

**WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, September 2, 2010**  
**Hotel: Marriott**  
**Room: Park Tower 8209**  
**6:15 – 7:15 p.m.**

Members Present: Manuel Avalos, Noelle Norton, Steve Nicholson, Melissa Michelson, Kim Geron, Pei-te Lien, Julie Novkov, and Jeanne Morefield.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Shaun Bowler, Richard Clucas, Elsa Favila, Cornell Clayton, and Amy Mazur.

Members Absent: Christine DiStefano, Michael W. Bowers, Stacy Gordon, Arturo Vega, Sean Kelly, Ted Lascher, Lisa Magaña, Melody Rose, and Matt Burbank.

Guests Present: Peregrine Schwartz-Shea , Gary Segura, John Francis, and Eric Moran

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Manuel Avalos, who served as acting chair. Avalos notes that items on agenda will be altered for time purposes – PGI Search will be discussed first.

**I. Approval of Minutes:**

Julie Novkov moved to approve the minutes, Pei-te Lein seconded. The minutes were passed unanimously.

**II. Reports**

**A. Executive Director's Report. Richard Clucas**

Executive Director Richard Clucas is working on the following items: 1) the San Francisco follow up; 2) San Antonio meetings, April 21-23, 2011 Hyatt Regency – and the planning is going well; 3) signing a future meetings contract with Seattle, which is scheduled for April 17-19, 2014 with a rate of \$170 at the Sheraton; 4) the PGI Search; 5) the PRQ Editors search; 6) Website changes and the overall WPSA move to Portland State.

Clucas also noted that the San Antonio participation deadline is September 24<sup>th</sup> and that he is looking into the 2015 meeting. He is also considering alternative funding sources and how we might use the web to do that (i.e., donations, sponsorships)

**B. Local Arrangements: San Francisco Final Report. Elsa Favila**

Elsa Favila noted that we had record participation at the San Francisco meeting.

**C. Local Arrangements: San Antonio. Sonia Garcia**

Sonia Garcia, the chair of the local arrangements committee, was not in attendance, but Richard Clucas said that the local arrangements have been going

very smoothly. Clucas noted that the other two members of the local arrangement committee are Arturo Vega and Celine Jacquemin.

**D. Nominating Committee Report. Anna Sampaio**

Richard Clucas reported that the Nominating Committee was moving forward on putting together the complete slate of nominees and that Anna Sampaio was unable to attend this meeting.

**E. Membership Report. Elsa Favila**

Elsa Favila reported that it 2010 was a successful convention year. WPSA numbers numbers went up by 100. There are now 1357 members and there were 1276 in 2009.

**F. PRQ Report. Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton**

There were 500 submissions in 2010. This number indicates that the submissions have doubled over the last 3 years. The PRQ also has added podcasts and mini-symposium to their offerings. Two more podcasts are planned. They noted that the “impact” rating of the PRQ is up significantly.

III. **Old Business – (Note: first item discussed at the September meeting for purposes of time)**

**A. PGI Editor Search. Michael Jones-Correa**

Committee members for the PGI search are the following: Michael Jones–Correa (chair), Amy Mazur, Manny Avalos, Matt Baretto, and Richard Clucas. Michael Jones–Correa summarized the committee work:

- the search committee was commissioned in Spring 2010 at the SF meeting.
- it has been difficult task to conduct an editor search during a recession
- the committee wants a team that reflects Western interests, so they searched widely and reached a wide range of people. They talked to those who might be likely candidates given their institution, or at places that had clusters of individuals who might serve as team.
- there were some signs of interest from several institutions, but individual and financial limitations led several potential editors from submitting proposals. Still, we have now received one very good proposal from Purdue. The editorial team in this proposal would consist of four Purdue scholars (Rosalee Clawson, James McCann, Eric Waltenburg and Laurel Weldon) and three scholars from other universities (Lisa García Bedolla, University of California, Berkeley; Ange-Marie Hancock, USC; and Kerry Haynie, Duke). Lead editorship for the journal will rotate among the four Purdue scholars, with Rosalee Clawson serving as the first editor. This particular team has a history of working well together; it is the right time in their collective careers; and, they have coherent vision of what journal should look like. This team has strong support from their home institution.
- The team of editors sees this structure as a proactive and that it would immediately draw papers that would be published in initial iterations of journal;

they would have an active book review section; invite author response to the reviews – more interactive.

-The Search Committee noted that the relationship between the main team of editors and the three outside editors is unclear.

-The editorial team presents a loose editorial relationship with the outside editors and that they need not be present to make decisions on all articles. This is a concern to the search committee.

-The Search Committee agrees that it is strong proposal; recommend that we accept proposal because waiting a year for more proposals will not likely to lead to more proposals.

-Committee Concerns about the Purdue proposal include: 1) the editorial team is all white mid-westerners (2 women; 2 men); 2) they need to have a plan to move to single-editorial team; 3) the new journal needs to reflect strengths and interests of the WPSA – gender, race, political theory and that one of the editors need to be a theorist.

Recommendations: 1) accept proposal and team on the condition that the editorial team should be elaborated more – hence conditional acceptance; 2) consider approaching one of three external editors and ask one to defer for a year and find a strong political theorist.

Pei-Te lien had questions about the editorial board composition and attention to Asian American interests. Michael Jones-Correa responded that the Purdue team has begun putting together an editorial board that would address her concerns. They have 20 people in mind, that include some from other disciplines, some international scholars, and some that will add a strong comparative component to the journal.

Melissa Michelson had questions about the number of editors. Peri Schwartz-Shea encouraged the search team to ensure that there would be clear decision rules that are made transparent to authors to avoid concerns about seven editors

Amy Mazur noted that an editorial team provides a way of maximizing interest in the journal. She suggested that we can see if their model works over a four year term and consider whether this model works. But, she agrees that the decision making function needs to be clarified.

Michael Jones-Correa noted that the team is excited about doing this journal.

Manny Avalos noted that the editors know and like each other and are receptive to concerns and criticism from WPSA.

Melissa Michelson noted that she has concerns about whether this team can work well with their outside associate team if they don't know them well. She also stressed that the team really needs to work out the decision rules to avoid this problem.

Manny Avalos answered some questions about the international/ comparative aspects of editorial team.

**ACTION:**

Accept proposal from Purdue, but recommend that editorial group 1) clarifies the structure of editorial team: a) how does team make decision; b) how are decisions made mechanically to assure perceptions of fairness; 2) add an even more prominent political theorist to the editorial team.

Julie Novkov moved to accept proposal; Melissa Michelson seconded. The action passed – unanimously.

Congratulations to the search committee.

**B. Convention Siting. Richard Clucas**

2015 – San Francisco and San Diego are under consideration. The Executive Committee suggested that Richard Clucas go with April 2010 vote to look at both cities.

**C. Environmental Policy Theory Award. Richard Clucas**

Richard Clucas noted that while the WPSA Executive Council had approved a motion creating the award at the March 19, 2009, meeting, the council needed to pass a motion incorporating the award into the association’s formal policies.

**ACTION:**

Melissa Michelson moved to add the award to the policies; Julie Novkov seconded. Pass Unanimously.

**D. Policy on Status Committees. Richard Clucas**

Richard Clucas noted that the WPSA policies section number incorporated in the original proposal when this was adopted was inaccurate. He asked for a vote on whether this award should be moved from section 8 to section 9.

**ACTION:**

Melissa Michelson moves to put the Environmental Policy Theory Award in appropriate section; Julie Novkov seconded. Passed unanimously.

**IV. New Business**

**A. Mid-Year Budget Report. Michael Bowers.**

Michael Bowers noted that the WPSA is staying within budget; and in fact should be coming in below budget.

**B. PRQ Editor Search. Richard Clucas**

Richard Clucas reports complexities with editorial search and would like to come back with a report later and decision on how to handle it. Christine DiStefano has asked Richard Clucas to ask PRQ Editors to stay another 2 years (Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton) and they have indicated a willingness to stay for two more years, but their university is affected by finances. So, the editors have put in request to Sage, Utah and/or WPSA to pay for a graduate assistant. Richard Clucas noted that the University of Utah and Sage should share in the cost. He also noted that we need longer dialog with all parties involved and he will bring back ideas and a proposal in April, 2011.

**C. New WPSA Logo. Richard Clucas**

A new logo was sent around on email and responses indicated that most Executive Council members like the new version.

**ACTION:**

Melissa Michaelson moved that we approve the new logo; Julie Novkov seconded, passed unanimously.

**D. Non-Academic Groups as Exhibitors. Manuel Avalos**

Richard Clucas asked if it was okay to have local artisans at the conference in the exhibit room. There were several questions about how tasteful and whether this kind of exhibit would be emphasizing local artistry or not. The Executive Council noted that Richard Clucas needed to find out what kinds of art would be displayed.

**ADJORNMENT:**

Kim Geron makes motion to adjourn; Julie Novkov seconded – unanimously passed.