

**MINUTES**  
**WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, September 3, 2009**  
**Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Montebello Room**  
**6:15 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.**

Members Present: Shaun Bowler, Lisa Garcia Bedolla, Charles C. Turner, Ange-Marie Hancock, Kim Geron, Pei-te Lien, Julie Novkov

Ex-Officio Members Present: Elizabeth Moulds, Elsa Favila, Manuel Avalos, Amy Mazur, and Cornell Clayton.

Members Absent: Christine DiStefano, Michael W. Bowers, John G Bretting, Steve Nicholson, Melissa Michelson, Stacy Gordon and Arturo Vega.

Guests Present: Richard Clucas, Ron Schmidt, Leah Fargotstein and Anna Samaio.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Shaun Bowler at 6:20 p.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Thursday, March 19, 2009 Executive Council Meeting held in Vancouver, British Columbia, were approved.

**II. Reports**

A. Executive Director's Report: Betty Moulds

Executive Director Elizabeth Moulds gave a summary report on her activities since the March Executive Council Meeting:

*Vancouver wrap up*

Elizabeth Moulds reported that the Vancouver Conference was a success. She also discussed the joint survey of WPSA members that was conducted in conjunction with the APSA after the Conference to assess experiences crossing the border. Embedded in the survey were questions about members' attitudes on AV issues. The survey found that we are a divided group: many political theorists in the association oppose expending WPSA funds to support Power Point presentations; more quantitative-oriented members believe that Power Point should be made available to everyone.

*Long range planning committee report*

The main issue is to secure revenue sources for this organization for the long term and we are on that road. We have signed the new MOU with Utah for the PRQ for 2011-2021 with increased share of revenue for WPSA – this is our safety net for the next several years. This

will not be enough in the long run. We are exploring new journal possibilities (discussed below).

*San Francisco convention for spring*

Location is good – good hotel and vibrant section of city near Farmers’ market, on public transportation lines, and walkable to lots of things. Lisa Garcia Bedolla and Melissa Michelson are doing local arrangements, working exceptionally hard. All is on target for a successful convention

*Executive director succession planning*

Richard Clucas will become Executive Director of the association at the end of the APSA meeting. He has been working directly with Elizabeth Moulds to learn the job of Executive Director. He has also been working on the San Francisco and other future conventions. Michael Bowers is the new WPSA treasurer. He still needs a full financial debriefing.

Shaun Bowler expressed how much we have appreciated Betty and depended on her over the years; heartfelt thanks expressed by entire council

B. Local Arrangements: Vancouver Final Report. Elsa Favila

Registration for Vancouver broke all records for WPSA. Conference was a financial success, but the expenses were high. The net income was \$30,000, which was lower than in San Diego. Elsa Favila attributed the lower net income to higher hotel and travel expenses.

Shaun Bowler expressed the sense of the council that Vancouver was a great conference: well put together and well run

C. Local Arrangements: SF. Lisa Garcia Bedolla and Melissa Michelson

Lisa Garcia Bedolla reported that we have already received a \$500 contribution from the University of Santa Clara toward the Conference. The local arrangements committee is in the process of putting together list of restaurants and sites. The book room should be quite interesting this year, with many local/independent publishers potentially interested in coming.

Bedolla reminded the Council that the conference will be held at the SF Hyatt Regency from April 1-3. The individual room rate is \$175.

D. Nominating Committee Report. Ron Schmidt for Peter Steinberger.

Ron Schmidt reported that the committee met through email and conducted considerable discussions about principle as well as practice. The committee assembled the following slate for presentation to the 2010 business meeting:

- 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: Chris Parker, University of Washington

Schmidt also noted that Paul Gronke has had to resign as a member of the EC; the Nominating Committee proposed that he be replaced by Jeanne Morefield from Whitman College (Small Liberal Arts College). In addition, it was noted that Peter Steinberger, the chair of the Nominating Committee, has recommended that Morefield be approved for a full term when this one year replacement is completed.

E. Membership Report. Elsa Favila.

Elsa Favila provided a report on current membership. The full report is included in the agenda packet. Favila noted the regional diversity of our members. She also noted that the number of members increased by 202 from previous year, which she largely attributable to the success of the convention.

F. PRQ Report. Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton.

Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton reported that the Political Research Quarterly is doing very well. Based on Sage's reports and the JCR rankings, the PRQ moved up rankings 20 spots in one year. Web access has been rising as well – over 100,000 more accesses in 2008 since 2007. The Journal's raw scores on Impact Factor is 39 but when controlled for self citation and quality of journal, the PRQ is ranked 10<sup>th</sup>.

The members of the Executive Council expressed appreciation for the work of the PRQ editors.

### III. Old Business

A. Proposal for Meeting Site for 2013. Elsa Favila and Richard Clucas.

Richard Clucas gave an overview of the options for conventions in 2013. Clucas and Elsa Favila visited 5 hotels visited in Los Angeles and 2 hotels in San Diego in August. Clucas reported that they had found two hotels that would work well for the siting of the convention: one in heart of Hollywood, the other on the Bay in SD.

The Hollywood Renaissance (a Marriott hotel) was presented as the best site in Los Angeles. Among its benefits and drawbacks:

- Next to Grauman's Chinese theatre and the Kodak theater
- Hollywood Highland Center (shopping and entertainment) nearby
- On Metrolink line so next stop is Universal, a few stops to Union Station

- Better deal for our members: \$169 a night (other is \$179)
- \$10 a night for parking
- Taxi cost from L.A. Airport to Renaissance is high, probably \$40-50
- Very professional staff
- Renaissance highly rated – 7<sup>th</sup> top hotel of 263 in LA on Tripadvisor.com.

The Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel was presented as the best choice in San Diego. Among its benefits and drawbacks:

- More of a resort-like setting
- All rooms had balcony, three pools, lovely location
- Although the hotel is not downtown, there are several restaurants in hotel and within walking distance
- To go somewhere you need to drive, take a taxi, or take public transportation
- The city is are changing the bus line and there will be a stop right near hotel
- Airport shuttle is free
- The Sheraton is interested in a multiyear deal: Seattle hotel has sent us a bid for 2014; in addition, three Sheraton hotels are potentially interested in 2015: Las Vegas Planet Hollywood, another in Tucson and another in Sedona
- Very professional staff
- Sheraton rated 68 out of 154 on Tripadvisor.

#### Discussion of hotels

Lisa Garcia Bedolla argued that the Los Angeles site would be better because there are more universities in the area and thus it would attract more graduate students. She also argued that we haven't been there in a long time. There was some discussion on whether the San Diego Conference would generate more revenue. Other benefits and drawbacks of both sites were raised. A question was raised whether we should return to Las Vegas in 2013. Richard Clucas said that the hotel options in Las Vegas would not work. He also said that the council would be discussing where to site the 2014 conference at our meeting in San Francisco, including possibly Seattle.

**ACTION ON ITEM:** Lisa Garcia Bedolla moved that the 2013 conference be held at the Los Angeles location. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Ange-Marie Hancock said she would work on local arrangements and that she thought she could get others from USC to help out. Entire council expressed thanks to Elsa and Richard for this work.

- B. New MOU with Utah. Shaun Bowler.
- C. Update on New Journal Options for WPSA Shaun Bowlers.

Shaun Bowler presented items B and C on Old Business together. (Leah Fargotstein from SAGE left the room during this discussion).

Bowler reported that he worked closely with the Journal Committee of Tim Kaufman Osborn, Val Martinez, and Ron Schmidt to secure a new MOU with the University of Utah and to considered new journal options.

Bowler reported that we have signed a new MOU with Utah. He said that Matt Burbank and the University of Utah deserve a lot of credit for the new MOU. The new MOU provides a ten-year deal with the University of Utah. It will begin when the current MOU ends.

Bowler then discussed the work on a new journal on identity politics. He emphasized that this is not just minority politics; the idea is to reflect the broader intellectual interests of the WPSA. He provided thanks to Gary Segura for his assistance on this proposal. He also reported that Routledge has offered a contract and that Sage (through Leah Fargotstein) has expressed interest in making an offer. All presses have said that we can't expect to make any money for approximately 10 years, so it won't be an immediate revenue stream.

The council discussed many aspects of the journal and its potential effect on the association and its finances. The council then discussed how to proceed in moving forward with signing a contract and selecting editors. Shuan Bowler suggested that there were two models for how to proceed. The first model would empower the Journal Committee in consultation with the Executive Director to sign the best deal. The second option would be for the Committee to return to the Executive Council after it conducts negotiations and then have the Council decide how to proceed following the procedures of an "Action without a meeting."

**ACTION ON ITEM:** Ange-Marie Hancock moved that the Executive Council grant authority to the Journal Committee to sign the best deal it can reach with one of these publishers. The motion was seconded. The Council voted unanimously in favor of authorizing the committee to sign the deal.

Richard Clucas then provided an overview on the associations efforts to acquire ownership of *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. He reported that it appears unlikely that we will reach a deal for the journal.

Richard Clucas also reported on the efforts being made to establish a WPSA newsletter. Stephen Stambough and Val O'Regan have agreed to serve as editors. The newsletter is seen as providing association news, book reviews, and a forum on classroom/textbook/teaching issues. He expressed hope that the newsletter may eventually attract publisher advertisements.

The Council then discussed the steps for choosing the editors for the new identity journal. It was decided that the Executive Director would send out a note to council members soliciting suggestions for search committee members. The WPSA President would then select the members for this committee.

The Council then discussed the timing of the editor search. Many members of the Council supported the idea to have the draft call for editors completed by next WPSA so that the search committee could conduct interviews and the Executive Council decide on editors at

APSA 2010. Richard Clucas and Shaun Bowler have the timeline for the previous PRQ editor search, which will be used in developing a timeline for selecting the editor of the new journal

**ACTION ON ITEM:** A motion was made to constitute and empower a committee to move forward on the search. The motion was seconded and then approved unanimously.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **A. Mid-Year Budget Report. Elsa Favila.**

Elsa Favila presented a report on the Mid-Year Budget. She said that the association's budget is so far on target and that no surprises are anticipated. She also reported that the association's finances are strong.

##### **B. Editors' Term Renewal**

The Council discussed a proposal is to renew the terms of the current editors of PRQ for 2 more years. Many Council members expressed their support of the job of editing being done by Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton.

**ACTION ON ITEM:** Julie Novkov moved to renew the contract for the current editors for two more years. Lisa Garcia Bedolla seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously in favor of renewing the Editors' terms.

Elizabeth Moulds reminded the Council that the editors' term concludes in May 2010, so the renewal is for May 2010-May 2012. She also reminded the Council that the search for new editors will have to begin in one and a half years.

Appreciation was expressed by all for the hard work done by Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton.

##### **C. Other**

The council expressed formal appreciation for Betty and her role and all she has meant to association. This was her last Executive Council meeting as Executive Director.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Submitted by Julie Novkov, Acting Recording Secretary