

MINUTES
WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thursday, March 29, 2018
San Francisco Hyatt Regency Embarcadero
Room: Waterfront A&B, Atrium Level
San Francisco, California

Members present: Andrew Aoiki, Janni Aragon, Michael Bowers, Mark Brown, Nadia Brown, Mark Button, Tony Carey, Valeria Chapman, Richard Clucas, Carrie Currier, Elsa Favila, Mario Feit, Lorrie Frasure-Yokley, Farah Godrej, Steven Johnston, Jane Junn, Jamie Mayerfeld, Stephen Nicholson, Valerie O'Regan, Ricardo Ramirez, and James Scott

Members absent: Maurice Mangum, Lan Chu

Guests: Cory Gooding, Huw Price, John-Paul McDonald, Jessica Lavariega Monforti, Ethel Tuncohan, Patrick McGinty, Tehama Lopez Bunyasi, Melissa Michelson, Valerie Martinez-Ebers

Meeting called to order at 8:18AM by Stephen Nicholson.

I. Approval of Minutes

August 2017 WPSA Executive Council Meeting minutes. One amendment to the last paragraph on the second page – “Texas Texas” should be Texas Tech. Motion to approve by Janni Aragon, seconded by Nadia Brown. Minutes approved with the amendment.

II. Reports

A. Executive Director’s Report by Richard Clucas.

Three areas of work Richard is involved in 1) Conferences. Next year’s conference is in San Diego April 18-20 at the Manchester Hyatt where guest rooms will cost \$199/night. The move to San Diego from San Antonio was in response to the travel ban California issued for state employees to Texas over the passage of an anti-LGBT law in the state of Texas. Citing a clause in the contract, the San Antonio Hyatt’s sale representative told the Executive Director that the Association would have to pay \$108,000 for cancelling. Richard worked with legal counsel, who worked with us for no charge, and the national sales office for the Hyatt to negotiate a settlement of \$54,000 (half the fees) to cancel for 2019. The settlement allowed us to keep a good relationship with the San Antonio Hyatt, since we would like to return to San Antonio at another point in time. In addition, it saved us the potentially higher costs to work through formal mediation in the Texas legal system. In addition he has worked on signing the Hyatt in Seattle for 2021, which is a brand new facility. 2) Publications. Richard works with the editors of PRQ, PGI, the Western, and the social media committee. The new PRQ editors were not at this year’s meeting but did respond to the concerns raised by the council last year. One note on editor change is that Anna Law has been replaced with Sophia Jordan Wallace. 3)

Administrative tasks. Richard works with committees on awards, works with the different officers on business that arises, prepares the agenda, and is working on an initiative to do more to incorporate community college instructors. In the next few months he will start the 2019 and 2022 conference planning and work on the APSA council meeting planning. One question that was raised in response to concerns over low attendance at APSA is if participation could include by phone or technology in order to get a quorum. Richard explained that the council had discussed this previously, but that it was reluctant to provide for virtual participation because of costs and complications involved.

- B. Program Chair's Report by Jane Junn. Registration is a little lower this year than expected, perhaps due to APSA being here in the fall 6 months earlier. Preliminary numbers put this conference at sixth in terms of attendance. There are 262 panels and 25 other panels related to preconference workshops and mini-conferences.
- C. Local Arrangements San Francisco by Melissa Michelson. One note in the program is that the local arrangements committee tried to direct people more to use apps for food and transportation options.
- D. Local Arrangements San Diego 2019 by Cory Gooding. Cory encouraged everyone to attend next year's conference. He introduced the other members of the planning team and told the council that planning is underway.
- E. Nominating Committee Report by Tehama Lopez Bunyasi. Noted the nomination slate includes: Jessica Lavariega-Monforti (VP), Jason Casellas (Secretary), Mario Guerrero and Natalie Masuoka (Region A), Sarah Shair-Rosenfeld (Region B), and Shirin Deylami (Region C).
- F. Financial Report by Michael Bowers. Total assets are \$604,984.98 in checking/savings and \$380,295.13 in mutual funds, for total assets of \$990,545.11. The largest revenue comes from dues/ registration and once profits and losses are assessed we have a total net income this year of \$70,487.39.
- G. PRQ Report by James Scott. A record number of submissions in the past year, and 42% of submissions were in the targeted subfields of comparative, political theory and international relations. Political theory in particular has increased to 12% of submissions. The global reach of PRQ is expanding with 1/3 of submissions coming from non-US scholars. PRQ continues to meet their goal of less than 90 days for review (averaging 82 days for processing on manuscripts). Three issues are ready for publication to be handed over to the new editorial team. Acceptance rate for PRQ is in the 10-15% range, 14% this past year. The five-year impact factor continues to climb steadily and now is at 1.8% up from 1.4% in 2013 and 1.5% in 2014. Finally they are working with the new editorial team on the transition scheduled for June 30. Sage reported that the circulation for the journal is down slightly but usage is higher. Altmetric is a metric that captures mentions in social media and the media more broadly and there are good hit numbers here. Question was raised about subscriptions

and if the price point was impacting it and they indicated it was not a concern as of now.

- H. PGI Report by Valeria Chapman and Nadia Brown. PGI just celebrated their 5th year anniversary. The journal is trying to stay nimble to keep up with contemporary issues like having a special issue on Charlottesville. Currently with a 24-25% acceptance rate on original research articles and it takes about 12 weeks to get papers reviewed. Subscriptions are increasing and they are doing better than other journals launched at the same time, with downloads also going up. The number of pages will be increased for the journal. One question on open access versus free to access clarification. Open access is permanently free to access (author choice) and is about copyright status, whereas free to access is a marketing tool where you might give 2-3 months of free access. One concern raised by PGI is that they have a limited budget and it does not cover the two receptions they sponsor. Also a question about awards and why WPSA offers one for PRQ but not for PGI.
- I. Western Newsletter Report by Janni Aragon, who noted there are some challenges for the newsletter but that it will be coming out later in the spring.
- J. WPSA Committee on Information Technology by Ethel Tungohan. The committee is using both Facebook and Twitter to promote scholarship and mentioned authors should think about blogs as another way to promote scholarship. Blogging can help draw viewership of articles, especially if they can put their research into layman's terms.

III. **Old Business**

- A. Future Convention Sites/75th Anniversary by Elsa Favila and Richard Clucas. 2022 is the 75th anniversary and we are looking for a popular site to encourage attendance. Easter weekend has historically been chosen due to financial issues but there continue to be concerns over the religious observation of Passover and first day of Seder. 2022 is the only year between 2001 and 2005 that we have this same conflict and it's the 75 year anniversary so we would like for that year to not hold it over the holiday weekend. Vegas is hated and loved so a second location might be considered for comparison. Many locations do not even accept a bid for a non-holiday weekend, given what we want to pay. Discussion involved the pros and cons of several locations and we even considered the possibility of using multiple hotels. Albuquerque, Tucson and San Jose are the lowest performing locations in terms of attendance. Objections to: Arizona over how Latina/os are treated, Denver based on snow interrupting travel and lack of space, Oakland because we have outgrown it, Portland due to lack of space, Vancouver/Victoria over concerns with leaving the country, Texas locations due to lack of rights to LGBT members and the California travel ban. A number of concerns raised about Las Vegas over cost of meals, lack of social spaces designed for conference interactions, and the role of the sex trade. Benefits of Las Vegas include low cost of flights to that location, feasibility for graduate students, cuts down travel time for those coming from the East coast. Questions about the possibility of using convention centers (a lot of hidden costs

associated with those), and if we might consider splitting the conference across hotels for locations that cannot seem to hold us anymore with available meeting space. The council asked Richard to investigate a number of different possibilities to find a location with the least amount of objections for the non-Easter/Passover weekend since it is such an important meeting and we want to avoid alienating the most number of members. General preferences are to look at Salt Lake City (the site of the first WPSA), Portland, and Las Vegas. Motion by Ricardo Ramirez, seconded by Jane Junn, and motion passed.

IV. New Business

- A. Budget report by Michael Bowers. In the proposed budget for this year there are no equipment costs but there are some projected for next year. Convention cancellation insurance is bought only every three years and ours is up for renewal next year. Total budget proposed is \$141,800. Motion to approve by Janni Aragon, seconded by Ricardo Ramirez, motion passed.
- B. PGI Editor Search by Richard Clucas. This item was moved up to the spring agenda because we do not always have a quorum in the August meeting. Richard is asking for approval for the timeline outlined in the memo for the selection of the new PGI editors. Motion to approve by Steven Johnston, seconded by Janni Aragon, motion passed.
- C. PGI Contract with T&F Expiration discussion led by Richard Clucas. Initial contract was for seven years and it expires Dec 31, 2019. If we want any changes we have to make those by Dec 31, 2018. Richard is asking for a committee to provide direction on this. Motion by: Steven Johnston, seconded by Mario Feit, motion passed.
- D. Criteria for Betty Moulds Award by Valerie Martinez-Ebers. One small change to the memo circulated is to add an amendment that includes the language “except for extenuating circumstances” in the event the winner cannot attend. One amendment suggested is that the awardee should be “in good standing in the WPSA in recent years,” to account for someone who may retire or may have passed by the time of the award. It is noted that the criteria is high for this award because we want it to be a very special person. Motion to approve with amendments by Steven Johnston, seconded by Jamie Mayerfeld, motion passed.
- E. Elsa’s Salary by Richard Clucas. There was an error in calculating Elsa’s salary, which led to Elsa being paid more than what was officially approved. While the amount may have technically been higher than what was approved, it was consistent with the Council’s intentions when it voted to increase Elsa’s salary in April 2017. The motion was for the council to adopt the higher salary. Motion to approve Elsa’s salary by Ricardo Ramirez, seconded by Mario Feit, motion passed unanimously.
- F. Executive Director Contract by Steve Nicholson. The executive director contract expires in September 2018. The contract allows for a two-course release paid for by

the association, the home institution adds an additional course release, and the association pays his part-time summary salary. In return the association gets some infrastructure support from his home institution to pay for other administrative costs. The overall compensation comes to \$72,000 per year, which is part of a formula that includes the buy out for course releases. The contract is for three years. Richard does an excellent job in his capacity as executive director, and the council discussed the pros of renewal versus composing a committee to look for a new director. It is noted that for the next renewal it should occur at least a year before the expiration time, to give any new candidates the potential to explore the position and for a committee to be assembled should it be necessary. Last time Richard was renewed there was also a \$5,000 signing bonus attached to the renewal. The recommendation to the council was for reappointment of Richard with the \$5000 signing bonus. Motion to approve by Steven Johnston, seconded by Janni Aragon, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25AM.