

**Minutes**  
**Western Political Science Association**  
**Wednesday, May 20, 2020**  
**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. PDT**  
**Meeting held virtually using Zoom technology**

Members Present: Ainsley LeSure, Tony Carey, Seth McKee, Elsa Favila, Jane Junn, Jamie Mayerfeld, Lan Chu, Jessica Lavariega Monforti, Mario Feit, Farah Godrej, Michael Bowers, Mario Guerrero, Natalie Masouka, Melissa Michelson, Mark Ramirez, Ricardo Ramirez, Richard Clucas, Sarah Shair-Rosenfeld, Laura Evans, Brent Steele, and Jason Casellas

Members Absent: Shirin Deylami

Guests: Elsa Dias, Cheryl Hall, Steve James Johnson, Pei-te Lien

Call to Order 10:06 am.PST by former President Jamie Mayerfeld, who agreed to host meeting in lieu of current President Jessica Lavariega Monforti.

## **I. Reports**

### **A. Report on Los Angeles and Virtual Conferences: Richard Clucas, Elsa Favila**

Richard Clucas gave a report on the cancelling of the scheduled conference at L.A. Live after Los Angeles County banned large meetings and on the switch to a virtual conference. He thanked those who put the online conference together. Richard reported that he is still waiting to hear back from the J.W. Marriott Hotel on when the Association's \$5000 deposit with the conference hotel will be returned. Elsa noted that she has refunded \$68,000 in registration fees, although the process is cumbersome because of PayPal rules.

Elsa noted that for the online conference there are 63 panels, with 2 mini-conferences, bringing the total to 70 panels and 300 participants.

Elsa described the problems of dealing with Zoom and hosting, although the situation was resolved. The Section chairs were very helpful in putting the conference together.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Proposed Creation of Permanent Climate Change Committee: Jamie Mayerfeld**

The first three items in New Business were related. Jamie moved first to the second item on the agenda, the proposed creation of a permanent Climate Change Committee

First, Jamie makes the case for a permanent 12-member Climate Action Committee stemming from the ad hoc committee, whose members include Jessica, Sarah, Cheryl, and Richard.

Jane Junn motioned to approve the creation of a permanent Climate Action Committee. Farah seconded.

Vote: the motion was approved unanimously.

### **B. Proposed Virtual Communities: Cheryl Hall**

Jamie yields to Cheryl Hall, who presented a proposal for a virtual communities program, in which participants will meet periodically throughout the year (say, once a month) to share work and exchange ideas. Each virtual community will be organized around particular academic themes or specializations. Cheryl stresses relevance especially during current pandemic. This measure would formally establish this as a one-year pilot program.

Farah motions to adopt, Shirin seconded.

Vote: unanimously approved.

### **C. Proposed Climate Action Fund: Jamie Mayerfeld**

Jamie proceeds to consider the third proposal, a Climate Action Fund, which would establish a fund to help WPSA lower its carbon impact. The proposal calls for increased conference registration fees would directly support the fund with an opt out mechanism for members. The amount of the fee would depend on distance traveled and mode of transportation.

Discussion ensued with some members having concerns about the implications of a carbon impact fee on members flying from the East Coast, who would be disincentivized or made to feel guilty for their carbon footprint. Some stressed that WPSA needs people to come to the meetings yet at the same time be cognizant of their carbon footprint.

This discussion led to a decision that because there was not a unanimous feeling for the proposal as stated to be implemented, perhaps we could think of some ways to make sure that the fee structure would be imposed in a way that would make everyone happy.

Some favored a fee structure that would be across the board with no opt out or opt in mechanism, but exempt graduate students, contingent faculty, and community college faculty because of their disadvantaged financial capabilities.

The council decided to take up the question again later in the meeting if time permitted.

### **D. Budget**

Jamie yielded to Michael Bowers who presented the budget from the preceding year and the proposed budget for the new fiscal year. Only issues arising in preceding budget were how Richard's salary was calculated due to Portland's accounting rules and the expenses for software development.

Vote on motion to approve 2020-21 budget by Ricardo Ramirez, seconded by Sarah Shair-Rosenfeld.

Vote: unanimously adopted.

### **E. PRQ Editor Search Timeline: Richard Clucas**

### **F. PGI Editor Search Timeline: Richard Clucas**

Richard asked the council to approve the timeline as set forth in the agenda for the PRQ and PGI transition plans.

Vote on motion to approve PRQ editorial timeline by Ricardo Ramirez, seconded by Jane Junn.  
Vote: unanimously adopted.

Vote on motion to approve PGI editorial timeline by Farah Godrej, seconded by Ricardo Ramirez.  
Vote: unanimously adopted.

### **G. Nomination Committee Slate**

Because we could not meet in person in Los Angeles, Richard noted that the Council needed to vote to authorize the executive director to conduct a vote by email on the election of new council members. Jane Junn notes that because it is not clear in the bylaws on the handling of this process, a vote is needed to authorize the WPSA executive director to move forward with this process.

Jane Junn motions to approve, seconded by Jessica Lavariega-Monforti.  
Vote: approved with one abstention.

### **H. Create a Committee for 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference**

Richard proposes a committee for the 2022 meeting to work on special events and a fundraising campaign to be tied to the Association's 75th anniversary, which will be marked that year. Richard recommends that committee should be chaired by someone in close consultation with Pei-te Lien, who will be the Program Chair that year.

Motion by Ricardo Ramirez, seconded by Farah Godrej.  
Vote: unanimously approved.

### **I. William E. Connolly Award in Political Theory**

Steve Johnston presented a proposal to create a best paper award in political theory, which would be named after William E. Connolly. Johnston described best paper award, Connolly's significance, and the very successful fundraising effort taken to underwrite it, which brought in \$21,600.

Richard Clucas said that the proposal met all the requirements in Association policies council for creating a new award.

Motion to approve award by Farah Godrej, seconded by Shirin Deylami.  
Vote: unanimously approved.

### **J. Community College Committee**

Elsa Dias introduces this proposal to create a standing committee focused on Community Colleges, which would be essentially equivalent to a status committee for community college members.

Motion to approve by Jessica Lavariega Monforti, seconded by Jane Junn.  
Vote: unanimously approved.

### **C. Return to Climate Action Fund Deliberation**

Near the end of the meeting, the council returned to consider the proposal for a climate action fund. Jamie proceeds to have the council consider a fee structure which would drop the sliding scale and add \$15 to the conference fee for all members, with the exception of graduate students, community college faculty, and contingent faculty. Jason suggests this fee should not be labeled as a “climate action fee” but rather built into the regular fee so that members are assured of reimbursement from their universities. Members will also be given the option to voluntarily contribute to the fund as well.

Motion to adopt by Ricardo Ramirez, seconded by Jane Junn.

Vote: unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m. PST

Respectfully submitted,

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Jason P. Casellas, Secretary  
Western Political Science Association