

MINUTES

WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thursday, April 1, 2010
San Francisco Hyatt Regency Hotel
Room: Hospitality Room
8:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Members Present: Shaun Bowler, Christine DiStefano, Michael W. Bowers, Steve Nicholson, Melissa Michelson, Stacy Gordon, Kim Geron, Pei-te Lien, Arturo Vega, Julie Novkov, Sean Kelly, Ted Lascher, and Melody Rose

Ex-Officio Members Present Richard Clucas, Elsa Favila, Amy Mazur, and Matt Burbank

Members Absent: Andrea Simpson and Cornell Clayton.

Guests Present: Manuel Avalos, Noelle Norton, Leah Fargotstein, Peter Steinberger, Lisa Garcia Bedolla, Michael Jones-Correa, Stephen Stambough, Valerie O'Regan, and Gary Segura

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Shaun Bowler at 8:30 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Thursday, September 3, 2009 Executive Council Meeting in Toronto, Canada, were approved.

II. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report: Richard Clucas

Executive Director Richard Clucas gave a summary report of his activities since the September Executive Council Meeting in Toronto, Canada.

Planning for 2010 Convention:

Richard Clucas thanked Elsa Favila for her detailed and hard work on the 2010 San Francisco conference. He reviewed the hotel arrangements and the issues faced such as haggling with the hotel over corkage fees to monitoring the San Francisco hotel workers labor dispute. He noted the alternative planning and strategies the Executive Council considered when evaluating a potential labor strike. A strategy used to avoid potential problems included inviting the labor leader to speak as the Pi Sigma Alpha lecturer.

He noted that the number of preregistrants was approximately 1090, topping all registration records. There were 1300 names on the program and 30 more had registered on spot by Thursday morning. This is the best attended conference yet, with the most panels - #307 (in

2009 there were 264 panels and in 2008 214). He noted that revenue is up with over \$100,000 in preregistration.

Purchase of Projectors for PowerPoint –

Elsa Favila and Richard Clucas researched and discussed the cost/benefit of purchasing projectors for Power Points. In the end, the cost to rent from an outside vendor was much more costly in the long run than purchasing 20 projectors at \$400 each. With the screens, the total cost for owning our own WPSA projectors came to approximately \$20,000. We now own 3 palettes of projectors/screens and have to figure out storage and transport. Hotel will have to set up the projectors. Council members agreed that this will make the WPSA part of the modern world.

Change to SSRN –

The change to SSRN for paper posting turned out to be a major headache this year. APSA had moved to SSRN because All Academic (AA) become too costly. APSA had helped us to keep the costs down with AA when they subscribed. SSRN was a bit unorganized and had to be prodded. APSA says that once they work with the group they started to work more smoothly. APSA likes them now. Richard Clucas noted that his inclination is to stay with them, but monitor them closely. Several council members asked if we could let SSRN know of WPSA's dissatisfaction. Other's suggested that we study AA v. SSRN and gather data on success and failures of each. Data would be helpful in any communication or negotiation. One member noted that we could ask to view APSA statistics to help compare the two.

Conferences:

The 2013 conference contract is signed with Renaissance Hollywood, Los Angeles. Richard Clucas and Elsa Favila are looking at Seattle 2014 (Hyatt and Sheraton). 2011 is in San Antonio at the Hyatt Regency (\$169). The Local Arrangements Chairs are Sonia Garcia, Art Vega, Céline Jacquemin.

Journal Politics Groups and Identities

A contract with Taylor and Francis has been signed. Richard Clucas noted that he was excited about this and commended Shaun Bowler for his work. The publishers are very interested in the new journal too. There will be more discussion about the editor's position and timeline later in the meeting.

WPSA Newsletter

Valerie O'Regan and Steve Stambough will be producing the new WPSA newsletter. They will discuss the newsletter later in the meeting.

WPSA – long-term finances

Richard Clucas reviewed our long term revenues sources: Membership, PRQ, University of Utah. He wants to make sure we expand our financial base and expand the number of journals that we publish so that membership includes the PRQ along with other journals.

Maybe we should consider environmental political theory journal or other journals that fit into who we are as an association.

Miscellaneous routine tasks,

Richard Clucas reviewed the miscellaneous and routine tasks completed since the last meeting: award administration, financial training, database management, consideration of future plans, finance reports, San Antonio planning, work on 2014, moving and updating website because it was hosted by Cal State Sacramento to Portland State University – update the website too

B. Program Chair’s Report: Christine Di Stefano

Christine DiStefano thanked Betty Moulds and Elsa Favila for finding the hotel and the early preparatory work; she noted that Andrea Simpson and Shaun Bowler eased her into her duties as Program Chair; she thanked Richard Clucas and Elsa Favila for keeping her on deadline; she commended Lisa Garcia Bedolla and Melissa Michaelson for being great tour guide; and she gave Richard Clucas a big thanks for steering us through the labor situation while keeping political commitments and values of the group;

Christine DiStefano noted that there were 26 sections, 300+ panels. Among the 23 sections, 10 were female chairs/13 male/2 Latina/1 Latino/1 African American male. She noted that she wants to work to do better at increasing the diversity among section chairs. She also wants to put more roundtables in that showcase local political issues (i.e., at this meeting there is the roundtable of Prop. 8; roundtable on labor politics - President of United Local #2 – Mike Casey). She noted that the largest section was – political theory with 80 panels; race and ethnicity 20; comparative politics 18; judicial politics 16, environmental theory 15. These numbers clearly show us our academic constituencies.

Alert: DiStefano noted that getting and keeping Chairs and Discussants is getting to be a larger problem. We need to find ways to change the ethos rather than making more stringent requirements. Think creatively about addressing this problem.

C. Local Arrangements: Lisa García Bedolla/Melissa Michelson

The Local Arrangements Chairs, Lisa Garcia Bedolla and Melissa Michaelson, noted that a full description is online about where to go in San Francisco. They also noted the difficulty with the labor situation and said they were greatly supported by the WPSA Executive Council and Richard Clucas because it isn’t always the best thing to avoid a city with labor disputes. Bedolla and Michaelson pointed out the “Dining with Justice Guide” that is available online. Shaun Bowler thanked the Local Arrangements Chairs for their excellent work.

D. Nominating Committee Report: Peter Steinberger

Peter Steinberger presented the nominating committee report for presentation at the 2010 business meeting. The only addition to the slate from the meeting in Toronto is that the Paul Gronke has stepped down from Region C and it was recommended that Jeanne Morefield, Whitman College should be elected to take his place for the next year.

- VP/Program Chair: Peregrine Schwartz-Shea, University of Utah
- Recording Secretary: Noelle Norton, University of San Diego
- Council Region A: Karthick Ramakrishnan, UC Riverside
- Council Region A: Louis DeSipio, UC Irvine
- Council Region B: Rudy Espino, Arizona State University
- Council Region C: Jeanne Morefield, Whitman College April 2, 2010 – February 28, 2011 (vacancy replacement, Region C)
- Council Region C: Chris Parker, University of Washington

A few members on the Executive Council asked questions and raised concerns about the overall diversity in the Council. Melissa Michelson suggested that more women of color need to be solicited to be on the Executive Council. Other members of the Council noted that the whole council is relatively diverse when looking at the entire slate. It was noted that Anna Sampaio will be the nominating committee chair next time and will keep this issue in mind. Richard Clucas noted that he will send email out about the gender rotation of the Program Chair and President each year and will remind all to seriously consider gender and diversity when deciding whether to decline a council nomination.

E. Financial Report: Michael Bowers

Michael Bowers presented the financial report. He noted that we are \$30,000 under budget on all items except for one – travel. We paid for travel for 3 people while Richard Clucas was transitioning into his position as Executive Director. Bowers reviewed the WPSA financial situation and noted that we are very comfortable and will make a tidy sum again at this conference, thanks to Richard and Shaun for helping us through the labor issues because conference would not have brought in money with cancellation.

F. PRQ Report: Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton

Amy Mazur reported that the PRQ is doing very well. Cornell Clayton could not attend the conference this year. Mazur noted that they are both glad to be editors for 2 more years. She also noted that the PRQ moved up 20 places in impact ratings for 2008 and that it is all about citations. She noted that several of the PRQ articles were picked up in the press and that there was a podcast of a discussion on an article appearing in PRQ. The podcast is available through the journal's website. Sage increased our pages to 30 text pages – starting March 2010. The PRQ is now receiving 400 new manuscripts a year and there is an acceptance rate of 13 to 14%. Mazur and Cornell continue to work on diversifying the journal (i.e., there is now more normative theory, more intersectionality, 8% up on political theory; and American Politics has gone down to 36%). There is a redistribution of articles to match the discipline. By diversification – the citations are going up! Mazur noted that the PRQ was still good on turn-

around time and in fact the leader in the field. There was a question about backlog – one Council member noted that the turn-around time was quick, but that publication time was about 1.5 years out. Mazur notes that she will look into the backlog question and put a response about backlog in future PRQ reports. She wondered if there is a bias in perception because PRQ is so quick to review, and gives perception that the print time is longer. Another Council member noted that the Editorial Board needs to have more members from comprehensive universities on the editorial board, where teaching is the primary purpose, and wondered why there aren't many now. Mazur noted they will revisit the editorial board this year and will ask Executive Council about who should be added to the editorial board.

Sage report – Leah Fargotstein presented the 5 year impact factor and noted PRQ articles have long lives and tremendous impact within 5 years. Thomason is doing a new formula for impact, which includes taking out self citations. Page 7 – of her report pointed out conferences that they attend, let them know if there are some we should add for their study.

III. Old Business

A. Future Convention Sites: Elsa Favila and Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas gave an overview of our options for future conventions.

- 2011 - San Antonio, April 21-23, later than usual
- 2012 - Portland – Marriot – March 22-24
- 2013 - LA – March 28 – 30
- 2014 - Possibly Seattle – Richard Clucas noted that he needed Council advice about which hotels to pursue in 2014. Both the Sheraton and Hyatt are under consideration. The Sheraton meeting rooms are better; but the Hyatt bedrooms better. Sheraton cost equals \$179; Hyatt \$199. He noted that the Hyatt is generally dark and not people friendly.
- 2015 - Discussion about whether to go to northern or southern California, Phoenix, the mountain west, or even Mexico. Council members noted that some places are better in March and others in April, Denver might be better in April for example. Other Council members noted that venues like Mexico might not be cheap and we need to consider university budgets. All acknowledged that we do pick places for WPSA budgetary draw and because of slim university budgets and that Seattle will be good for that in 2014. Others noted that a return to San Francisco or San Diego might be appropriate for 2015.

ACTION ON ITEM: Arturo Vega moved to let WPSA Executive Director Richard Clucas negotiate a hotel in Seattle for the 2014 meeting. The motion was seconded by Manny Avalos and approved unanimously.

ACTION ON ITEM: Julie Novkov moved to let WPSA Executive Director Richard Clucas negotiate and SIGN a contract for the 2014 meeting in Seattle. The motion was seconded by Manny Avalos and approved unanimously.

ACTION ON ITEM: Arturo Vega moved to let WPSA Executive Director Richard Clucas explore San Francisco and San Diego for the 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Julie Novkov and approved unanimously.

B. PGI Contract and Editor Search: Shaun Bowler

Shaun Bowler announced that there would be an editor search for the new journal, *Politics Group and Identities*. He also noted that the contract had been signed with Taylor and Francis and that a new MOU with University of Utah for the PRQ would be put in place. Michael Jones-Correa is the chair of the search committee and he has been working with Matt Barreto, Andrea Simpson, Manuel Avalos, Amy Mazur, Shaun Bowler, and Richard Clucas on the search process. The publication date to start the new journal is 2013. There was no further discussion on the RFP for the editor search.

ACTION ON ITEM: Arturo Vega moved to accept the RFP for the journal *Politics, Group and Identities* to begin the search for an editor search. The motion was seconded by Julie Novkov and approved unanimously.

A discussion about the process for the search for an editor followed the acceptance of the RFP. Shaun Bowler noted that there will be a meeting at the APSA prior to the beginning of the conference. Interviews will be held on Wednesday and the Executive Council will make a decision on Thursday at the APSA.

ACTION ON ITEM: Ted Lascher moved that the procedure for selecting the editors be approved, noting that this is the first regional journal created in 60 years. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Several questions and concerns about the journal were raised following acceptance of the process for selecting the editor.

- The cost of the journal was deliberated and the fact that there will be financial obligations before the journal brings in revenue was noted.
- There were questions about paper award winners and concerns about undermining PRQ. Should award winners get into PGI? Many council members agreed that the consequences for PRQ must be considered when weighing award winners and publication of award winners in the new journal.
- There were several questions about where the editor or editorial team will come from. Many were worried about whether institutions will be able to support an editorship. Is the Council prepared for the possibility that applications might not be great – because institutions can't support the journal? Shaun Bowler noted that one reason that 2013 is date for getting editors and support is to assure that we find an editor.
- There was discussion to help guide the team seeking an editor. Teams out of the WPSA region should be okay; teams from different institutions are okay.
- There was a question about why the Editors Search Committee appears to be all American Politics scholars when the journal covers many subfields and that the committee and the Council need to be attentive to that.

- One Council Member noted that the new journal should be sharing reviews with PRQ. AJPS and APR used to do that. PRQ and PGI might want to consider that structure – teaming/sharing with the good articles. Editors should also reach out to the other general interest journals to let them know they might be a good place to refer good articles.

C. WPSA Newsletter, Introduction of Editors: Shaun Bowler

Shaun Bowler introduced Valerie O'Regan, and Steve Stambaugh, Cal State Fullerton as the new editors of the WPSA Newsletter. The newsletter will be a new outlet for the association. The newsletter will include photos, relevant bios, association news, subgroup outlet, western “spin,” news on western research, thought pieces about archival research and resources around area (i.e., Nixon Library), short articles about research innovations and resources with western slant, news on what we have learned about western ballot measures, and maybe a western innovative educator approach. Also, there may be room for book reviews, specifically textbook reviews. The newsletter will be “released” in August and early September (2010). It will be released three times a year in the future. Shaun Bowler asked for comments on style, processes, links and any other suggestions or impressions.

Comments from Council members: Members noted that they loved the newsletter idea; a member suggested that the citations for those who win the WPSA awards should be included in the newsletter; another member suggested that symposia might be a good idea, for example a symposium on the budget crisis and its effects on educational institutions.

Richard Clucas thanked new WPSA newsletter editors for their innovation and hard work.

D. Proposal to Create Permanent Sections: Ange-Marie Hancock

This item was deferred because Ange-Marie Hancock was not at the meeting when the item was introduced.

E. Policy on Operation of Status Committees: Shaun Bowler

Shaun Bowler noted that the WPSA needs to formalize the policies and status of committees with written guidelines. The first reading of this proposal was made at the Executive Council meeting in Toronto in September.

ACTION ON ITEM: Julie Novkov made a motion that the Executive Council would adopt formal written policy rules for WPSA committees. The motion was seconded by Stacy Gordon and was approved unanimously.

F. Audio Visual at WPSA Conferences: Richard Clucas/Elsa Favila

This item was fully discussed under the chairs report. Julie Novkov suggested that we get a brief report from the APSA on how the AV worked at the last meeting and which sections use AV. The APSA opted not to put in AV in political theory panels, but now theory would like AV and they will probably need to buy more. What did the APSA learn about purchasing AV?

IV. New Business

A. Budget: Michael Bowers

Michael Bowers presented the proposed budget. It is \$9,000 under what was budgeted last year because postage, the president's discretionary fund, printing, supplies, and taxes and fees are all down in the 2010-2011 budget. Otherwise, the budget is the same as previous years.

Bowers made a few comments about the changes in the budget: he noted that we are no longer going to need to double pay Executive Directors next year since Betty Moulds has fully retired; the president's discretionary fund has been cut because it simply wasn't being spent; and there was a trip to North Carolina this year to see about buying a journal that will not be necessary next year.

ACTION ON ITEM: Arturo Vega made a motion to pass the 2010-2011 budget. The motion was seconded by Stacy Gordon and approved unanimously.

B. Committee on the Status of Asian Americans in the Discipline:

Shaun Bowler noted that he wants to consider developing a Committee on the Status of Asian Americans in the Discipline. He noted that the committee would represent research in the profession. Richard Clucas noted that he thought we needed to be sure that we wanted a status committee similar to the other status committees in the association and not a caucus. Pei-te Lien suggested that we further explore the kind of committee that would be set up.

ACTION ON ITEM: Melissa Michelson made a motion to approve the exploration of setting up a status committee on Asian Americans in the discipline. The motion was seconded by Arturo Vega and approved unanimously.

C. Addressing Labor Disputes at Future Conferences: Christine Di Stefano

Christine Di Stefano noted that it would be a good idea to establish a committee that designs a set of policies to handle labor disputes associated with conference sites. The issue is very complex because we have competing interests as an association - protecting association finances and remaining supportive of labor when in dispute. She proposes that we establish a committee to look into these issues and report back next year on this very complex issue. Julie Novkov suggested that we actually extend the purview of the committee to consider other "siting" issues like going to states with anti-same sex marriage laws. She suggests that we establish a Politics of Siting Committee which will look at a range of siting issues. She noted that the size, composition, and full charge of committee should be left to the discretion of Christine De Stefano – and that she report back to us at the APSA.

ACTION ON ITEM: Kim Geron made a motion to establish a Committee on the Politics of Siting. The motion was seconded by Steve Nicholson and approved unanimously.

D. Discussion on Limiting Conference Proposals to One Paper: Christine Di Stefano -

Christine DiStefano noted that there is confusion when people propose to present two or more papers. Panelists at the WPSA pull out of one section when they find that they were accepted for another and panels thought to be complete are no longer complete. There was some discussion about the source of too many panel withdrawals at the last minute. Our current policy is that you can be on as many as three panels: 1) present a paper; 2) present a co-authored paper; 3) and serve as discussant or chair. Should we be like the APSA where you can submit two papers and only accept to present one? Melissa Michelson noted that we need to make sure that our submission and acceptance process match. After further discussion, Christine DiStefano noted that she will make a proposal for streamlining our proposal and acceptance policy and we can discuss the pros and cons at the APSA.

E. Telecommuting to WPSA conferences: Christine Di Stefano

Christine Di Stefano noted that Richard Clucas had a request to allow teleconferencing at the WPSA. We had a panelist who did not have sufficient funding and couldn't afford to fly from England. How do we feel about telecommuting/teleconferencing for people in this situation.

ACTION ON ITEM: Julie Novkov made a motion to form a committee to explore telecommuting to a WPSA conference. The motion was seconded by Steve Nicholson and approved unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 by Shaun Bowler.

Submitted by Noelle Norton, Acting Recording Secretary