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Prof. Bert Rockman
Chair
NAS Postal USO Study

Correction on USO Study

Last week, the *eNAPUS Newsletter* reported that the USPS engaged the National Academies of Science (NAS) to evaluate the universal service obligation (USO). When *eNAPUS* was posted, the only publicly identified member of the NAS team was John Strong, Professor of Finance at the College of William and Mary. *eNAPUS* erred in naming him as chairman of the NAS USO Committee. On Friday afternoon, the USPS notified members of the postal community, via email, that the NAS selected the entire USO team. The NAS apparently approved the team on June 4, but withheld their names. Last week, based upon information provided by the NAS, *eNAPUS* identified Prof. Strong as the Chairman of the project. Although Strong is a part of the 8-member USO Committee, he is not the chair. We apologize for the inaccuracy. According to the Friday afternoon USPS communication, the Chairman is actually Prof. Bert Rockman, Head of Purdue University's Political Science Department. Prof Rockman has written extensively on the Federal bureaucracy and on the American Presidency.

The Committee members include: Joel Aberbach, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at University of California at Los Angeles; Jan Brueckner, Professor of Economics at University of California at Irvine; John Strong, Professor of Finance at the College of William and Mary; Richard Waterman, Adjunct Associate Professor of Statistics at the Wharton School of Economics; Roger Noll, Professor Emeritus of Economics at Stanford University; David Moxley, Professor of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma; and Daniel Carpenter, Professor of Government at Harvard University.

A number of the Committee members have written on, or have been cited regarding postal issues. For example, in a 1985 paper prepared for the CATO Institute, Postal Board of Governors member and past chair James Miller cited Noll in arguing against the postal monopoly. Prof. Waterman has written on estimating postal costing. In his books, Prof. Dan Carpenter has touched upon the development of the Postal Service, and how some of its unique services came about. In addition, Prof. Brueckner has written on the airline industry and urban issues. Prof Aberbach is notable for his work in support of Congressional oversight of the Executive branch and Federal agencies. He has also co-written material with Prof. Rockman on American government. Prof. Moxley has written about community grassroots development, and has provided technical assistance to community organizations.

In sum, the NAS Committee seems to represent a wide range of views, and it will be interesting to see how the National Academies of Science Workshop on the USO (September 16 and 17) plays out. The NAS Committee is currently soliciting for research papers to be presented at the two-day conference.

National Association of
Postmasters of the U.S.

8 Herbert Street
Alexandria, VA 22305

Tel. 703-683-9027
Fax. 703-683-0923

www.napus.org