

Minutes

**Western Political Science Association
Executive Council Meeting
Thursday, March 20, 2008
Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Members Present: Peter Steinberger, Andrea Simpson, Shaun Bowler, Gilbert St. Clair, Kristin Hill Maher, John Meyer, Ted Jelen, Richard Clucas, Lisa Garcia Bedolla, Charles Turner, John Bretting, Steve Nicholson, Melissa Michelson, and Stacy Gordon.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Elizabeth Moulds, Cornell Clayton, Amy Mazur, Matthew Burbank, and Valerie Martinez-Ebers

Members Absent: Victoria Farrar Myers, Ange-Marie Hancock, and Paul Gronke

Guests Present: Allan Tupper, Ron Schmidt, Sr., Tim Kaufman-Osborn, Tony Affigne, Christine DiStefano, Gary Segura, and Jaclyn Huntling.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Peter Steinberger at 8:11 AM.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Thursday, August 30, 2007 Executive Council Meeting held in Chicago, IL were approved.

II. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report: Elizabeth Moulds

Elizabeth Moulds reported that she has spent the last several months getting ready for the San Diego convention. She indicated that the convention participation was quite high despite initial apprehension because of the cost increase associated with scheduling the conference in San Diego. She said that the association exceeded the original estimate of 1000 room nights, with a final total of 1380 room nights.

Betty detailed other activities in which she has been involved. She reported that she and Elsa have been looking into options for the 2011 convention, with site visits to San Antonio and Portland. She has been working with the Long Range Planning Committee on the future of the WPSA. She has begun working with the local arrangements committee for the 2009 convention in Vancouver. She has been researching how to increase the use of electronic communications to help reduce association expenditures.

Betty also reported that she will be serving as the Executive Director for one more year, stepping down in September 2009.

B. Program Chair's Report: Andrea Simpson

Andrea Simpson reported that participation at the convention was strong. As of March 13, 850 people had pre-registered for the conference. In total, she said there were 1034 participants, 216 panels, and 746 papers. Andrea credited the hard work of the section chairs for making the program a success.

C. Local Arrangements, San Diego: Noelle Norton and Barbara Morris

Noelle Norton welcomed the Executive Council to San Diego.

D. Local Arrangements, Vancouver: Allan Tupper

Allan Tupper, Chair of the Political Science Department at the University of British Columbia, reported that he has begun working on next year's conference. The conference will be held in Vancouver March 18 – 20, 2009. He provided a brief overview of the political climate in Vancouver, which he described as being very welcoming to visitors.

Betty Moulds warned that the members of the association will need passports to attend the conference. She said that the members should look into their passport situation as early as possible to ensure their passports are current.

The 2009 conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver, located in the heart of downtown Vancouver.

E. Nominating Committee Report: Barbara Norrander

Ronald Schmidt gave the Nominating Committee report for Barbara Norrander. Ron reported that the committee has put forth a full slate of nominees. The nominations are as follows:

Vice President and Program Chair, 2009-2010

Christine DiStefano, University of Washington

Executive Council 2009 – 2012

Region A

Susan Baer, San Diego State University

Kim Geron, California State University, Eastbay

Region B

Arturo Vega, St. Mary's University, Texas

Region C

Julie Novkov, University at Albany, SUNY

F. Financial Report: Gil St. Clair

Gil St. Clair reported that the association had income of \$92,691.62 last year, expenses of \$83,875.29, and a net profit of \$816.33.

G. *PRQ* Report: Cornell Clayton and Amy Mazur

Cornell Clayton reported that he and Amy are now at the end of their second year of their editorship, halfway through their tenure. He also announced that this is the 60th anniversary of the journal. He described aspects of the journal's special anniversary edition.

Cornell reported that he and Amy had three goals when they became editors of *PRQ*:

- introduce an on-line review system;
- expedite the review process, and
- build the reputation of the journal.

He reported that they have made steps in all of these directions. Among other accomplishments, he reported that the journal has begun using "Online First" through Sage to handle manuscript review; the journal has seen a large increase in the number of reviewers; and the journal has seen a decline in the length of time for the review process. Cornell also reported that the number of submissions to the journal has grown and that there has been a decline in the percentage of papers accepted for publication since he and Amy took over as editors. Because of these trends, he expects to see an improvement in the journal's impact ranking.

Jaclyn Huntling, the Publishing Editor of *PRQ* for Sage, reported that Sage is very happy with the first year overseeing the journal. She reported that subscriptions were up to almost 900 for members and 1,876 for institutions. She reported that the journal has gained increased international exposure and that she also is expecting its impact to rise.

H. Membership Report: Elizabeth Moulds

Betty Moulds reported that the membership report will now be given at the August meeting of the Executive Council and will capture membership from June to June. She said that the change will produce a more accurate account of membership.

I. Committee Reports

Long Range Planning: Shaun Bowler

Shaun Bowler reported that there are two problems confronting the WPSA: rising costs and uncertain revenue. He reported that some type of arrangements needs to be worked out with the University of Utah over *PRQ* to address these problems.

The members of the Executive Council discussed whether the association should work out an extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Utah, which owns the rights to *PRQ*, or whether the association should develop a new journal. The Council also discussed the potential of purchasing the *PRQ* from the university and whether to begin publishing a second, more specialized, journal.

The Council voted to authorize the Long Range Planning Committee to pursue an agreement with the University of Utah by June 1 and report back as to whatever options that it was able to negotiate.

The Council also voted to raise membership by \$10 for regular members to help improve the association's financial situation.

III. Old Business

A. Convention Site for 2011: Moulds

Betty Moulds reported that she and Elsa have examined hotels in San Antonio and Portland, and that the Executive Council needed to decide where it wants to go in 2011 and 2012. She said there are two questions the Council needed to address for the 2011 convention. The first question was whether the Council wanted to hold the conference in San Antonio during Easter week, which is the only time she could get a room rate below \$200 a night. The second question was which hotel to use for the convention.

The Council discussed the benefits and drawbacks of holding the conference in San Antonio and of the two potential conference hotels (the Grand Hyatt and the Hyatt Regency). The council approved a motion to hold the conference in San Antonio during the Easter week. It then approved a motion authorizing Betty Moulds to pursue signing a contract with the Grand Hyatt if a final walk through of the facilities finds that the hotel will meet the association's needs. The Hyatt Regency would be second choice.

The Council voted to hold the 2012 conference in Portland, Oregon. The Council considered the benefits and drawbacks of the two potential conference hotels in Portland (the downtown Hilton or the waterfront Marriott). The Council approved a motion to hold the conference at the Marriott at the earliest of three proposed dates (March 20-25).

B. Policy Change re Publication of Award Papers: Mazur and Clayton

Amy Mazur reported that many association members are confused by the guidelines on how the PRQ should handle the papers that have won WPSA conference awards. She put forward a proposed change in the WPSA bylaws on how the journal will handle these papers. Under the proposed new rules, award-winning papers will receive an expedited review and the promise of at least one opportunity to revise and resubmit. However, the papers will not be "guaranteed" automatic acceptance. The proposed change in the policy was approved by the Executive Council.

IV. New Business

A. Budget: Gil St. Clair

Gil St. Clair put forward a proposed budget for the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year. Two amendments were offered during debate. The first amendment was to raise the amount authorized for the President's Discretionary Fund from \$300 to \$5000 to help cover costs associated with the work of the Long Range Planning Committee and with the Executive Director search. The second amendment was to increase the amount of money earmarked for Wednesday Workshops from \$750 to \$1500. Both amendments were approved. The Council then approved the amended budget proposal.

B. Executive Director's One Year Contract Renewal: Steinberger

Peter Steinberger reported that the Council needed to renew Elizabeth Mould's contract to keep her onboard for the next year. The council approved the motion renewing her contract, September 1, 2008 – September 1, 2009.

C. Associate Director's Job Description: Moulds

Elizabeth Moulds put forward a proposed job description for the WPSA Associate Director. The Council voted to approve the job description.

D. Succession Plan: Steinberger

Peter Steinberger brought forward four issues for the council to consider in addressing the upcoming search and appointment of a new Executive Director:

- 1) Approval of Executive Director job description and job announcement
- 2) Approval of timeline
- 3) Appointment of Search Committee

The Council discussed the advertisement to be used in searching for the Executive Director. A motion to amend the wording of the ad so that it states that "Different candidates can apply" was adopted.

The Council then considered the wording of the Executive Director's job description. The council voted to approve the job description.

The Council approved the following time line: The job announcement will be distributed to members of the association and others in May; the deadline for applying is June 1; the final candidates will be brought to the APSA meeting in August if possible.

The Succession Planning Committee was reappointed as the Search Committee.

E. Six Issues for PRQ? Clayton/Mazur

Amy Mazur reported that Sage Publications had asked if the association would be interested in changing the number of times PRQ is published from 4 to 6 a year. The consensus of the journal's advisory board was that such a change would lower the quality and identity of the Journal. The Council voted to maintain the Journal's quarterly publication schedule.

F. Dues increase as recommended by Long Range Planning Committee. Bowler

(The Council approved the \$10 dues increase for regular members earlier in the meeting. Student and retired membership dues will remain the same.)

G. WPSA and Journals in the Future. Bowler

(The Council considered this topic during the Committee Reports.)

H. APSA's Council Group on Civil Liberties and Transportation.

Re TSA and Vancouver. Tim Kaufman-Osborn and Tony Affigne

Tim Kaufman-Osborn explained the task of the APSA's Council Group on Civil Liberties and Transportation. The group is examining different issues related to border crossing that may arise when the APSA holds its national conference in 2009 in Toronto, Canada.

Tony Affigne reported that the APSA Council Group would like to use the WPSA meeting in Vancouver as a dry run to determine potential problems that may occur in holding a conference in Canada. Tony was appearing before the WPSA Executive Council to ask the council if the APSA Council Group can issue information to the members of the WPSA prior to the WPSA meeting in Vancouver and then to canvas members following the meeting to assess issues related to border crossing. The Executive Council voted to approve Tony's request and to work with the APSA's Council Group. Elsa Favila will serve as liaison to the group.

I. Other: Statement on Tolerance

The Executive Council discussed how it should respond to reports that the owner of Manchester Hyatt had contributed \$125,000 donation to an initiative that would ban same-sex marriages in California. Elizabeth Moulds reported on her discussions with the WPSA lawyer on the association's legal options. She also reported on her discussion with Manchester Hyatt staff about how the hotel will treat of association members.

Peter Steinberger offered a resolution reaffirming the association's commitment to mutual respect and toleration, and condemning efforts to discriminate. John Meyer offered a revised resolution that read:

The WPSA reaffirms its fundamental, indeed defining commitment to mutual respect and toleration, and condemns any effort to discriminate in any way on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religious preference or sexual orientation. This commitment has shaped and will continue to shape our contract negotiations for hotel and conference sites. Recent news reports have raised issues in the minds of some members about a possible connection between the Manchester Hyatt and an effort to ban same-sex marriage in California. Subsequent conversations among WPSA staff and Manchester Hyatt staff have been extremely reassuring and positive. Nonetheless, the WPSA hereby expresses its deep concern, and is committed to investigating this issue further, in conversation with our membership, the management of the Manchester Hyatt, and Hyatt Hotels.

The Council voted to adopt the resolution.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Clucas, Acting Recording Secretary