June 16, 2006

To the Community of Social Scientists,

We are so pleased to announce that the ANES Online Commons appears to have been a terrific success, so much so that we are happy to announce a change in our plans and an opportunity for you.

We have just passed the submission deadline and are still recovering from the last-minute flood of proposals that so many scholars submitted. Thank you!!

The Online Commons was designed to achieve two things: (1) to create an open and welcoming device for soliciting creative ideas for the ANES Pilot Study, and (2) to allow any interested researcher to post comments on others’ proposals that are submitted.

Because so many proposals were submitted at the last minute, and because it is clear that so many people were busily preparing their own proposals, many potential commenters have had no time to read the posted proposals and post comments prior to the official closing of the Commons yesterday evening.

So we have decided to extend the deadline for commenting on existing proposals for one week (until June 22), in the hope that as many of you as possible will be able to take some time to read proposals of interest to you and post comments on them, to help us in making our decisions.

Make no mistake: comments posted WILL get careful attention from the Board of Overseers and WILL have important impact on the decisions that will be made about what makes it into the pilot study.

Praise for ideas you think are good and constructive criticism of ideas you think could be improved will be much appreciated. Comments will be more compelling if backed up by (brief) substantive arguments, of course.

Once again, thank you so much for your hard work, which has surpassed our expectations and made the initial launching of the Online Commons a huge success for the community of social scientists interested in elections. We look forward to working with you all in the future.

Sincerely,

Jon A. Krosnick and Arthur Lupia
ANES Principal Investigators

PS – Don’t forget that the OC will open again in September 2006 to begin accepting proposals for what should be done during the ANES 21-month panel study and our 2008 face-to-face general election study.