

Interacting with Congress

Presented by:
Grace Cummings



Policy, Personalities & Politics on Capitol Hill



Policy



- Mission orientation vs. member agenda
- 535 different agendas
- **Everyone's idea of what policy is differs**
- Oversight of legitimate policy involvement
- Reelection
- Political Timing



Personality



- Human place
- **It is a very “clubby” place**
- Nature of personality matters
- Personality determines how an office functions
- Can be an arbitrary place
- Target interests



Politics



- Overall environment
- University/Foundation/NGO situation
- NSF situation
- Project situation

Personal Staffs

Staff members serve at the pleasure of the Member of Congress who hires them



Washington Office



- Chief of Staff
- Office Manager
- Press Secretary
- Legislative Director
- Legislative Assistant
- Legislative Correspondent
- Receptionist



District Office or State Office



- District Manager/State Manager
- Office Manager
- Chief Case Worker
- Case Workers
- Grants and Special Projects Director
- Field Representative(s)
- Receptionist



Committee Staffs

Staff members serve at the pleasure
of the Chair or Ranking Minority Member



Majority Staff



- Majority Staff Director
- Majority Deputy Staff Director
- Majority Analysts
 - Assigned specific issues
- Office Manager
- Receptionist

Minority Staff



- **Minority Staff Director**
- **Minority Analysts**
 - Assigned specific issues
 - Few in number than majority staff