

## Minutes

**Western Political Science Association  
Executive Council Meeting  
Thursday, August 31, 2006  
Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Independence Ballroom 2  
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

Members Present: President Valerie Martinez-Ebers; Vice President Peter J. Steinberger; Treasurer Gilbert St. Clair; Council Members Clive Thomas, Lori Cox Han, Gary Segura, Todd Donovan, Ted Jelen; Edwina Barvosa-Carter; John Meyer

Ex-Officio Members Present: Executive Director Elizabeth Moulds, Associate Director Elsa Favila, PRQ Editors Cornell Clayton and Amy Mazur, PRQ Managing Editor Ron Hrebenar, and Past President Ron Schmidt, Sr.

Members Absent: Recording Secretary Barbara Morris; Noelle Norton, Richard Clucas, Shaun Bowler, Sonia Garcia, and Kristin Hill Maher

Guests Present: Catherine Rossbach, Burke Nagy, Sara Michele, Charles Turner, Michele Kuenzi, and Andrea Simpson

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order 5:35 PM

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

The minutes of the March 2006 Executive Council meeting and the March 2006 Annual Membership Business meeting were approved without change.

### **II. Reports**

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

- Due to the upcoming changes with PRQ, the WPSA officers created a core working group to negotiate an updated MOU with the University of Utah, communicate with Sage, and to present the information to the Executive Council.
- The 2007 annual conference in Las Vegas will be a substantial draw for attendance, particularly with the low hotel rates at the Riviera Hotel. A site visit was conducted in July.
- During the spring and summer, policy issues were drafted on changes to bylaws and travel expenses for officers.
- Work in the fall will continue on the MOU with University of Utah and the MOU with Sage, as well as the continuing transition of the PRQ editors.
- Work will also continue in the fall on Las Vegas convention planning.
- A transfer of the WPSA database from University of Utah to Sacramento will also take place in the fall. Membership information fields from APSA that are appropriate for the WPSA will be used, such as demographic information about members. This will provide

a much more extensive database and allow the WPSA to communicate more effectively with members. This new database is scheduled to be online and running by January 1, 2007.

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

- The staff at the Riviera Hotel has been easy to deal with and professional in making arrangements.
- Due date for proposals for the 2007 conference is September 11, 2006.
- The conference will include a traditional WPSA program with 26 sections, and higher attendance is expected due to the location.
- The theme of the conference is "Politics and Luck," and it was chosen with the conference site in mind.
- Local Arrangements Chair Ted Jelen reported that the Las Vegas Monorail will provide easy transportation within the Las Vegas Strip area, and that it is possible for those attending the conference and staying at the Riviera to go from their hotel room directly to the convention center without entering the gaming area.

#### C. Local Arrangements Final Report, Albuquerque: Elsa Favila

- The WPSA goal was to gross more than \$20,000 from the conference, and the total gross was \$20,457.
- There were approximately 100 less attendees at the 2006 conference than in 2005; total registrations for 2006 included 698 pre-registrations and 54 registrations on site.
- The WPSA goal was to gross \$5000 from exhibitors, but the total gross was only \$1950.
- President Valerie Martinez-Ebers reported that Albuquerque was a good conference, and encouraged all Executive Council members to attend WPSA events as leaders of the organization, including the Pi Sigma Alpha speech, social events, and the graduate student reception. Kinky Friedman will be invited to deliver the 2007 Pi Sigma Alpha address in Las Vegas.

#### D. Nominating Committee Report: Elizabeth Moulds (for Noelle Norton)

- The slate of Officers and Executive Council members for election at the March 9, 2007 WPSA Membership Business meeting will include: Shawn Bowler, Vice President and Program Chair, 2008-2009; Victoria Farrar-Myers, Recording Secretary, 2007-2010; Steve Nicholson and Melissa Michelson, Region A, Executive Council 2008-2011; Stacy Gordon, Region B, Executive Council 2008-2011; and Paul Gronke, Region C, Executive Council 2008-2011.

#### E. PRQ Update: Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton

- Amy Mazur reported a smooth transition from the previous editors, and that two editorial assistants have been hired. The editors have approximately 100 manuscripts from the previous editors and approximately 66 new manuscripts; they are currently working on

the March 2007 issue, which will be their first as editors. The PRQ editorial board meeting and reception will be held Friday, September 1 at APSA.

- The editors are working with representatives from Sage and Ron Hrebenar on the new web-based submission process and planning for a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of PRQ (which will be in 2007).
- Cornell Clayton informed the Executive Council of the issue of PRQ editorial policies that came up on a recent APSA blog questioning whether or not the editorial direction of the journal would change and if more qualitative research would now appear in PRQ. He responded on the blog that the PRQ would continue to encourage quality research that is problem driven and relies on multi-methodological approaches. The question originated on the APSA Law & Courts listserv.
- Amy Mazur stated that the issue of who is being asked to review articles is an important one and they are attempting to get outside of the practice of “expertise niche” in selecting reviewers.
- Peter Steinberger stated that he thought the Executive Council should be aware of the issue raised on the blog.
- Gary Segura encouraged the editors to ignore the discussion of journals on blogs.

### **III. Old Business**

None.

### **IV. New Business**

#### **A. Mid-year Budget Report: Gil St. Clair**

- To date, the WPSA is under budget for this year. Areas to watch on the budget include professional fees and costs related to the PRQ transition.

#### **B. Policy Change: Travel Funding for Officers: Elizabeth Moulds**

- The proposed change to include the treasurer and recording secretary back within the group of officers eligible for travel funding on an “as needed” basis.
- Motion to approve change to WPSA Policies and Procedures – Gary Segura
- Second – Ron Schmidt, Sr.
- Approved by Executive Council

#### **C. Policy Change: Timing of Executive Council Assumption of Office**

- The proposed change to the timing of when Executive Council members take office is an attempt to eliminate the confusion that comes from having members assume office mid year in the first year of their term. New Executive Council members will now begin their terms at the beginning of the spring meeting of the Executive Council instead of at the conclusion of the meeting.
- Motion to approve change to WPSA Bylaws – Gary Segura
- Second – Edwina Barvosa-Carter

- Approved by Executive Council

#### D. MOU with the University of Utah re: PRQ: Valerie Martinez-Ebers

- Changes include dates of agreement to coincide with Utah's MOU with Sage.
- Another important change includes the clause that University of Utah can now veto the selected editors for reasons other than financial. Ron Hrebenar stated that University of Utah wanted to assert their right to being comfortable with the editorial candidates to meet their legal responsibilities with Sage, as well as maintaining the quality of the journal and keeping it as a general political science journal as opposed to a niche journal.
- Todd Donovan stated that he believes that giving Utah this power goes beyond a legal issue to a political one, and he opposes Utah having this power over the selection of the editor(s).
- Valerie Martinez-Ebers stated that there have never been any problems in the past with Utah stemming from the WPSA selecting the editors of the journal.
- Gary Segura stated that the WPSA will not know the preferences of the future managing editor at Utah, and questioned whether or not it was in the interest of WPSA to allow Utah to have the veto power.
- Peter Steinberger stated that these questions need to be addressed in the future but that the MOU needs to be approved now based on the language that Utah needs for legal issues with Sage.
- Valerie Martinez-Ebers stated that she has full confidence in the current editors and that she hopes that a veto by Utah for the selection of future editors would never be necessary.
- Edwina Barvosa-Carter asked for clarification on the legal issues between Utah and Sage.
- Catherine Rossbach stated that a veto would not be exercised based on content of the journal, but that the delivery of manuscripts was an important issue. Sage would hold Utah responsible for unacceptable manuscripts if the subscriptions could not be delivered to customers.
- Ron Hrebenar stated that for legal reasons and maintaining the value of the journal, the veto was necessary, and the request in change of policy came from the dean and university lawyers at Utah. He added that a veto would be unlikely and that if it did occur, it would be due to extraordinary circumstances.
- Valerie Martinez-Ebers stated that the issue over the veto was non-negotiable with Utah, and that the agreement was the best that WPSA could do at this time even though it was not exactly what WPSA wanted. However, WPSA would be at an impasse with Utah unless the organization accepted the new terms. Also, memberships are now handled in Sacramento and WPSA will now pay Sage for subscriptions.
- Ron Hrebenar stated that institutional subscriptions go to libraries, and that Utah will share revenues with WPSA even though it has nothing to do with WPSA. The contribution to support the organization is the maximum amount that Utah will contribute.
- Valerie Martinez-Ebers asked for a motion from the Executive Council to support the MOU. She also stated that Shaun Bowler will chair a long-range planning committee to explore future directions for the WPSA and the possible need for its own journal.
- Motion to support changes to MOU with Utah – Ron Schmidt, Sr.
- Second – Gil St. Clair

- The motion passed with one no vote (Segura) and two abstaining (Donovan and Meyer)

E. MOU with Sage Publications re: PRQ: Valerie Martinez-Ebers

- This MOU will define the technical working relationship with Sage to include such matters as membership labels, deadlines, and payments.
- Motion to allow Betty Moulds to finalize and sign an MOU with Sage – Gil St. Clair
- Second – Peter Steinberger
- Approved by Executive Council with Gary Segura abstaining

F. Long-Range Planning Committee (to explore future WPSA options for journal and revenue):  
Valerie Martinez-Ebers

- Motion for Executive Council to endorse the committee to be chaired by Shaun Bowler – Gary Segura
- Second – Peter Steinberger
- Approved by Executive Council

**Meeting Adjourned** – 6:53 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Han