

## Minutes

**Western Political Science Association  
Executive Council Meeting  
Thursday, March 8, 2007  
Riviera Hotel Monaco Tower  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Members Present: Peter Steinberger, Andrea Simpson, Barbara Morris, Gilbert St. Clair, Elizabeth Moulds, Gary Segura, Noelle Norton, Todd Donovan, Ted Jelen, Richard Clucas, Lisa Garcia Bedolla, John Bretting, Ange-Marie Hancock, Valerie Martinez-Ebers, Kristen Hill-Maher, Charles Turner, and John Meyer.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Ron Schmidt, Ronald Hrebenar, Amy Mazur, Cornell Clayton

Members Absent: none

Guests Present: Michelle Kuenzi, Katherine Rossbach, Burke Nagy

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Valerie Martinez-Ebers at 8:35 AM.

### **I. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Thursday, August 31, 2006 Executive Council Meeting, Philadelphia PA were approved

### **II. Reports**

#### **A. Executive Director's Report: Elizabeth Moulds**

Busy year-

- Finalizing details of MOUs with University of Utah and Sage
- Transferred membership base from Utah to Sacramento. We received a new software package that enables us to track more information regarding members. The transition is almost done.
- Data and financial exchange details are still being worked out.
- Working with PRQ editors regarding website.
- Working on Las Vegas arrangements.
- Drafting policy changes
- Awards –full set this year, there were some glitches, such as not adequately getting information to award chairs on selection process
- There have been recommendations that APSA have more technology in panel rooms (LCD projections). However the costs are high. WPSA could not afford it at this time.

- Spring and summer- Betty and Elsa will close out books on Vegas and begin planning San Diego, continue working on transitions, prep for Chicago meetings, start looking at 2011 (there was a discussion on the pros and cons of Vegas- other locations mentioned were Austin, Albuquerque, Phoenix, San Antonio, Tucson)

We voted on our least favorites:

Vegas 10

Tucson 2

Austin 3

San Antonio 1

Phoenix 0

Albuquerque 10

Phoenix and San Antonio were the top choices

### **B. Program Chair's Report: Peter Steinberger**

2nd largest conference. Local arrangements have gone well. Standard program-some frustrations involved – difficulty in getting sections chairs, most did a good job, issue of awards process- may be better to have committees set before the conference rather than after, no Phi Sigma Alpha speaker- attendance is a problem- recommendations for speakers- Governor, Senators, L. Sanchez, A. Villagrosa.

### **C. Local Arrangements: Michelle Kuenzi –Las Vegas**

Over 1000 participants, over 200 panels, sold out Riviera over 1500 rooms

Pre-registrations -876 (2<sup>nd</sup> Largest)

General reception and Graduate Reception- co –sponsored by Provost UNLV

### **San Diego: Noelle Norton and San Diego**

Price will be higher: \$179.00 per room – airport close, water taxi to Coronado, Gaslamp District, Easter weekend

### **D. Nominating Committee Report: Noelle Norton, Chair**

The committee nominations are as follows:

Vice President and Program Chair, 2008-2009 Shaun Bowler, University of California, Riverside

Recording Secretary, 2007-2010, Victoria Farra-Myers, University of Texas, Arlington

Executive Council 2008-2011

Region A

Steve Nicholson, University of California, Merced

Melissa Michelson, California State University, East Bay

Region B

Stacy Gordon, University of Nevada, Reno

Region C

Paul Gronke, Reed College

#### **E. Financial Report: Gil St. Clair**

Pleased to report that we are doing well. See attached report for details on assets and expenditures. Our net assets are \$273205.71

Gil moved to have report accepted, Ted Jelen seconded it was voted and approved.

#### **F. PRQ Report: Cornell Clayton, Amy Mazur, and Burke Nagy**

Ange-Marie Hancock asked about submission rates, in particular to under represented areas. Amy and Cornell discussed how they personally send emails to reviewers to remind them to complete their reviews. Kristin suggested recoding decisions with acceptances and rejections by fields. Valerie expressed concerns about combining Gender and Race in a single category. Amy noted authors self-categorize article submissions.

Editors are experimenting with Mini-symposiums- if people come forward with ideas, if there are a number of submissions in a particular area, the editors are also recruiting coordinators. Peter suggested why this was happening. Amy and Cornell responded stating that this was part of a broader aim to theory build and build dialog in the discipline.

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary 2008- Amy noted an idea to identify top cited articles- authors might write a brief rejoinder for an anniversary issue.

Amy announced reception and editor's hour.

Peter asked about a Book Review section. Cornell noted that they decided against it because of space and availability in many other places. One option is a book review section on-line. Victoria also mentioned the problem of getting book review editors. Ange-Marie asked about the Journal Citation reports- Burke will send full list to Betty. She will then forward information to council.

#### **G. Long Range Planning Committee- Valerie Martinez-Ebers**

Shaun Bowler, Ron Schmidt, Ken Meyers, Timothy Kaufman-Osborn and Valerie Martinez-Ebers will serve on the committee.

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. Budget: Gil St. Clair**

Proposed budget has an increase which includes dinner for outgoing president, and professional fees for Betty's class buyout. There was one less mailing this year. Betty will assess whether this was effective. Question raised by Valerie about budget for committees-this may be too low to be effective. Discussion followed about a contingency fund for presidents and the budget surplus. Ange-Marie Hancock proposed that we re-visit the investment policy. This could be included in the Long Range Planning Committee. We have an investment committee. Betty suggested that the investment committee and the Long Range Planning Committee coordinate efforts in looking at this issue.

Gil moved to add an amendment to budget- \$5000 discretionary fund for president.

The motion was seconded and approved. After the vote there was a discussion about how the president should use discretionary funds- should these funds only be used for Long Range Planning or should it be truly discretionary.

Betty made a suggestion that all pre-conference workshops get \$250. Thus an amendment was made by Gary Segura that the committee allocation would be increased to \$750. It was seconded by John Bretting. Ron Schmidt said that the committee budget would be the wrong line because work shops are not committees. A friendly amendment was added that committee budget line would remain at \$250 and a new line would be created for workshops in the amount of \$750. The motion passed.

Gary moved that the amended budget be approved. Gil seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and passed unanimously.

**B. Bylaws Changes (for consistency with new PRQ publication/WPSA dues collection arrangements)- Betty Moulds**

Betty discussed proposed changes in Bylaws. Ted Jelen moved to accept proposed changes, Gary Segura seconded the motion. The changes were approved unanimously.

**C. Policy Changes (for consistency with new PRQ publication/WPSA dues collection arrangements) – Betty Moulds**

Betty discussed changes in WPSA policy and procedures. Ron Schmidt moved to accept proposed changes. Richard Clucas seconded motion. The changes were approved unanimously.

**D. Convention Cancellation Insurance for San Diego- Betty Moulds**

Betty discussed the pros and cons of insurance. Ron Schmidt moved that we self-insure. Gil St. Clair seconded the motion. Gary Segura clarified the costs of cancellation. The motion to self-insure was unanimously accepted.

**E. Future of the Executive Director Role**

We need to discuss what happens when Betty retires from Director's role. In Sept. 2008 Betty's contract will expire. Betty discussed the significant changes in the administration over the past years. Betty is willing to serve an additional year after contract expiration. Elsa is willing to serve as Associate Director for number of years in the future. Peter suggested a committee be formed to investigate the matter. Gary made a motion to look at staffing and administrative needs assessment committee to look at organizational planning. Peter as president is authorized to put forward the committee and having a report in September. John Bretting seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Discussion continued regarding portability of position along with staffing of other positions.

**F. Are Other Associations Moving West? – Betty Moulds**

Midwest is thinking about having a conference in Las Vegas or San Francisco in 2012. They are outgrowing Palmer House and often feel they are a national

conference. Gary Segura indicated that the costs of the Palmer House are very high and the meeting has grown dramatically. Thus, the combination of cost and size has prompted this discussion. It may hurt us with the number of graduate students that attend WPSA. There was a discussion about the culture of WPSA that allures membership. Ange-Marie suggested that we are strategic about creating our identity. Betty noted that we have grown in our membership and identity because of our pre-conference workshops.

**G. Other**

Announcement by Ted Jelen about a new journal from Cambridge Press  
Commendation to Betty and Elsa on great job.

The meeting was moved to be adjourned at 11:36 AM.