

MINUTES
WPSA BUSINESS MEETING
Friday, March 20, 2009
Vancouver Hyatt Regency Hotel, Regency C
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Andrea Simpson at 5:22 PM.

I. Greetings

A Native American Blessing was given by Andrea Simpson. A French Greeting was given by Amy Mazur.

II. Awards

A. Dissertation Award

The award went to Dr. Thomas Masterson from Claremont Graduate University for his dissertation: "Workforce Diversity in California Community Colleges, 1988-2007." The award was presented by Peter Yacobucci.

B. Pi Sigma Alpha Award

The award went to Dr. Margaret Farrar of Augustana College for her paper, "Amnesia, Nostalgia, and the Politics of Place Memory." The award was presented by John Dyck.

C. Betty Nesvold Women and Politics Award

The award went to Elizabeth Ben-Ishai of Albion College for her paper, "The New Paternalism: Forces, but not Free." The award was announced by Pei-te Lein on behalf of Sue Thomas, but Dr. Ben-Ishai was not present to accept the award.

D. WPSA Best Paper on Latina/Latino Politics

The award went to Dr. Jessica Lavariega Monforti of the University of Texas, Pan American, for her paper, "The Awakening of the Sleeping Giant? Latino Political Participation and the 2006 Immigrant Rights Protests." The award was presented by Dr. Lisa García Bedolla.

E. WPSA Best Paper on Blacks and Politics

The award went to Dr. Sharon Wright Austin of the University of Florida for her paper, "Black Political Incorporation in Miami-Dade County: Do African Americans and Haitian Americans Share a Sense of Linked Fate?" The award was announced by Andrea Simpson on behalf of Chris Parker, but Dr. Austin was not present to accept the award.

F. Charles Redd Award for Best Paper on the Politics of the American West

The award went to Elaine B. Sharp of the University of Kansas for her paper, "The Politics of Eminent Domain Reform." The award was announced by Philip Mundo but Prof. Sharp was not present to accept the award.

G. PRQ Best Article Award

The award was presented to Kathleen Dolan of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee for her March 2008 article, "Is There a 'Gender Affinity Effect' in American Politics?" The

award was presented by Julie Novkov. An honorable mention was announced for Eric McDaniel and Christopher Ellison for their June 2008 article, "God's Party? Race, Religion, and Partisanship over Time." Drs. McDaniel and Ellison were not present to be recognized.

H. Travel grants

Andrea Simpson announced recipients of travel grants from the Canadian embassy to attend the WPSA made to five graduate students: Mirya Holman of Claremont Graduate University, Rayna Flye of UCLA, Benning Tieke of Northern Arizona University, Danvy Le from UC Irvine, and Alessandro Cagossi from West Virginia University. All except Alessandro were present to be recognized.

III. Reports

A. Vancouver Convention

Program Chair Shaun Bowler announced that over 1000 people are registered for the conference, meaning, "we're bigger than Vegas, baby." Gave thanks to those who helped, including honor roll listed on website.

Andrea Simpson thanked the University of British Columbia for their donation of \$2,000 and the work of members of the department, especially Alan Tupper, Rebecca Monnerat, and Lesley Burns.

Local arrangements Chair Alan Tupper thanked everyone for coming.

B. Political Research Quarterly

Amy Mazur noted that there is an excellent synergy between the WPSA, Sage, and the University of Utah. PRQ is a successful, growing and diversifying journal. Submissions are up and review time is down to below 50 days. This year's volume included mini-symposia on formal theory and political development and race. The acceptance rate is down to 14%. Staying at four issues/year but number of pages per issue was up last year and will also be up for this year. Online database and archive is now complete. Also available online are annual report and online first copies of forthcoming articles, the latter of which helps with tenure and with the backlog.

C. Executive Director

Andrea Simpson introduced Elizabeth Moulds by noting that this was her last meeting. Executive Director Elizabeth Moulds then gave a brief report, noting the association's strong finances, plans to meet at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco April 1-3, 2010. The hotel is across the street from the Ferry Building and a nice location. In 2011 we will meet in San Antonio, 2012 in Portland and 2013 in Vegas or Los Angeles.

Dr. Moulds then gave an illustrated history of the WPSA stemming from her review of the archives. Included in the presentation were the first (one-page) constitution from 1947, the

first photo (1951) of the founding fathers, and other historical documents. Also shared history of the WPSA since 1946, when the concept was hammered out in the club car headed back from the APSA in Cleveland. Early decisions included deciding what “western” meant and if the coast was included, whether to have the conference in Utah even though they did not allow indoor smoking, and whether non-westerners should be allowed to chair panels. Later decisions included role of women and diversity issues. 1998 was the year of a historic party in Luis Fraga’s suite, including a bathtub full of ice and drinks. In 2006 we had the first official dance with John Garcia as DJ. In our 62-year history, we have moved from telegrams to Blackberries, trains to planes, all-white male governance to diverse leadership. A March 2009 WPSA leadership photo shows this (Andrea Simpson, Shaun Bowler, Elsa Favila, and Betty Moulds).

Following this presentation the association gave Dr. Moulds a standing ovation.

D. Treasurer

Andrea Simpson announced that Gilbert St. Clair will be making his last report as treasurer, after many years of service. She presented St. Clair with an engraved crystal paperweight and thanked him for keeping the association solvent and in good shape.

St. Clair noted that with pride and pleasure he can say we continue to be financially solvent, and that the reserve will cover contingencies. He reported that we had a beginning balance of \$282,022.04, revenue of \$106,927.33, and operating expenditures of \$101,896.62, for a net gain of \$5,030.71 and a closing balance of \$287,052.75.

E. Nominating Committee

Barbara Norrande presented the Nominating Committee slate, including:

Vice President and Program Chair: April 4, 2010 - April 23, 2011

Manuel Avalos - University of North Carolina, Wilmington

Treasurer: March 22, 2009 – February 28, 2012

Michael W. Bowers University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Executive Council: March 20, 2009 – February 28, 2012 (vacancy replacement, Region A)

Pei-te Lien, University of California, Santa Barbara

Executive Council: March 1, 2010 – February 28, 2013

Region A: Sean Kelly, California State University, Channel Islands
Ted Lascher, California State University, Sacramento

Region B: Lisa Magaña, Arizona State University

Region C: Melody Rose, Portland State University

Nominees present included Manuel Avalos, Pei-te Lien, Sean Kelly, Ted Lascher, and Melody Rose. Michael Bowers and Lisa Magaña were not present.

IV. New Business: Election of Officers

Andrea Simpson called the vote and the slate was approved by voice vote with no dissensions.

V. Introduction of Incoming WPSA President Shaun Bowler and Incoming Program Chair Christine DiStefano

Andrea Simpson introduced new WPSA President Shaun Bowler and presented him with the presidential gavel. Shaun Bowler then introduced new Program Chair Christine DiStefano.

VI. Introduction of Incoming Executive Director Richard Clucas

Bowler introduced Richard Clucas, who has a very hard act to follow as the replacement for Executive Director Elizabeth Moulds. Clucas was the unanimous choice of the Executive Council.

Richard Clucas greeted the members and noted that he will be calling Moulds and Elsa Favila often as the transition is completed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Shaun Bowler at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa R. Michelson, Acting Recording Secretary