a)). The Committee is required to meet at least four times per year (22 U.S.C. § 4356(d)) and to submit an annual report to the Secretary of State, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the House and Senate. Thus, the termination of these committee members' positions is a very troubling development that will adversely affect the work of the Committee and its ability to produce, in conjunction with the State Department's Office of the Historian, the *Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS)* series.

Please kindly provide an update on the status of the Committee and the schedule of the upcoming quarterly meeting. We are prepared to proceed with renominating Dr. Goldgeier (chair) and reinstating Dr. Saunders (at-large member), given their excellent service, expertise and experience serving on the Committee. Please advise on next steps so that we can ensure that the Committee's important oversight and documentation work can resume.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Mealy

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cc: Ambassador Brewer