

MINUTES
WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thursday, March 10, 2022
Room: Skyline II
Location: Hilton Portland Downtown
8:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m

Members Present: Michael Bowers, Brent Boyea, Jason Casellas, Richard Clucas, Elsa Dias, Laura Evans, Elsa Favila, Michaele Ferguson, Jessica Lavariega Monforti, Pei-te Lien, Melissa Michelson, Sean Parson, Ricardo Ramirez, Sara Sadhwani, Brent Steele

Members Absent: Janni Aragon, Nadia Brown, Ainsley LeSure, Seth McKee, Meyer John, John Meyer, Char Miller, Mark Ramirez, Fred Smoller

Guests: Gwendoline Alphonso, Michael Artime, Ian Balisy, Mark Brown, Benjamin Gonzalez O'Brien, Ron Schmidt, Tony Smith, Kim Williams

Ricardo Ramirez called the meeting to order at 8:17 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. October 2021 WPSA Executive Council Meeting

Motion to Approve: Michaele Ferguson
Second by Brent Boyea
Minutes approved unanimously

II. Reports

A. President's Remarks: Ricardo Ramirez

Acknowledgment of the native peoples of this region. Thankful to be back in person. Expresses thanks to Pei-te as program chair, and the leadership of Jessica as past president, Ron for preparing the 75th anniversary, Kim Williams as local arrangements chair.

B. Executive Director's Report: Richard Clucas

Richard began by making two announcements:

- Noon Pi Sigma Alpha Speaker – Portland City Commissioner
- Oregon Mask Mandate ends Friday at midnight

Richard gave an overview of his work since the last council meeting. Focus has been in four main areas:

1. **Conferences:** Richard has been working on this conference and has begun work on the next. This conference has essentially been the equivalent of three separate conferences – in person, hybrid, virtual. Richard said that the preparation was more demanding than usual because of this, especially for Elsa. Richard thanked those involved in planning this conference, including Pei-te, Kim Williams (local arrangements chair), and Ron Schmidt (75th anniversary committee chair). Richard then discussed the planning for next year's conference. The conference will be held at the San Francisco Hyatt. Room night rate of \$235. Jason Casellas will serve as program chair; Melissa Michelson will handle local arrangements.
2. **Publications:** The second area in which Richard has focused is on the association's publications. He has been talking with Tony Smith, new editor of PRQ. He has held conversations with Brent Steele on the future of PRQ. He has been serving as an ex-officio non-voting member of the PGI Editor search committee, which has received two strong proposals. He has also been working with the four new editors of the Western Newsletter.
3. **Coordinating with WPSA committees.**
4. **Administrative.** Work with President and Program chair; preparation of agendas for council and business meetings; implementation of initiatives; writing announcements for PRQ; communications, etc.

He finished by describing his plans for Spring/Summer (wrap up Portland including financial reports; begin work on 2023 conference; and prepare for council meeting in September, which will be held at APSA, Montreal).

C. Program Chair's Report: Pei-te Lien

Pei-te gave thanks to Elsa and Richard, the section chairs who have been helping with the planning the meeting, and all the others who work behind the scenes. She announced that there were 270 panels scheduled for this conference, a number almost back to pre-pandemic normal. She also talked about the efforts to raise travel funds for scholars who face economic challenges to attend.

D. 75th Anniversary Committee: Ron Schmidt

Ron gave thanks to Jessica for appointing the committee, which included Louis DeSipio, Rodney Hero, Gary Segura, Jane Junn, Ange-Marie Hancock-Alfaro, Valerie Martinez Ebers, Elsa Favila, Richard Clucas, and Pei-te (ex officio). Two main charges: prepare special events for the anniversary and launch a fundraising campaign. Set a goal of \$100K for fundraising campaign. Significant progress has been made. The

money raised will be used primarily to create a travel fund for graduate students and junior faculty to attend conferences. As for planning activities, the committee has created several webpages devoted to the anniversary, including a histories page. Lastly, the committee helped organize several special events, including two anniversary panels with past presidents and a fundraising dinner for Friday night, which will have Tony Affigne as the Master of Ceremonies.

E. Local Arrangements Portland 2022: Kim Williams

Kim Williams welcomed everyone to Portland and described her activities. She worked with Jack Miller from Portland State. Among other activities, they put together a guide of restaurants and information on how to get around town.

F. Local Arrangements San Francisco 2023: Melissa Michelson

Melissa invited everyone to attend the 2023 meeting. She described the location—San Francisco—as being amazing, which it is! Committee is still in formation.

G. Nominating Committee Report: Jane Junn

Jane Junn gave the nominating committee report. Of particular interest, she said that the committee is nominating Lorrie Frasure, UCLA, as next program chair. The committee's slate will be voted on at the business meeting on Friday.

H. Financial Report: Michael Bowers

Michael reported that the association has almost \$1.5 million in total assets and that we are doing pretty well.

- Profit/Loss statement: Membership dues, registration for the conferences are major sources of income about \$250,000.
- Total expenses of \$211K, with a net income of slightly more than \$43,000. Good report in the midst of a pandemic.
- Hoping we can do better this year with the conference back in person.

I. The Western Newsletter: Gwendoline Alphonso, Michael Artime, Benjamin Gonzalez O'Brien, Chase Porter (not attending)

The four new editors of the Western Newsletter introduced themselves and described their plans. They want to include member research highlights; personal announcements like tenure, having a baby, etc. Their goal is to promote members as people and foster connection. Working on how to get more input from members. Encourage members to submit their stories. Some ideas that were suggested to them: contact chairs and discussants to promote (Micheale Ferguson); Connect with

communications subcommittee doing social media (Sara Sadhwani); Connect with newsletter on political science in higher ed (Elsa Dias).

J. PRQ Report: Richard Clucas

Richard gave the PRQ report for Seth McKee, who was not present. Ian Balisy, the publisher's representative from SAGE also talked. The journal has been doing well. High impact achievement. Last year PRQ was moved to a flexible page budget—no limit on the number of articles that can be published.

Question from Jessica: Update on PRQ rejections that were mentioned previous meetings? New editorial team is aware of the issue.

K. PGI Report: Melissa Michelson

Nadia Brown is the editor, but couldn't be present. Co-editor Melissa Michelson gave report. Nine years of publication. PGI is becoming people's first choice for articles on LGBT politics, Latino politics, environmental issues, and other topics.

The journal has been having great success with Micro-Syllabi, strong social media presence with promotion of articles and authors. PGI has been housed at Purdue for 10 years. On January 1, it will transition to another university. Richard Clucas suggests that it would be nice if the association could honor the work of Purdue to support and build PGI.

Several questions and comments were made. Michael asked if there were metrics on the number and spread of subfields that are covered by PGI, as was provided for PRQ. There is a perception among political theorists that PGI doesn't publish theory papers. Agreement to follow up and get more of this data, especially as the journal transitions to a new editorial team.

L. WPSA Climate Action Committee: Richard Clucas

Emily and Chris could not be present. Richard directed council members to look over the Committee's report which was included in the agenda packet.

M. Virtual Communities: Mark Brown, Sacramento State

Mark presented on behalf of Cheryl Hall who couldn't be here. Mark gave a short history of the program and how it works. He reported that the eight VC Communities have been ongoing. Of these, five will definitely continue and one definitely not continuing. Total number registered – 194; 65 have VC membership (non WPSA). Overall, the VC membership dues have raised approximately \$1000. Most VCs host events once per month. The plans for the future include to survey

participants to assess experience. Circulating a call for new proposals. Continue to work on outreach to ensure inclusive and accessible. Allows community building.

Mark has been nominated to become the chair of the committee for the next two years.

A discussion followed on the long-term vision of the program and how it fits into the WPSA.

A motion was made by Jessica for the VC Communities committee to develop a strategic plan and explore more deeply the proposal and to have a conversation with the leadership of the Executive Counsel to address infrastructure and formal relationship with WPSA, finances, etc.

Second from Jason Casellas.

The motion passed unanimously.

III. **Old Business**

A. Adding Virtual Community Program Chair to Council: Mark Brown

Given the prior vote requesting more information and a detailed plan, no vote taken on this item today.

B. Proposal for Changing VC Committee Appointment Process: Richard Clucas

Proposal put before the council to change the appointment process. The original process called for the Nominating Committee to put forward a slate for approval. The new proposal calls for the committee appointment process to be consistent with other committees, with the VC leaders nominating future committee members and the president making the formal selection.

Moved by Jessica
Second from Jason
Motion passed unanimously

C. Selection of PGI Editors: Kim Yi Dionne

Kim gave a report on the PGI Editor Selection Committee. The committee has received two strong proposals –one from University of North Texas and one from Cal Poly Pomona. Slightly different visions for PGI. Felt that both were very strong proposals, but committee unanimously selected the UNT team.

A discussion followed. Among other items, it was explained that the UNT Team will have a dedicated editor for theory subfield and that Nadia will use some of the remaining subvention funds to buy additional pages.

Motion from Brent Boyea to support the recommendation of University of North Texas as the next editorial team for PGI
Second: Jason Casellas

Motion passed unanimously.

D. Future Convention Sites: Elsa Favila, Richard Clucas

Hotels are booked several years in advance to get better rates. Richard requested authorization to look for sites for 2026. Ideas would be brought back to the September meeting.

2023: San Francisco

2024: Vancouver

2025: Seattle (because it was cancelled due to pandemic)

2026: Likely Southern California – Looking at San Diego, Los Angeles, maybe Palm Springs.

Discussion: Airport accessibility is incredibly important. Added costs of travel for smaller airports like Palm Springs can make the conference inaccessible to many. Denver would be a great location, but March typically still has snowfalls. April would be better. Want to figure out if we can coordinate with National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS). American Philosophical Society also meets during the same weekend. Also, Association for Asian American Studies.

Motion from Sean Parson: The EC authorizes Richard and Elsa to explore options for 2026 conference locations including San Diego, Los Angeles, and possibly for 2027 for Denver and Albuquerque/New Mexico and make contact with NCOBPS to coordinate dates and/or locations in a thoughtful way.

Second from Elsa Dias

Motion passes unanimously

E. New Committee for Nakanishi Award: Pei-te Lien

At the October 2021 meeting, the council approved a proposal to change the Don Nakanishi award, creating two distinct awards, one that recognized a best paper given at the annual conference and one that recognized either outstanding service or an outstanding book. The council did not, however, create a separate committee

for each away. This proposal was to create two separate committees, one for a best paper award in Asian American Politics and the other for the Best Book / Distinguished service award.

Motion from Pei-te Lien
Second from Michael Ferguson
Motion passes unanimously

F. Proposed Changes to the Equity Task Force: Richard Clucas, Jessica Lavariega Monforti

The council created an Equity Task Force at its September 2020 meeting. The proposal before the council today was to give the task force a more explicit charge and to establish a new structure for the task force's membership.

The proposal put before the council called for the task force to gather information and make recommendations to the WPSA Executive Council to address issues to improve equity, inclusion, and access. In order to fulfill this charge, the task force will be responsible for proving an annual report to the Council pertaining to equity, inclusion, and access, along with other reports as needed. The task force will be encouraged to hold a roundtable discussion at the annual meeting of the WPSA and to submit a short report of its work and/or findings each year to the editors of The Western, WPSA's newsletter.

The proposal called for the committee membership to consist of the chairs of all the status committees and a chair, who would be appointed by the WPSA president. Melissa made a motion to include wording in the proposal that the committee would also include the chairs of any future status committee. A discussion ensued on the need for a status committee focused on issues of important to the LGBTQIA+ community.

Motion from Jessica Lavariega Monforti to approve the proposal with the change in wording
Second: Jason Casellas
Motion passes unanimously.

Motion from Jessica: Action item for next meeting is for incoming president to develop status committee for LGBTQIA+.
Second: Jason Casellas
Motion passes unanimously

IV. New Business

A. Budget: Michael Bowers

Michael presented the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The proposed budget was for approximately \$225,800.

Motion from Michael Bowers: Approval of the budget
Second: Jason Casellas

A discussion followed on what will happen when Elsa and Richard retire or leave the WPSA.

Motion approving budget passes unanimously

B. PRQ Contractual Matters: Brent Steele, Richard Clucas

Richard introduced the Tony Smith, new editor-in-chief of PRQ.

Brente Steele then talked about PRQ finances. Sage has told the University of Utah, that there will be a reduction in revenue. A discussion followed on what this would mean for the association and how best to address it. Much of this discussion revolved around proprietary matters, so they are not included in these minutes.

C. Statement on Restrictive Education Legislation: Richard Clucas

D. Statement on the Ukraine Situation: Pei-te Lien

These two items were taken up together.

Richard asked whether the Council wants to make a formal statement about restrictions on what can be taught in schools and higher education, particularly in terms of race?

Pei-te asked whether the Council wants to make a formal statement about the situation in the Ukraine.

A discussion followed.

Motion from Jessica: Empower the WPSA policy committee to issue a statement related to academic freedom and freedom of speech, and a separate statement regarding the situation in the Ukraine.

Seconded by Sean

Motion passes unanimously

Motion to Adjourn: Jessica Lavariega Monforti

Second: Jason Cassellas

Meeting Adjourned at 11:44pm