

MINUTES
WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thursday, March 19, 2009
Vancouver Hyatt Regency Hotel, English Bay Room
8am – 11:45 a.m.

Members Present: Gilbert K. St. Clair, Richard Clucas, Andrea Y. Simpson, Paul Gronke, Charles C. Turner, Steve Nicholson, Kim Geron, Stacy Gordon, Melissa R. Michelson, Lisa García Bedolla, Julie Novkov, Christine DiStefano, Shaun Bowler, Manuel Avalos, and Ange-Marie Hancock.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Elizabeth Moulds, Elsa Favila, Amy Mazur, Cornell Clayton, and Matthew Burbank.

Members Absent: Peter Steinberger, Victoria Farrar Myers, John Bretting, and Arturo Vega.

Guests Present: Allan Tupper, Leah Fargotstein, Barbara Norrander, Tim Kaufman-Osborn, and John Meyer.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Andrea Simpson at 8:23AM.

I. Greetings

A Native American Blessing was given by Andrea Simpson. A French Greeting was given by Amy Mazur.

II. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the August 2008 Minutes was moved by Lisa García Bedolla and seconded by Paul Gronke. The minutes were approved.

III. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report: Elizabeth Moulds

Executive Director Elizabeth Moulds gave a summary report on the Vancouver meeting planning and preparation, including issues of transporting items across the US-Canada border, the professionalism of the Hyatt staff, and the favorable exchange rate. The Canadian embassy helped with travel grants of \$600 each to five students, arranged by Program Chair Shaun Bowler.

Looking ahead to 2013, Las Vegas is "hungry" for business although the usual rotation schedule would put that meeting in Southern California. Planning for 2010 in San Francisco will begin tomorrow. Lisa García Bedolla and Melissa Michelson volunteered to do local arrangements. Meetings will be held in San Antonio in 2011 and Portland, Oregon in 2012.

A proposal for an Environmental Political Theory award will be made later this morning. Andrea Simpson is working on the advisability of permanent sections for WPSA. Elsa Favila has done the bulk of the nitty gritty. Finally, successor training with Richard Clucas has been going very well. Each month he has received a list of tasks and relevant documents, and by the end of the year he will be ready.

B. Program Chair's Report: Shaun Bowler

Program Chair Shaun Bowler gave a report on preparations for the current meeting, acknowledging support from Elizabeth Moulds, Elsa Favila, Alan Tupper, and the section chairs. He has posted an honor roll on the website of those who went above and beyond the call of duty. He considered posting a naughty list but decided against it.

C. Local Arrangements: Alan Tupper

Local Arrangements Chair Alan Tupper noted the many wonderful activities available to visitors to Vancouver, including the reopening of the local anthropology museum. He also thanked Rebecca Monnerat and Leslie Burns, for their help.

Elizabeth Moulds noted the many issues associated with holding the meeting in Canada and having to deal with customs. Bringing medical equipment, including liquid for dialysis, as well as books and programs, raised flags. Shipping items using UPS would have been very expensive and arrival time would not have been guaranteed.

Elsa Favila noted that some items were driven across the border in order to save money and ensure that they arrived on time. She also had to intervene on behalf of Routeledge to get their books released from customs. This despite official recognition given to the conference by customs officials.

Members discussed the delays faced by individuals coming across the border, and how this might affect the APSA Toronto meetings in August.

D. Nominating Committee Report. Barbara Norrander

Barbara Norrander gave an updated list of nominations, including a new nomination to the Executive Committee to fill a vacancy. The list of nominations is:

Vice President and Program Chair: April 4, 2010 - April 23, 2011

Manuel Avalos - University of North Carolina, Wilmington

Treasurer: March 22, 2009 – February 28, 2012

Michael W. Bowers University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Executive Council: March 20, 2009 – February 28, 2012 (vacancy replacement, Region A)

Pei-te Lien, University of California, Santa Barbara

Executive Council: March 1, 2010 – February 28, 2013

Region A: Sean Kelly, California State University, Channel Islands
Ted Lascher, California State University, Sacramento

Region B: Lisa Magaña, Arizona State University

Region C: Melody Rose, Portland State University

E. Financial Report: Gil St. Clair

Retiring treasurer (after many years) Gil St. Clair gave his last financial report. He noted that he was feeling vindicated about our conservative investment policy of council funds, given current financial issues. The budget was amended to move miscellaneous funds into presidential funds, also some expenses for the Richard Clucas transition.

F. PRQ Report: Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton

Co-editor Cornell Clayton gave a report on PRQ. He noted the 60th anniversary issue, which included special essays, publishing trends, and most-cited articles. Two mini-symposia were published this year. Submissions are up 10% this year; since 2006, submissions are up 86%. Most are in American politics, then comparative, gender/race/ethnicity (10%). Decisions in 2008: overall acceptance rate fell again, to 14%. Nevertheless, there is a large backlog, which Sage helped with by allowing an extra article per issue last year. Cornell is hoping to have the same again this year. The average review time has been reduced from 90 days to 47 days, but PRQ will not be trying to reduce this further as this would annoy reviewers. There are now over 2,000 reviewers in the database. The winner of this year's PRQ award is Kathleen Dolan, and PRQ is also giving outstanding reviewer awards to five reviewers.

Andrea Simpson asked if the data on race and gender articles could be disaggregated. Amy Mazur noted that this information is in their report and that the database is available online. Kim Geron asked about the big increase in institutional subscriptions. Leah Fargotstein explained that this is mostly due to an Hinari international donation of access.

IV. Old Business

A. Convention Siting: Elsa Favila and Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas noted the great help with the transition from Elizabeth Moulds before moving on to discuss future convention siting. We will need to monitor our finances carefully given the San Francisco location next week and the slashing of many travel budgets. Looking forward to 2013, he noted that Las Vegas has now gone smoke-free except for full bars and casinos. No smoking is allowed in convention areas and restaurants. If we have our meeting at the Riviera we will get a very competitive rate and will not have to go through the casino to get to the meeting. Also

noted that other Vegas hotels are a possibility, and that there are some nice opportunities. Elsa Favila noted some details about these, such as having the meeting at Caesar's Palace, which has a non-smoking meeting floor.

Members raised concern about returning to Vegas, such as the broken promises about smoke-free rooms from the Riviera and their generally poor attitude. Lisa García Bedolla argued that meeting in Southern California would be logical given ongoing budget constraints and the concentration of schools and graduate students in the area. Richard Clucas raised the possibility of getting some Southern California hotels to bid against each other for our business, as was done so successfully in San Antonio. Elsa Favila noted that we would make money going back to Vegas, but only if we stayed at the Riviera again. Many members argued against that option, noting that non-EC members would also remember their negative experiences there and be hesitant to return. Options in Southern California including Los Angeles and San Diego will be pursued.

B. Long Range Planning and Renewal of MOU with University of Utah: Shaun Bowler

On behalf of the Long Range Planning Committee (Shaun Bowler, Tim Kaufman-Osborn, Valerie Martinez-Ebers, Ronald Schmidt, Sr. and Kenneth Meier), Bowler presented a three-part proposal to the EC consisting of a new MOU with the University of Utah, a commitment to starting a new journal on politics, groups and identity (PGI), and purchasing *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*.

The committee explored the possibility of purchasing *PRQ* from the University of Utah but that didn't work out; we can't afford it. Thanks to Matthew Burbank, who has been very reasonable, we have come to a new agreement for a 55 (Utah) – 45 (us) revenue split for ten years. The current MOU runs out in 2011, and under that we get about \$40K/year. This will be a percentage instead of a set amount, which should mean increased revenue. It is a good deal for us. In 10 years, who knows what will happen. So there are two more associated proposals.

One is starting a new journal. This is difficult to do, publishers are resistant. It takes years to build a subscriber base and become profitable. We tried to start a new general journal but that was rejected by publishers. Our new proposal is for a PGI journal. We are requesting a commitment in theory from the Executive Council. We are meeting with publishers, who seem more interested in this than the original proposal for a general journal. The new long-term MOU with Utah gives breathing room to develop a new journal.

The second associated proposal is to purchase *SPPQ*, which is cheaper to buy than *PRQ*. It is affordable because it is small. This will make the PGI journal more palatable to publishers because then we have a slate of products that can be sold as a bundle.

None of these ideas will make us rich. But we will then own a good bundle of assets. The new MOU gives us 10 years, and within that 10 years we can develop our own assets that don't compete with *PRQ*. Bowler asked for the council's support. Our deal with Utah means that we will agree to a small increase in dues that would be forwarded to Sage/Utah.

A motion to agree to sign the new MOU was made by Gil St. Clair and seconded by Paul Gronke. Members discussed the pros and cons of the new MOU. The con is that refusing to sign would mean financial disaster. The motion passed with one abstention. Members also discussed timing for the new MOU, including whether it would take effect when the current MOU expires in 2011 or if it should take effect immediately. The unanimous consensus was that it should take effect immediately but no formal motion on this issue was made.

Members then discussed the pros and cons of the two complementary proposals. It was argued that the new PGI journal fills a need and is well suited to our established areas of expertise and reputation. Competing journals in were discussed, as well as the need to be included in JSTOR and indexed in the Social Science Citation Index. Melissa Michelson made a motion to buy *SPPQ*, seconded by Charles. The motion was approved. Melissa Michelson made a motion to start the new PGI journal, seconded by Kim Geron. Andrea Simpson noted the need to include an African-American politics scholar in the long-range planning for this journal. Lisa García Bedolla made a motion to ask the Long Range Planning Committee to include an inclusive list of scholars to shepherd the journal through to creation; seconded by Andrea. Ange-Marie Hancock moved to amend the motion to note that the PGI focus is fluid and flexible. The friendly amendment was accepted and the motion was approved with one member (Paul Gronke) voting no. The original motion was then approved without dissent.

V. New Business

A. Budget: Gil St. Clair

Asking for \$119,400 for 2009-10 budget. Moved by Gil St. Clair, seconded by Paul Gronke. Approved without dissent.

B. Proposal to establish permanent Sections within WPSA: Andrea Simpson

Andrea Simpson reported on her desire to have more continuity in the program and sections. Making permanent sections would allow for stability and would allow people to plan what sections they would submit to and participate in in future years. Elizabeth Moulds recommended making the change via the policies and procedures document rather than through the bylaws, and that a committee be formed to agree on a list of section names. Charles Turner moved to create the committee, seconded by Julie Novkov. The motion was approved. Andrea Simpson, Ange-Marie Hancock, Stacy Gordon, and Manny Avalos volunteered to serve on the committee.

C. An Environmental Political Theory Award: John Meyer

John Meyer reported that for the past four years we have had a section at the conference on environmental political theory. This is a growing group, as evidenced by the attendance of close to 50 people at yesterday's workshop. The proposal is to generate an award to give publicity to this work. The award would match other WPSA awards (\$250). One change from the written proposal is that the group would like to start this year instead of next year. The first award would be made for the best paper at this meeting and awarded next year.

Elizabeth Moulds noted that this is a group the WPSA has been developing and endorsed the award, as did Andrea Simpson. Stacy Gordon moved to approve the award, seconded by Ange-Marie Hancock and approved without dissent. Nominees for the committee have already been chosen and the policies document will be rewritten for September to reflect this decision.

D. Audio Visual services for WPSA Conventions: Shaun Bowler

Shaun Bowler noted the need for a committee to look at A/V provision at conferences, specifically whether or not we want PowerPoint projectors. The cost would be considerable. Elsa Favila noted that people don't get it that we don't have projectors, show up for panels with flash drives. Ange-Marie noted the need to increase standards in the profession and volunteered to be on the committee, as did Shaun Bowler and Charles Turner.

E. Policy on Operation of Committees, first reading: Shaun Bowler

Shaun Bowler noted that we don't have guidelines on the website for the status committees (on women, blacks, latina/os), and that we need a policy to tell people what serving on these committees will mean. This is the first reading, we will revisit this issue in September. Julie Novkov moved to approve, seconded by Kim Geron, approved without dissent.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa R. Michelson, Acting Recording Secretary

Melissa R. Michelson, Acting Recording Secretary