

MINUTES

WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, August 29, 2013

Hotel: Palmer House

Room: LaSalle 1

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Members Present: Gary Segura, Victoria Farrar-Myer, Louis DeSipio, Michael Bowers, Karthick Ramakrishnan, Mary Caputi, Jeanne Morefield, Jessica Lavariega-Monforti, Martin Johnson, Tony Affigne, Peregrine Schwartz-Shea,

Ex-Officio Members Present: Richard Clucas, Elsa Favila, Amy Mazur, Cornell Clayton, Eric Waltenburg, and Mark Button (University of Utah representative for James Gosling)

Members Absent: Carrie Currier, Rudy Espino, Chris Parker, Mark Bevir, Gabriel Sanchez, and Chris Shortell

Guests Present: Manuel Avalos, Leah Fargotstein, William Haltom, and Valerie Martinez-Ebers

Call to Order: President Gary Segura calls meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

I. Approval of Minutes

ACTION: Council approved the minutes from the March 2013 Executive Council in Hollywood with one correction (providing the correct spelling of Louis DeSipio's name).

II. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report: Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas reported that there are five main areas of work in which he has been involved since the Hollywood meeting in March:

1. Post Hollywood follow-up
2. Preparation work for 2014 Seattle meeting
3. Planning for future meetings
4. Worked on a variety of bigger issues
5. Smaller administrative duties

Of particular note in Post-Hollywood follow-up, he indicated that Pi Sigma Alpha only paid half the amount normally given to the recipient of the Pi Sigma Alpha award. He said that if this continues, the council will have to

consider whether to reduce the award amount of cover the additional amount out of association funds.

He noted that the conference next year will be April 17-19 at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel, and that the guest room rates are \$170 a night.

As for future meetings, he said he signed the contract with the San Antonio Hyatt for the 2018 meetings.

On bigger issues, he said he has been working with the PRQ Search Committee and the Investment Planning Committee, including on the items that will be taken up on the agenda this evening. He has put together a revised proposal for a graduated membership fee structure. He has also been making a more concerted effort to encourage publishers to exhibit books at the annual meeting and to advertise in the program.

B. Local Arrangements Hollywood: Elsa Favila

Elsa Favila reported that the Hollywood hotel proved to be a very successful conference both financially and in the number of participants. Financially, the conference was the most successful in the association's history, netting \$74,815.73, which was \$16,000 more than the second most successful conference. The meeting also included more than 1200 individual presentations and papers.

C. Local Arrangements Seattle: Richard Clucas, Elsa Favila

Richard Clucas and Elsa Favila reported that the arrangements for the 2014 meeting in Seattle are going well. The conference planning team made a site visit to Seattle in mid-August to meet with the hotel staff and the local arrangements chair. The planning meeting went well. Both Richard and Elsa believe this will be a very successful meeting. Gary Segura also spoke positively about the meeting location. Christine DiStefano is serving as the local arrangements chair.

D. Nominating Committee Report: Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas presented the report for the Nominating Committee, which is being chaired by Stacy Gordon, University of Nevada, Reno. The report listed the Committee's recommended slate of officers, which will be presented at the WPSA Business Meeting in Seattle in April 2014.

E. Membership Report: Elsa Favila

Elsa Favila reports that the association's membership shows slow but steady growth. She discussed how conference location affects membership,

including the growth in members in Texas when the conference was held in San Antonio, and the subsequent decline in Texas members afterwards. Similarly, there was a growth in the number of members from California with the location of the meeting in Hollywood. Total membership for 2013 was 1259, which was up from 1192 in 2012.

III. Old Business

A. PRQ Editor Search: Bill Haltom

Bill Haltom reported on the work of the PRQ Editor Search Committee, which he chaired. Haltom noted that the committee considered five very strong applications. These applications included both single individuals and teams of individuals. Haltom said that there had been another team that had applied, but it withdrew its application before the committee began to consider its recommendations.

Among the factors that the committee considered in making its recommendations was the extent to which the applicants showed sensitivity to the special character of the Western Political Science Association and its constituent groups, the scholarly expertise of the applicants, and the institutional support provided by the host university. Ultimately, the committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Executive Council approve the application from Jason Maloy and Jeanette Mendez from Oklahoma State University. The committee felt that all of the applications brought in a variety of strengths, but that the Maloy-Mendez team was consistently strong in all these and other areas. The committee was also favorably impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment that Maloy and Mendez displayed toward the advancement of the journal, the WPSA, and political science in general.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the search committee's recommendation. The Executive Council then voted unanimously to approve Maloy and Mendez as the new editors of PRQ.

B. Future Convention Sites: Elsa Favila, Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas reported that if the association were to follow its ongoing pattern that it should consider holding the 2019 meetings somewhere in Northern California. Clucas said that the dilemma confronting the council is that there are problems associated with many of the potential sites in the area. While the San Francisco conference in 2010 was very successful, the association dodged a potentially devastating financial bullet because of a labor dispute in San Francisco hotels. The problem with other Northern California sites is that they may be too isolated or not appealing enough to attract participants. Clucas said that if we skipped Northern California then

Portland would be next in line following the previous rotation. The problem with Portland, however, is that it means we may be holding a disproportionate amount of meetings in the Pacific Northwest.

Manuel Avalos, who was involved in the planning of the San Francisco meetings in 2010, described the stresses involved in planning that meeting and the financial threat it raised.

Gary Segura argued that we shouldn't avoid San Francisco because it is unionized. He recommended that we consider San Francisco and San Jose in Northern California. If neither of those proves appealing that we consider Long Beach in Southern California rather than Portland. He also suggested that the Executive Director investigate the availability of insurance to protect the association if there is a strike.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to direct the Executive Director to investigate the potential for holding the 2019 conference in San Francisco, San Jose, and Long Beach. The council then voted unanimously to approve the motion. The Executive Director will bring a proposal to the April 2014 Executive Council meeting on the siting of the 2019 meeting.

IV. New Business

A. Mid-Year Budget Report: Michael Bowers

Michael Bowers reported that the WPSA budget looks strong at this mid-year point. He reported that some of the budget items for the Hollywood meeting were higher than in previous years, including for awards, the presidential dinner, equipment, and the Wednesday workshops. He said that none of these additional costs represent a problem. The higher costs reflected expansion in the size of the association and the demands of doing business in Hollywood, which is an expensive city.

B. WPSA Investment Policy and RFP: Manuel Avalos

Manuel Avalos reported that the Investment Policy Committee, which he chairs, has been reviewing two items put together by the Executive Director: one was a proposed investment policy for the association and the other was a RFP for a professional fund manager to handle WPSA investments.

Tony Affigne explained that larger associations such as the APSA have moved away from investment policies like the one under consideration. These associations are moving toward index funds. He recommends that the Executive Director reach out to an advisor from Vanguard to find out what support Vanguard could give in Index Funds. Some members of the council expressed concern that Vanguard wouldn't give enough advice, but Affigne

argued that the best strategy for an association of our size is to invest in index funds and not tinker with them. The Investment Policy Committee would then be responsible for changes in investments.

The council then discussed the need to normalize how the Investment Committee works and who makes its appointments. While the committee is described in the association's policies, there are no formal rules guiding its membership and how they are selected.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded that the council approve (1) the draft of the investment policies as written and (2) the RFP in principle. The motion granted the Executive Director and the Investment Policy Committee to revise the RFP if they believe changes are necessary. The motion also directed the Executive Director to investigate the use of Index funds. The motion was approved unanimously by the Executive Council.

C. ProQuest database: Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas reported that the association was approached by ProQuest in August to include the papers presented at WPSA meetings in ProQuest's academic research database. The question put before the council was whether the Executive Director should sign an agreement with Proquest.

The primary concern raised in the council was whether paper authors would be able to place a disclaimer on their papers stating that they do not want their papers cited without permission. Council members also expressed a desire that there be outreach to association members so that the members understand how the paper posting will work.

ACTION: A proposal was moved and second authorizing the Executive Director to sign off on this agreement contingent on whether authors can include a disclaimer that the paper cannot be cited without the authors' permission. The proposal also called for there to be outreach to the membership explaining how it works if an agreement is signed. The council voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

D. Graduated Membership Rate: Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas reported that in August 2012, WPSA President Peregrine Schwartz-Shea had asked him to put together a proposal for a graduated dues structure for membership in the association. An initial reading of the proposal was discussed at the March 2013 Executive Council meeting. The council requested that he bring the item back to it with two revisions:

1. provide an alternative proposal based on salary rather than rank
2. include a category for non-tenure track faculty (adjuncts)

Clucas presented the two new proposals, along with the original one presented in March.

The Council debated the merits of the new proposals with some favoring the use of rank and others the use of salary. The use of rank was suggested as a way to distinguish the association from other political science associations, which rely on salary, while also providing a more secure method for ensuring that members pay the appropriate fee. Among the arguments put forward by the supporters of using salary is that this method is more progressive, and thus more consistent with the character of the WPSA.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded that the Council approve the graduated membership fee based on salary. The motion was carried by a majority.

The meeting was adjourned by Gary Segura at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Caputi for Carrie Currier