

## MINUTES

### WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL Action without a Meeting October 2 – October 18, 2019

Members Present: Janni Aragon, Michael Bowers, Mark Brown, Nadia Brown, Tony Carey, Jason Casellas, Lan Chu, Richard Clucas (nonvoting), Shirin Deylami, Mario Feit, Farah Godrej, Mario Guerrero, Steven James Johnston, Jane Junn, Jessica LaVariega, Natalie Masouka, Jamie Mayerfeld, Seth McKee, Valerie O'Regan, Ricardo Ramirez, Sarah Shair-Rosenfiel, Brent Steele (nonvoting)

Members Absent: None

WPSA Executive Director Richard Clucas submitted a proposal to the Executive Council through electronic mail on October 2, 2019 following the WPSA Bylaws for taking Action without a Meeting. These are these official minutes of those actions.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In early September, WPSA Vice President Jessica Lavariega Monforti requested that the Association provide support to the organization, Women Also Know Stuff, for travel to the annual conference in 2020 and for marketing paraphernalia. The request was put before the Executive Council because the Association does not have a line item in its budget for such requests and it has never previously allocated funding for this type of expenditure.

Women Also Know Stuff works to highlight the expertise of women and to push back against gender bias within the discipline. The organization tries to connect expert women in political science with professional opportunities, including providing commentary to the media. The organization has a website to provide a resource for those seeking experts in politics. It also has a Twitter feed that highlights women's research and the expertise of women in the profession.

The proposal put before the Executive Council called for allocating \$600 to WAKS to help underwrite the costs for two WAKS Executive Committee members to attend the 2020 annual conference. The proposal also calls for allocating \$400 for the purchase of WAKS branded material. The organization agreed to make a formal presentation at the annual meeting if it received support, either a workshop on how to push back against gender bias or a presentation about the Women Also Know Stuff project.

The Association has never previously provided this type of funding to any individual or group, which is why Executive Council action was needed. The only individuals for whom the Association currently provides travel support is paid staff. The proposal called for making an exception for the two WAKS speakers.

Under California law governing nonprofit organizations, and the Association's Bylaw, the Association's Executive Council can take action without holding a meeting, though it must meet certain requirements to do so. Among them, the members of the council must agree unanimously in writing to the proposed action.

## **PROPOSAL**

The WPSA allocates \$600 to Women Also Know Stuff to provide financial support for two WAKS Executive Committee members to attend the 2020 annual meeting in Los Angeles. The WPSA also allocates \$400 toward the printing of WAKS stickers. After the end of the 2020 conference, the two WAKS members will provide documentation of their expenditures to get reimbursed. Receipts also need to be provided in order to receive reimbursement for the stickers. The allocations of funds are contingent on the two WAKS members organizing a workshop, formal presentation, or some other type of event at the conference which would provide information about the various ways in which gender bias is a documented problem in the discipline and/or provide information on ways in which Association members can help. The money cannot be spent on members of the WPSA executive council.

## **OUTCOME**

All members of the Executive Council returned their ballots, with the final ballot arriving on October 18, 2019. The proposal received 19 votes in favor and 1 vote opposed. The proposal was defeated.

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Submitted by Jason Casellas, Recording Secretary