

**MINUTES**  
**WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, August 28, 2008**  
**Marriott Hotel, Falmouth Room**  
**6:15 – 7:15 p.m.**

Members Present: Andrea Simpson, Shaun Bowler, Gilbert St. Clair, Kristin Hill Maher, Charles Turner, Ange-Marie Hancock, Steve Nicholson, and Melissa Michelson.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Elizabeth Moulds, Elsa Favila, Cornell Clayton, Matthew Burbank, and Peter Steinberger (via telephone).

Members Absent: Victoria Farrar Myers, John Meyer, Ted Jelen, Richard Clucas, Lisa Garcia Bedolla, John Bretting, Stacey Gordon, and Paul Gronke.

Guests Present: Barbara Norrander, Catherine Rossbach and Leah Fargotstein.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Andrea Simpson at 6:20 PM.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

Gil St. Clair moved a minor correction to the reporting of his financial report in the minutes of the March 20, 2008 Executive Council. The minutes were approved as corrected.

**II. Reports**

A. Executive Director's Report: Elizabeth Moulds

Executive Director Elizabeth Moulds provided wrap-up information on the San Diego meeting. She described 2011 Conference plans for San Antonio, where the Hyatt Regency was selected as the best fit for the meeting. That contract has been signed. WPSA has also contracted with the Portland Marriott for 2012. The Marriott was selected over the Hilton because the Marriott offered the best date selections. Vancouver for 2009: site visit with local arrangements chairs have taken place. Hyatt staff is very competent. There will be another visit in November to finalize arrangements.

Succession planning: over the spring and summer, the WPSA Executive Director position was advertised, outreach conducted, and interviews and reference checks completed. Peter Steinberger will present a specific recommendation later in this meeting.

Long range planning: committee finalized a contract with a consultant on analysis of PRQ and has a report.

Policy issues: WPSA will switch from paper mail to electronic noticing. Had to consult attorney and get proper wording for change.

Worked on policy to combine status and awards committees.

Will spend next year preparing new executive director.

Membership report: up 128 over previous year.

#### B. Program Chair's Report: Shaun Bowler

Bowler reported he was impressed with the quality of section chairs and is trying to create panels as conferences within the conference. Location will be great. Simpson noted WPSA will need to get approval of Musqueam tribe.

#### C. Local Arrangements: San Diego Final Report. Elsa Favila

Very successful meeting. The registration fee was increased fee by \$5. Net income was \$33,898—second most ever.

#### D. Local Arrangements: Vancouver. Elizabeth Moulds

The Hyatt Vancouver has recently remodeled all of its guest rooms. Location is 2 blocks from water \$187 for single or double. Allan Tupper and Rebecca Monnerat are serving as local arrangements chairs. WPSA members will be reminded that they will need passports. Expedited service costs more, but may not now be necessary.

#### E. Nominating Committee Report. Barbara Norrander

The nominations are as follows:

#### **Vice President and Program Chair: April 4, 2010 - April 23, 2011**

Manuel Avalos - University of North Carolina – Wilmington

#### **Treasurer : March 22, 2009 – February 28, 2012**

Michael W. Bowers University of Nevada - Las Vegas

#### **Executive Council: March 1, 2010 – February 28, 2013**

### **Region A**

Sean Kelly, California State University - Channel Islands  
Ted Lascher, California State University - Sacramento

### **Region B**

Lisa Magaña, Arizona State University

### **Region C**

Melody Rose, Portland State

F. PRQ: Introduction of new PRQ publishing editor, Leah Fargotstein

Fargotstein distributed a publisher's report and provided contact information.

## **III. Old Business**

A. Convention contracts for 2011 (San Antonio) and 2012 (Portland). Elizabeth Moulds

San Antonio meeting will be April 21-23, 2011, which is fiesta week, \$169 per room; Portland meeting will be March 22-24, 2012, \$179 per room.

B. Long Range Planning Committee. Shaun Bowler

Committee is looking at options for increasing revenue. WPSA needs more money because the change in Executive Director will lead to higher costs and WPSA depends a lot on PRQ but that future is uncertain because of the soon to be expiring MOU with the University of Utah. Valerie Martinez-Ebers, Ron Schmidt, Ken Meier, Tim Kaufman-Osborn, and Shaun Bowler are on committee. WPSA has increased dues and conference fees to increase revenue by \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year. Committee will propose a capital campaign to the new Treasurer. Bowler would also like to start an association newsletter.

On the specific issue of PRQ, there are three options: WPSA could attempt to purchase from Utah, could pursue a new, long term (10 – 20 year) MOU, or could start its own new, broad based journal. Based on an independent analysis, WPSA has offered \$400,000 to Utah for a buyout. Utah countered with \$1.2 million. This is a big gap. The committee is looking into potential sources for capital. In the meantime, the committee

will pursue negotiations for a new MOU for a long period of time (10 – 20 years). The current MOU runs out in 2 years.

Additionally, the committee has drafted a proposal for a new specialized journal, which would not compete with the PRQ. The committee is shopping this idea to potential publishers. The approach would be difficult, as revenue streams for journals are in flux, but there are long term benefits. It would likely take 8 or 9 years to make money on a new journal. Nicholson clarified that the committee will continue to pursue the new specialized journal regardless of the outcome of other options with respect to the PRQ. Clayton asked about the details of the specialty journal. It will be minority politics broadly understood. Interdisciplinary.

Simpson moved approval of: capital campaign, newsletter, pursuit of the 3 options. Michelson seconded. Approved unanimously.

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

##### A. Mid-year budget report. Gil St. Clair

St. Clair reported budget, amended to include legal expenses (\$4168) and stipend for new Executive Director (\$10,000) added as new line item. St. Clair moved amendments, Bowler seconded. Approved unanimously.

##### B. Executive Director Selection. Peter Steinberger

(Via conference call) A three person committee or Peter Steinberger, John Bretting and Victoria Farrar-Myers wrote ad and publicized the job vacancy. At June 1, the original deadline, there were no applications, so they did more advertising and recruiting. This resulted in three finalists, all excellent. The committee conducted phone interviews with all three. The criteria they considered were: on-paper credentials, interview quality, fit between style of candidate and culture of WPSA, and the type of arrangements that could be settled on. The committee ranked and recommended the top three candidates. The committee recommended the following terms: \$45,000 per year salary, plus half time summer salary, institutional secretarial support, stipend of \$10,000 to shadow Elizabeth Moulds for current academic year. The job will start September 2009. The committee asked for authorization to have Elizabeth Moulds draw up an MOU, have Andrea Simpson execute it, and have Peter Steinberger begin negotiations with the candidates as necessary.

St. Clair moved and Hancock seconded approval and the Executive Council unanimously approved the recommendation that Richard Clucas be hired as the new WPSA Executive Director.

Simpson moved and Bowler seconded the \$45,000 salary for 2009-2010; the Executive Council approved unanimously.

Simpson moved \$10,000 stipend for 2008-2009, Michelson seconded, unanimously approved.

Simpson moved approval of drafting and executing the MOU and proceeding to negotiate with candidate(s) as necessary. Hill Maher seconded; unanimously approved.

C. Action regarding recommendations from the Long Range Planning Committee. Shaun Bowler

This was discussed above in III. B.

D. Bylaws Changes regarding electronic meeting notices. Moulds

Moulds had attorney draft Bylaws language to avoid legal problems. The Bylaws change would permit electronic meeting notification to members and to the Executive Council. This will save on postage and paper costs. Hancock moved approval, Clayton seconded. Approved unanimously.

E. Policy Change: assigning award selection to status committees. Andrea Simpson

Simpson reported it would be more efficient for the status committees to also serve as the award committees. Clayton moved, Hancock seconded. Approved unanimously.

F. Other: Consideration of Organized Sections? Simpson  
A Newsletter for WPSA? Bowler

Simpson suggested creating organized sections and section dues in order to raise revenue and to eliminate overlapping program sections. Subcommittee to explore: Simpson, Hancock.

Bowler recommended beginning a newsletter with book reviews of textbooks and teaching pieces and state election reports.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Charley Turner, Acting Recording Secretary

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