

MINUTES

WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thursday, March 22, 2012
Portland Marriott
Room: Mount Hood Room
8:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Members Present: Manuel Avalos, Peregrine Schwartz-Shea , Noelle Norton, Michael W. Bowers, Sean Kelly, Ted Lascher, Karthick Ramakrishnan, Louis DeSipio, Chris Parker, Mark Bevir, Mary Caputi, Jeanne Morefield, and Gabriel Sanchez.

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

Members Absent: Christine DiStefano, Lisa Magaña, Melody Rose, Rudy Espino, and Amy Mazur

Guests Present: Gary Segura, Leah Fargotstein, Rosalee Clawson, and Chris Shortell

Call to Order: President Manny Avalos calls meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

A. April 2011 WPSA Executive Council Meeting, San Antonio.

Executive Director Richard Clucas noted that there was no quorum at the Seattle Executive Council Meeting and that we would have to revote on approving the minutes from San Antonio.

ACTION: Peri Schwartz-Shea moved to approve April 2011 Executive Council Meeting minutes; Cornell Clayton seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

B. September 2011 WPSA Executive Council Meeting

ACTION: Moved to approve by Michael Bowers. Seconded by Peri-Schwartz Shea. Motion approved unanimously

C. Fall 2011 Action without a Meeting

ACTION: Cornell Clayton moved to approve WPSA action taken to expand the Executive Council via email in Fall 2011. Louis De Sipio seconded. Approved unanimously.

II. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report: Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas thanked outgoing President Manny Avalos for his hard work. He noted that he worked on 7 primary tasks for the WPSA over the past year: 1) planning the Portland convention. He gave many thanks to Elsa Favila, Peri Schwartz-Shea, and Chris Shortell and noted that the preregistration was the second best ever at 962.; 2) continuing future convention planning – including negotiations for either Victoria or Vancouver, British Columbia; 3) preparing the upcoming Hollywood conference with Local Chair Ange-Marie Hancock, USC; 4) organizing *PRQ* and *PGI* publication decisions and committees; 5) continuing to develop plans for increased money and financial planning by working with Manny Avalos to fill the committee on Investment Planning; 6) trying to get more book publishers at the WPSA; and also 7) dealing with governance and administrative issues. He noted that there were many problems because there was no quorum in Seattle. Clucas asked that if going to the NOLA conference in September 2012 that EC members should come to meeting first to count in the quorum. Several members of the EC noted that we should take more proactive steps to encourage attendance at meetings and to let “serial non-attenders” know the problems associated with non-attendance.

B. Program Chair's Report: Peregrine Schwartz-Shea

Peri Schwartz-Shea noted that the numbers were very strong for the Portland conference. She mentions that there are 270 panels. This is the first year that the Program Chair experimented with a new method of selecting discussants for some panels and it appears to have been successful. She didn't hear that there were any serious problems, but suggests that the incoming Program Chair, Gary Segura, work with Elsa Favila to see if the new approach affects her workload. Even though there were some scheduling challenges Schwartz-Shea noted that all the panels have chairs and discussants this year and that the extra time and effort might be worth it for the association.

C. Local Arrangements: Chris Shortell

Chris Shortell welcomed all to the Portland rain and snow! He pointed out the restaurant and activity guide in program, noted names of other universities helping out (Reed, Lewis and Clark) and stated that the pub tour on Wednesday night was very popular.

D. Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee Report was given by Richard Clucas and Manny Avalos. Manny Avalos noted the increased gender and regional balance, but wonders if the association should review the policy for Western representation given that many members start work in the west, but, move east. Richard Clucas noted that the

nominating committee report would be presented in full at the business meeting. The Committee is nominating:

Vice President and Program Chair: March 29, 2013–April 18, 2014

Victoria Farrar-Myers, University of Texas, Arlington

Recording Secretary: March 1, 2013–February 28, 2016

Carrie Currier, Texas Christian University

Treasurer: March 1, 2012–February 28, 2015

Michael Bowers, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Executive Council: March 1, 2013 – February 28, 2016

Region A: Martin Johnson, UC-Riverside; Tony Affigne, Providence College

Region B: Jessica Lavariega-Monforti, University of Texas, Pan American

Region C: Chris Shortell, Portland State University

E. Financial Report: Michael Bowers

Michael Bowers thanks Elsa Favila for her hard work. Bowers reviews the budget. He noted that on March 1, 2012 there was 294K in bank and assets of 407k minus the operating budget of 93k; hence the FY end budget increased assets by 21K. Each year the WPSA incrementally increases assets. Bowers reviewed the break-down of budgeted and actual expenditures. Bowers also reviewed WPSA financial fact sheet and outlines income on various conferences. He noted that the most popular conferences were San Francisco and Las Vegas. Richard Clucas suggests he compare our finances to other conferences and consider what happens if we lose one of our resources: snow- Denver, Labor-San Francisco. How do we expand our finances to prepare for these potential events? How do we grow as an association, but still think about other employees too!?

F. PRQ Report: Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton

Cornell Clayton noted that the impact factor rating went up – since 2006 more than doubled to over 1, with journal ranking as moving to 39/103. Clayton notes that they are working on streamlining the review process – in 2007 it took 127 days to review an article, today it is 75 days on average. American politics still is the largest field for submissions and acceptances, although many scholars are reporting that they wrote an American politics article when they might actually have a race or gender article. Clayton noted the best article in PRQ went to Michael S. Rocca, Gabriel R. Sanchez, and Jason L. Morin, University of New Mexico, for their December 2011 PRQ Article: “The Institutional Mobility of Minority Members of Congress.”

G. PGI Report: Rosalee Clawson

Rosalee Clawson thanks Elsa Favila for her hard work on the PGI. Clawson passes around PGI marketing materials for the editorial board and call for papers. She notes that we all need to get the name out for the journal. Clawson thanks WPSA for encouragement and reminds us that they want to be both a distinguished journal and a

transparent journal. Several executive council members discuss how important the first few issues will be in setting the tone for the journal. Many on the executive council want PGI to seek high quality articles and big name scholars for the first few volumes.

H. Western Newsletter Report

Richard Clucas reports on the most recent version of the WPSA newsletter produced by Stephen Stambough and Valerie O'Regan (Cal State Fullerton). Clucas refers executive council members to the latest version of the newsletter.

III. Old Business

A. Future Convention Sites: Elsa Favila, Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas started a discussion weighing the benefits of a Vancouver or a Victoria British Columbia conference; both cities are courting the WPSA. The Sheraton quotes \$185 per room and Hyatt \$199, (or on Easter weekend \$185) in Vancouver. The Empress Fairmont in Victoria quotes \$189 per room; hence the room rates are comparable. The Executive Council discussed the tradeoffs - Victoria is incredibly charming and beautiful hotel, lovely experience, while Vancouver is urban with more to do. Plus, getting to Victoria is much more difficult. Peri Schwartz Shea noted that we will have to think carefully about how to educate membership about both the benefits and costs of getting to Victoria. Gary Segura noted that Victoria is a risk for us if it affects revenue streams. Louis DeSipio and Noelle Norton note that graduate and undergraduates might not be inclined to go to Victoria because of the distance and expense. Segura noted that he is concerned about the number of meetings in the Pacific Northwest. In response, Clucas reviewed the regional meeting rotation.

ACTION: A motion authorizing Richard Clucas to negotiate both Victoria and Vancouver in April, with a preference for Victoria was offered by Ted Lasher and seconded by Peri Schwartz Shea. An amendment was offered by Mark Bevir adding that if the difference in cost was about 10 percent or more we should switch back to a preference for Vancouver. The motion passed with 11 in favor/3 opposed/4 abstentions.

B. Proposal to Create Permanent Sections: Peregrine Schwartz-Shea

Peri Schwartz Shea noted the proposal to create permanent sections included the following stipulations: 1) all program sections will be listed alphabetically on the web and in other program material; 2) all sections should have a section description; section chairs will be able to revise section descriptions each year; 3) changes to section names should be infrequent; the program chair will justify any name changes with a brief informational memo to the council; 4) program chairs can add or delete sections at their discretion; a request for a new section from members should be accompanied by a brief argument for its addition, and if approved by the program chair, will be provided to the

executive council. Peri Schwartz-Shea noted the help received from Ange-Marie Hancock and Angela Simpson to create guidelines for section names.

ACTION: Karthick Ramakrishnan made a motion to approve the proposal to create permanent sections with the set of guidelines for change; Cornell Clayton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Environmental Political Theory Best Paper Award: Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas asks do we want to make the “Environmental Political Theory Best Paper Award” a permanent WPSA award?

ACTION: Jeanne Morefield moves to make the “Environmental Political Theory Best Paper Award” a permanent WPSA award; the motion was seconded by Peri Schwartz-Shea and passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. Budget: Michael Bowers

Michael Bowers reviewed the WPSA 2012-2013 budget.

ACTION: Cornell Clayton made a motion to approve the 2012-2013 budget and it was seconded by Louis DeSipio. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Executive Director Contract: Manuel Avalos

At this point, Richard Clucas was asked to leave the room to allow the executive council to vote to extend the Executive Director’s contract. Manny Avalos noted that we needed to vote to extend the contract for three years; he also noted that we needed to formally establish a compensation committee comprised of the following executive council members: Past Chair, Program Chair, and Next Program Chair.

ACTION: Michael Bowers made a motion to extend Richard Clucas’ contract as Executive Director for three more years; the motion was seconded by Louis DeSipio. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Creation of WPSA Wage Committee: Manuel Avalos

ACTION: Michael Bowers made a motion to establish a Compensation Committee for all WPSA staff and would be comprised of the Past Chair, Program Chair, and Next Program Chair. The committee would make recommendations to determine a process for setting wages and contract renewal. Seconded by Louis DeSipio. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. PRQ Editor Search: Richard Clucas:

Richard Clucas noted that the executive council needs to put together a committee to find a new editorial team for the PRQ, draft a job description, approve the description, and reach out to possible editorial teams. The current editor's term ends June 30, 2014. The Executive Council needs to choose a committee to move forward and to authorize people to be on the committee. Peri Schwartz -Shea noted that she would gladly take recommendations from the Executive Council and others regarding who should be placed on the search committee.

Because executive council approval of the committee is necessary and time is of the essence, a recommendation was made to have a discussion and vote on the search committee via email. Clucas reminded the council that an electronic vote would have to be unanimous. Schwartz-Shea asked that nominations be sent to her and that they reflect the constituency of the WPSA. A discussion followed about the potential challenges facing the selection committee.

Peri Schwartz-Shea suggested that the President gather nominations for the PRQ Search Committee, present a slate of committee members to the executive council via email by late May or early June, and present the slate and advertisement to the Executive Council at the APSA meeting in NOLA, September 2012.

ACTION: Jeanne Morefield moved that the President gather nominations for the PRQ Search Committee, present a slate of committee members to the executive council via email by late May or early June, and present the slate and advertisement to the Executive Council at the APSA meeting in NOLA, September 2012; the motion was seconded by Manny Avalos and unanimously approved.

E. Business Meeting Discussion on Future of PRQ: Jeanne Morefield

Jeanne Morefield noted that several theorists (who represent 1/3 of the conference panels) are unhappy about low rate of theory articles in PRQ. Even with effort by PRQ editorial team, very few submissions are received or articles published. She noted that a group of theorist would be at the Friday evening business meeting to ask for a theorist to be one of the editors on the PRQ editorial team. A discussion about why it is important to have a theorist followed with several council members noting that theory articles are more likely to be published and several other members noting there are not enough theory articles in general. Cornell Clayton suggested that the advertisement for the editorial team include a discussion about theory and that the institution that takes the job include their theorist on the team.

F. Approval of Social Media Committee: Richard Clucas

The meeting ended before this item was considered.

The Executive Council meeting was adjourned at 11:55 by Manny Avalos.

Carrie Currier, WPSA Recording Secretary

Date