

Minutes
WPSA Executive Council
Thursday April 17, 2014
Sheraton Seattle Hotel
Cirrus Room
8:00 – 11:45am

Members present: Gary Segura, Victoria Farrar-Myers, Louis DeSipio, Carrie Currier, Michael Bowers, Tony Affigne, Mary Caputi, Michael Genovese, Martin Johnson, Celeste Montoya, Gabriel Sanchez, Chris Shortell

Ex-Officio Members Present: Mark Button, Richard Clucas, Elsa Favela, Amy Mazur, Peregrine Schwartz-Shea, Eric Waltenburg

Members Absent: Mark Bevir, Regina Branton, Jeanne Morefield, Jessica Lavariega-Monforti, Kim Nalder

Guests Present: Manuel Avalos, Kevin Bruyneel, Christine di Stefano, Leah Fargotstein, Summer Forester, Stacy Gordon, Jose Marichal, Michelle Phillips, David Shlosberg, Steve Stambough

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 8:15am by Gary Segura

Individual Introductions

I. Approval of Minutes from the August 2013 WPSA Executive Council meeting.

Motion to approve by Michael Bowers, seconded by Victoria Farrar-Myers.
Unanimous approval.

II. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report: Richard Clucas

Thanks given to those who helped organize the conference. He outlined the five main things he has been working on:

1. Convention Planning
 - a. Increasing revenue & outreach: reaching out to potential exhibitors, acquiring info on new books, contacting Alaska airlines to get discounted fares, securing artwork by Ed Fox & tribes in the Pacific Northwest. Not successful in getting high tech firms to display at the conference, or with securing deals with car rental companies (the benefits on car rentals were not as strong).
 - b. Planning next year's conference in Las Vegas – Mark Lutz and Tiffiany Howard from UNLV will do local arrangements.

Conference is April 2-4, 2015 at Caesar's Palace and rooms are \$185/night. Conference rooms will not be on the casino floor level, which should help with smoke.

- c. Future meeting proposals for 2019-2020 are for the Hyatt in San Francisco and the Hilton in Long Beach.
2. Publications – talking to PGI on the timeline for the new editors and working with the editors on the transition at PRQ.
3. Money/finances – getting people to exhibit and working on establishing the procedures for investing, naming local awards and endowments/gifts. He reported that index funds, similar to what other organizations use, seems like the best option.
4. Administrative details –writes agendas, works with committees on deadlines, works with info technology folks (QR code now on program), and helped with the details for the Joel Olsen award.
5. Observations at the Southern Political Science Conference – Richard reported he was on a roundtable on the future of political science associations. He raised several issues for consideration:
 - Think about who we are as an organization and how we want to grow
 - How will revenue be impacted by more open access journals
 - Noted large associations have been losing members. APSA has been losing people but still had 15k submissions to the annual meeting. He noted some sections only had acceptance rates of 10% and many people may be finding more luck at other meetings and are looking for other venues. We might consider providing more workshops, etc. to see if we can attract some of these individuals.
 - Gary Segura asks if we can get info on acceptance rates. And raises the concern that panels are slotted based on attendance at the previous meeting and it is hard to grow under this system.
 - Christine di Stefano said number of panels may be pegged to membership in the actual section in future years and this is about to change.
 - Technology conversation – all organizations are trying to use these more (social media) but some skeptics on how useful/utilized these resources can be.
 - NSF funding (an issue we return to later in the meeting)
 - Things the Southern does different from us – more meeting times (starts earlier, ends later, fewer breakout sessions). Also a buffet dinner for people who have been part of the organization (former presidents/ex-members of executive) to thank them – discussion on would we want to do something similar (not a dinner necessarily but something to involve people after they have left the board).
 - The future of the southern panel appeared less certain about what the organization should be about – they discussed trying to be a mini-APSA with a stronger focus on quantitative methods but others raised issues about trying to be more inclusionary

- Southern's 2016 meeting in Puerto Rico is designed to attract more Latinos but discussion if this location would really be attractive to Latino scholars.

At this point in time the discussion was opened to discuss thoughts on strategic planning for the association and how we would like to grow. Gary initiated the discussion by asking us to consider what do we want to be, what are we doing, and how do we want to rethink the purpose of the western.

- On the issue of how to embrace emeritus members? Michael Genovese suggested a cocktail meeting to bring leaders together to thank them for their past service and to also bring in graduate students.
- On the issue of how to keep our unique identity and attract more members: Victoria Farrar-Myers stated we need to work more on outreach to some underrepresented or "homeless" groups of scholars and engage in more smart growth keeping what is unique to us and building our relationships. Richard Clucas warned to be careful not to grow so large we become impersonal and Gary Segura mentioned that the Midwest at one point made a decision to cap the size to keep it from becoming too impersonal. Gary stated the challenge before us is that we are not as connected to the doctoral institutions in our region and that we must find ways to reach out to graduate students who are the future of our profession. It is noted that many of the Research I institutions within the region are not sending graduate students here unless they study one of the fields the Western is known to specialize in (on issues of color and political theory). Richard Clucas noted approximately 30% of the membership is graduate students, but we do not have data distinguishing which are in MA or Ph.D. programs. Chris Shortell argued one problem in attracting graduate students is the timing of the conferences with Midwest, Western and ISA all in the same few weeks. Celeste Montoya agreed the conference in conference idea is a good way to reach out to people and she has appreciated the informal structures of mentoring that are present at the Western. We should consider how we need to reach out to more junior faculty who feel isolated and not just graduate students. Tony Affigne noted that the Western is a strong conference and we are doing better than other regions and we are strong in reaching out to people of color so we should celebrate our strengths. Christine di Stefano suggested we should look at the Western as a place to hone in on these areas of specialty and not worry about trying to attract everyone.
- The general sentiment was perhaps a task force could be created and both Victoria and Louis are charged with raising this issue again for further discussion.

B. Program Chair's Report: Victoria Farrar-Myers

- Victoria thanked everyone who helped with the conference and encouraged the use of the WPSA hashtag and other social media.

- She noted the WPSA website now has a letter on it regarding sponsorships – we were not successful with the technology companies this year but in future years hope we can get more sponsors.
- She also noted there was no Pi Sigma Alpha lecture this year, despite asking nearly a dozen people. Two potential speakers waiting until the very last minute before pulling out. Gary noted that they tried very hard to get a speaker but this just did not work out.
- Good news on the conference is that based on preregistrations of 1053, Seattle will be our largest conference to date.

C. Local arrangements: Christine Di Stefano

Christine thanked her colleagues and graduate students at the University of Washington who worked hard on the conference and discussed two unique opportunities here – the organized boat cruise and the special rate at the museum showcasing African-American history and culture.

D. Nominating Committee Report: Stacy Gordon

Council nominations continued to focus on including diversity in terms of institution type, etc. Vote will be at the business meeting.

E. Financial Report: Michael Bowers

- Assets began with \$369,152.64 and the convention and membership continue to be our major sources of income. One item to note on the budget sheet is that Routledge gives us \$6000 to support PGI, which we then give to Purdue for PGI, therefore it is just a pass through in our organization and it is included on the budget for transparency.
- Net assets are \$414,423 and we have increased by around \$45k in surplus, which is not as much as we think. The asset base is essentially our cushion in case an emergency costs us to cancel the meeting, which would have profound impacts on the budget.
- The Hollywood convention income was our best to date in terms of revenue.

F. PRQ Report: Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton

Amy sends Cornell's apologies but he will be here later this evening. Amy presented their final report as editors of the journal, and thanked everyone for their support and work on the journal for the past eight years. The report discusses the impact factor of 1.044, ranking of 48 out of 157 political science journals, and other measures of success in the journal. The turnaround rate went down to 69 days. New submissions are up, and the acceptance rate went down from 18% to 11%, which is on par with other journals and they have moved the backlog down to 6 months, which is normal/good. Other successes include the mini-symposia, which represent the excellence and diversity of the western. The transition to the new editors is going well and the transition date is July 1.

G. PGI Report: Eric Waltenburg

Eric offers thanks to the people who have helped and supported the journal. The journal is averaging 7-8 new research manuscript submissions per month, and turn around time is under 70 days. A typical issue has research articles, and two other sections: dialogue and a review essay. The dialogue section has scholars talking together and replicating what you might see at a conference. Review essays are generally an examination of 3-5 recent books on a topic area and a pair of authors to analyze and discuss the issues those pieces address. The journal is starting to develop a backlog to give them a reservoir to draw from for future issues. Every section is peer reviewed – even the dialogues section.

Michelle Phillips, the Taylor and Francis, representative offered a report on how they introduce new journals to the market (they include them in sales packages that libraries will use in the first years). However, the most important/largest subscriber demand generally comes from the membership. Gary asked what do we expect when the journal is no longer part of these packages? Taylor and Francis expects the adoptions to double or triple at the end of the rollout process. Currently it was 10 new subscriptions last year, which is great, and they hope it goes to 50-60 new subscriptions per year or up to 100, which would be better.

H. Western Newsletter Report: Stephen Stambough

They are starting to think about succession planning. Usually they push for a newsletter just before the submission deadline before the conference. The newsletter highlights deadlines and other things like PRQ. In the future they will push PGI as well, highlight a few of the themes, address how to reach out to more community college people (two editions on pieces with that), and this year also had articles on teaching American politics explicitly in Texas. Reminder that we can highlight outreach and other efforts that can bring more attention to the things we do. In future planning they are considering doing book reviews, and will highlight a few student poster sessions.

I. WPSA Committee on Information Technology: Jose Marichal

Focus has been on using the tools from last year (twitter, Facebook, blog called the new west, an official hashtag, etc.). They added information on social media (twitter handles, etc.) to the registration forms this year to create lists of people with twitter accounts to build a network of connected people. In the future they would like to have a cascade to project tweets to the wall by the registration table and perhaps even allow tweeters to broadcast in each room – which could bring up unwanted comments while a panel is going on but raises some questions or options for how we might do panels in the future. Other items to consider were setting up online searchable panels with licensing options (concern was raised about what a “lifetime license” would entail considering companies may have short lifespans and what those costs might be), creating pop-up panels where people can tweet out an idea perhaps after a thought-provoking panel and give people a chance to further the discussion, and more of a website presence (overhauling the website to have features like myapsa for the western). Discussion of perhaps a survey to figure out more of what the members and the organization are looking for in terms of

technology to better determine how to invest their efforts. Finally there was discussion on the committee's tenure and routinizing tools that can be implemented each year. They were thinking that a two-year service commitment would be appropriate and that they need to institutionalize the tools they implement in order to build a base of followers of that particular tool each year. This is in reference to creation of the virtual brown bag, which was only instituted one year before the committee member who had originally proposed it rolled off the committee and others did not pick it back up.

III. Old Business

A. Future Convention sites: Elsa Favila and Richard Clucas

For 2019 three sites were considered: Long Beach, San Francisco and San Jose. San Jose did not produce a workable offer. The options are the San Francisco Grand Hyatt at \$199/night, which is a little expensive but they are agreeing to many of the details we are asking for, and the Long Beach Hilton which is in a good location and they are also accommodating our requests. Both locations are willing to offer the deals in 2020 as well. The recommendation was for San Francisco in 2019 then Long Beach in 2020 to reflect the pattern of alternating locations between north and south, but Richard will pursue both locations in the event one is not accommodating with the final contract. There was discussion on the language of union issues in the event of labor unrest and insurance to cover losses in the event of an earthquake and it was decided that given the low cost for earthquake insurance (less than \$1000) we should consider purchasing this for future conferences with similar hazards.

Peregrine Schwartz-Shea raised a concern about the timing of the conference, which is now always on Easter, and the religious conflict it presents with the Easter holiday and to those who observe the Passover Seder (when it conflicts). In the discussion, the rationale for choosing Easter weekend is that it tends to be cheaper for negotiating hotel rates. For comparison Elsa noted that a non-Easter weekend for Long Beach was quoted at \$30-40/night higher. The strategy moving forward was to do a better job of tracking when the conference conflicts with the Seder and to document the cost differentials for non-religious holiday weekends so we might be more sensitive to how these issues affect attendance.

Victoria Farrar-Meyers made a motion to authorize the staff to negotiate contracts for 2019 and 2020. It was seconded by Mary Caputi and passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. Budget: Michael Bowers

There are a few areas where we have cut back: insurance, postage, printing, supplies, taxes and fees because these have been far below estimates for a

while. We had a misunderstanding and went over by \$250 on awards but this should be fixed for the future. The dinner for the outgoing president and local arrangements committee in Hollywood was over budget due to Hollywood being more expensive than anticipated. Overall we overspent by \$2500-2600 this year. A motion to approve the budget was made by Louis DeSipio, seconded by Mary Caputi, approved unanimously.

B. PGI editors search: Richard Clucas

The original time frame for the editors was intended to be four years with an ending time set for December 2015. However, this would not be a full four years of editing the journal's content since the first two years were in helping develop the journal. Eric said they could continue until December 2016 if we agreed and that in the future he has new colleagues that would be interested in continuing the editorship at Purdue in the future. There was discussion about what the future options are: the original agreement for the editorship allows the Council to extend the editors' terms for two years without having to conduct a search. If a new search is conducted, the new editors (or the Purdue team) would be given a four-year term. This issue about the future of an extension or a new competition was rolled over to the August/September council meeting.

A motion was made by Mary Caputi to extend Purdue's current term to 2016, seconded by Louis DeSipio, passed unanimously.

C. Policies on Awards, Gifts and Endowments: Manuel Avalos, Richard Clucas

In order to have named awards we need gift and endowment policies. The endowment is really a quasi-endowment fund because we will be allowed to get at the principal if needed. A motion was made by Michael Bowers to approve the policy for awards, endowments and gifts as proposed by Richard and reviewed by the Investment Policy Committee. Seconded by Mary Caputi, and approved unanimously.

D. WPSA Endowment Fund: Manuel Avalos and Richard Clucas

A motion to approve the WPSA Endowment Fund Policy by Louis DeSipio, seconded by Mary Caputi, and approved unanimously.

E. Joel Olson Award: Richard Clucas

Joel Olson's work as a scholar and political activist was discussed and the paper award proposed would be a scholar-activist award not a paper award. This award was placed on hold for some time because we had to have the right policies in place before establishing it. A motion to approve was made by Tony Affigne, seconded by Celeste Montoya, and approved unanimously.

F. WPSA Lifetime Achievement Award: Richard Clucas

There was discussion to name the award after Betty Moulds, but Richard will first check with her that it is okay and come back with a more formal proposal at a later date. The members of the council expressed support for the award, but no formal action was taken at the time.

G. Selection and Terms of Investment Policy Committee: Richard Clucas

The Council considered items G to I at the same time. These three items proposed policies for the selection and term for the Investment Policy Committee, the Committee on Information Technology (sometimes referred to as the Social Media Task Force) and the editors of *The Western* newsletter. The proposal for the investment policy committee called for five members, four of whom would be appointed by the President and the fifth would be the Treasurer. The proposal called for setting their terms for three years. The proposal for the Committee on Information Technology called for a five-member committee appointed by the President for two-year terms. The proposal for *The Western* editors called for the President to appoint an individual editor or a team of editors to serve for four-years. The proposal called for allowed for the President to reappoint the editors or editors for additional two-year terms. In addition, the proposal called for allowing the editor to appoint others to assist in the editorial process as needed. A motion was made by Louis DeSipio to bring together G, H, and I as a package for approval. Seconded by Mary Caputi and passed unanimously.

H. Selection and Terms of Committee on Information Technology: Richard Clucas

See item G above.

I. Selection and Terms of The Western editors: Richard Clucas

See item G above.

J. Discussion Item: Federal Support for Social Science Research: Richard Clucas

The discussion was about cuts to funding for social science research. Gary Segura abstained from the conversation and Victoria as in-coming president took responsibility for running this aspect of the meeting. The question was what should we be doing and how should we be engaged on this issue as an organization. Amy Mazur suggested we join with other associations in a coalition and Victoria suggested we also provide some representation so we can speak up for our own concerns. The suggestions included trying to advocate with members of Congress in our region and to organize a campaign to contact our members about the situation. The consensus is that we will organize a task force to discuss who to target for an information campaign to ensure our efforts will be effective and we charge Richard Clucas to work together with other groups in APSA to put together an information

resource that can be disseminated to our membership by newsletter, website and email informing people what they can do and how they can take action.

Gary Segura thanked everyone for his/her service. Louis DeSipio made a motion to adjourn, Michael Bowers seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 11:57am.

Minutes recorded by Carrie Liu Currier, Secretary.