

**MINUTES  
WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday, September 3, 2015  
San Francisco, California  
Location: Hilton, Green Room  
12:30 to 2:00pm

**Members present:** Louis DeSipio, Julie Novkov, Michael W. Bowers, Elsa Favila, Richard Clucas, Jessica LaVariega-Montforti, Tony Affigne, Michael Genovese, Kim Nalder, Celeste Montoya, Jennifer Wilking, Jane June, Teena Gabrielson, Jason Maloy, Mark Button, Victoria Farrar-Myers

**Members Absent:** Stephen Nicholson, Carrie Currier, Martin Johnson, Chris Shortell, Regina Branton, Tiffany Howard, Jeanette Mendez, Jay McCann

**Guests Present:** Shaun Bowler, Jasmine Cooper, Leah Fargotstein, Pei-te Lien, Liz Lebron, Michelle Phillips, James Scott, David Williams

**Call to Order:** President Louis DeSipio called the meeting to order to 12:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

**ACTION:** Council members voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the April 2015 Executive Council meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada

*President Louis DeSipio asked to rearrange the order of items on the agenda in order to provide sufficient time to consider the selection of editor of PRQ. There were no objections, so the Council immediately moved to Item IV.B under New Business. The minutes follow the order in which business was conducted.*

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**B. PRQ Editorship: Richard Clucas**

The Executive Council considered two proposals for editing *Political Research Quarterly*.

The first proposal was from Jason Maloy, Louisiana State University. Under this proposal, Maloy would serve as the sole editor and be assisted by others from Louisiana State University, where the journal would be housed. Maloy made a presentation to the Council. Among the material covered in the presentation was a summary of previous year's work.

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The journal received a record number of submissions and is looking at potentially more than 400 submissions by the end of the year. Submissions in American politics continue to be high (40-50%) and about 1/3 are comparative, with gender, race, and identity submissions in the teens. IR and political theory submissions are increasing. The September issue has a lead piece by a graduate student that falls at the intersection of comparative and theory; the December issue features five articles on women and politics. The journal is continuing to solicit mini-symposia with cross-subfield themes. Maloy detailed his particular efforts to draw more theory work to the journal.

The second proposal was for a team of editors consisting of Jeanette Mendez (Oklahoma State University), Clarissa Hayward (Washington University- St. Louis), and James Scott (Texas Christian University) to edit the journal. Under this proposal, the editorship would remain at Oklahoma State. James Scott made the presentation for the OSU team: The proposal emphasized continuity, building on the PRQ's strength in American, race and ethnicity, and environmental politics, and continuing to recruit actively in comparative, IR, and political theory. He discussed how keeping the journal at OSU will maintain continuity with no disruption in production. Scott said that OSU is strongly committed to the journal and that he would use his connections to build the IR submissions, while Clarissa Hayward would do the same for political theory.

The Council then moved to discussion. The Executive Council considered the difficulties that had led to a need for the change in editors of PRQ. The council discussed the risks and uncertainties involved in both proposals, including the ability of the teams to maintain the journal's trajectory and excellence. The council collaborated to develop a list of questions to ask each team.

The council briefly considered whether it would be possible to advance the time frame for a search for new editors. Given the time required to develop and circulate a call, select editors, and transfer the journal, the council concluded that this would not be a practical solution.

The council briefly discussed what had driven the selection of the OSU team during the previous search. Richard Clucas and Mark Button noted that the team leadership concept, the team's responsiveness and enthusiasm about the journal, and the team's specific ideas about how to recruit in underrepresented areas were particularly compelling.

The council invited James Scott back into the room to answer questions on the OSU proposal and the editors. After Scott left the room, the council asked Jason Maloy back in to discuss the LSU proposal.

*President Louis DeSipio asked the Council to put aside the discussion about PRQ for a few minutes in order to enable Pei-te Lien to make the Nomination Committee report before she had to leave for another meeting.*

### **II. REPORTS**

#### **D. Nominating Committee Report: Pei-te Lien**

Pei-te Lien recognized the hard work of the committee members and then detailed how the Nominating Committee reached its decisions. The committee assessed a range of factors, including connections to the association. They committee nominated Jane Junn as VP and program chair 2017-18 and the association president for 2018-19. The committee nominated four individuals to the council. Region A: Valerie O'Regan, California State University, Fullerton, and Mark Brown, California State University, Sacramento; Region B: Steven Johnson, University of Utah; Region C: Janni Aragon, University of Victoria, Canada. The committee worked hard to identify a good and diverse team and the existing strength.

Tony Affigne noted that New England was losing all representation, and Louis DeSipio replied that the long-term planning committee is addressing the geographic requirements for council membership among other things. The council expressed approval of the slate, though no formal action was taken.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **B. PRQ Editorship (continued)**

The Council resumed its discussion on the selection of PRQ editors, considering the merits of both teams.

Several council members noted the importance of providing as much continuity as possible in the editorship. Several noted that the infrastructure at OSU was working well, and that the council did not know how well the infrastructure would work at LSU. Some also expressed preference for the co-editing model presented in the OSU proposal.

Several Council members strongly praised the work that Jason Maloy did as editor, especially in trying to reach out to the theory community and build PRQ's profile in political theory.

One Council member expressed her belief that the Council needed to stick with OSU to maintain the legitimacy and integrity of the search process that produced the OSU team, though she also expressed concern about the message that it would send to theorists and interpretive methods practitioners if the OSU team was selected. Another member pointed out that changing to a new team would create problems and generate complaints because the LSU team had not gone through the same competitive review and vetting process that was used to select the editors in the previous search.

**ACTION:** The Council voted unanimously to accept the proposal from the OSU team, but it asked the team for a report at the next Council meeting on how it would work to encourage and facilitate the publication of political theory and interpretive work in the journal's pages. The Council also expressed strong appreciation to Jason Maloy for his work as

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editor, and especially for his efforts to improve the journal's profile within political theory circles.

### **II. REPORTS**

*The Council moved on to hearing two reports.*

#### **F. WPSA Future Planning Committee Report: Shaun Bowler**

Shaun Bowler reported on the behalf of the committee, first noting that this is an unusual and far-sighted initiative begun under Victoria Farrar-Myers' leadership. He laid out the committee's starting point of evaluating where we are and where we are going. Based on the results from the brief survey distributed to people in leadership positions in WPSA, the committee identified a number of long-term and short-term concerns.

Overall, the main theme from the survey is that the WPSA's inclusive atmosphere is an important hallmark of the association that has taken years to build and nurture, and any long-term planning should be respectful of this and ensure that the WPSA retains this character.

The committee has identified some thorny but fairly defined issues, including the possibility of moving the conference away from Easter/Passover, restructuring the dues, thinking more about how different types of institutions are represented on the Council, and developing different types of formats for panels at the annual meeting. More complex issues include developing more of an online presence, engaging issues of higher education more directly (for which there will be a specific section at the San Diego meeting), long-term succession planning to preserve the excellent member and leadership service that Elsa and Richard have provided, and thinking about the long-term financial outlook for the association.

The committee, which consists of four former presidents, the current leadership, and representatives from all the WPSA's particular subfields of strength, welcomes questions and suggestions.

#### **G. PGI Editor Search Report: Richard Clucas**

Richard is meeting with the search committee tomorrow. Council members should help to get the word out and encourage good people to apply for this position.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Future Convention Sites: Elsa Favila, Richard Clucas**

Richard Clucas explained how Long Beach ended up not working as a viable location for the 2020 conference. Elsa contacted the Hyatts and the Marriott in Denver, and none of these

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hotels can accommodate the WPSA meeting at its current size. The siting investigation is thus now focused on Anaheim and Los Angeles.

The Hyatt in Anaheim provided a solid rough proposal, and the Marriott has enough meeting space to accommodate the conference. The down side is that the area is more suburban in nature and does not have ready access to a variety of restaurants and bars, though the proximity to Disneyland could prove a draw. The LA location would be near the Staples Center and seems to be a promising area. We could go out of our ordinary rotation, which would have us in southern California in 2020, but under WPSA policies, the council needs a good reason to do so.

Richard Clucas offered the Council the option of pursuing both locations. Louis DeSipio asked how much of a burden this would be. Elsa Favila noted that developing an RFP is easy, but vetting the locations is more time consuming. Michael Genovese suggested focusing on Los Angeles as a vibrant and interesting potential location for the conference. Kim Nalder asked whether Santa Monica might be a possibility.

**ACTION:** The Council approved a motion to move forward with exploring the options in Los Angeles and Anaheim for 2020.

## **II. REPORTS**

### **C. Local Arrangements San Diego: Elsa Favila**

Louis DeSipio reported briefly on plans for San Diego in 2016 and Elsa Favila distributed the promotional bookmarks. The conference will be at the Manchester Hyatt from March 24 to 26. The location is beautiful, and the planning team is hoping that it will be a good draw.

#### **A. Executive director's report**

Richard Clucas ran briefly through the work he has been doing since the Executive Council meeting in Las Vegas. He has devoted his time to for main activities:

##### 1. Conference Planning

Richard has been working on closing out the books on Las Vegas, planning for San Diego, and exploring siting options for future conferences.

##### 2. Publications

Richard has been working with the search committee to begin the process of seeking new editors for PGI (Melissa Michelson is chairing that search). He has also worked to address the difficulties associated with the PRQ editorial team's break. He announced that Janni

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Aragon and Danielle Lemi have agreed to serve as the new editors of *The Western* and have great plans for online distribution and linking to the WPSA blog.

### 3. Financial issues

A CPA is working on a financial analysis of the organization. The conference cancellation insurance has been extended through 2019. The investment planning committee is looking at ways to raise money for the association now that endowments are created.

### 4. Administrative issues

Richard has been supporting WPSA committees and notes that the future planning committee has been very active. He reminds members that the deadline for the San Diego meeting is September 14. People are encouraged to solicit proposals for conferences within the conference. He will also participate in a roundtable at the SPSA meeting on future directions for academic conferences, where the executive directors of the ISA, MPSA, and SPSA will also present.

## III. OLD BUSINESS

### B. Proposed Policies for Creating New Awards: Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas explained that he was asked by the Council at its meeting in Las Vegas to prepare some alternative proposals that could provide greater flexibility in the creation of awards. Clucas brought forward four proposals and explained their relationship to each other.

**ACTION:** The Council voted to adopt proposals one and two, which establish the principle that non-monetary awards can be created and that for such awards, a petition process must be used to show sufficient support for an award.

**ACTION:** The Council also voted to adopt the proposal laying out a specific process for proposing awards.

Victoria Farrar-Myers proposed severing the fourth proposal and adopting the part mandating periodic review of awards concerning their continued salience, but leaving open for now the question of what body initiates or conducts this review.

**ACTION:** The Council adopted the proposal in principle, but asked the Executive Director to bring back two separate proposals providing for different mechanisms for how the review would be conducted, whether by the Investment Planning Committee or an ad hoc committee.

## IV. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Mid-Year Budget Report: Michael Bowers

## Agenda Item I.A

Michael Bowers presented the six month budget report. He noted that the president's discretionary fund is overdrawn due to the dinner held in Las Vegas for past presidents of the organization. This was not previously contemplated in the budget.

The Council adjourned at 2:05 pm

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Submitted by Jane Junn and Julie Novkov, acting Recording/Secretary