

MINUTES
WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Thursday, April 21, 2011
San Antonio Hyatt Regency Hotel
Room: Chula Vista
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Members Present: Christine DiStefano, Manuel Avalos, Noelle Norton, Michael W. Bowers, Kim Geron, Pei-te Lien, Arturo Vega, Julie Novkov, Ted Lascher, Lisa Magaña, Melody Rose, Karthick Ramakrishnan, Louis DeSipio, Rudy Espino

Ex-Officio Members Present: Richard A. Clucas, Elsa J. Favila, Cornell Clayton, Amy Mazur, James Gosling, Shaun Bowler

Members Absent: Sean Kelly and Chris Parker.

Guests Present: Rosalee Clawson, Sonia Garcia, Ange-Marie Hancock, Leah Fargotstein, James McCann, Valerie O'Regan, Peregrine Schwartz-Shea, Gary Segura, Andrea Simpson, Stephen Stambough, Eric Waltenburg, Laurel Weldon

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by **Christine Di Stefano at 8:32 a.m.**

I. Approval of Minutes

ACTION: Motion to approve by Ange Marie-Hancock; seconded by Peri-Schwartz Shea. Motion approved unanimously.

II. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report: Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas gave thanks to San Antonio local arrangements chairs, Manny Avalos, and Betty Moulds for all their work in planning for the meeting. Clucas also noted the following items about the conference and about what he has been working on throughout the year:

1. Planning for San Antonio: Clucas noted that Elsa Favila does most of the detail work for the conference, handles an immense amount of chores, sets up the database, sets up the web, handles scheduling meeting rooms, and plans the receptions.
2. Conference Numbers: Not as strong as San Francisco numbers; but still good despite poor fiscal situation in the states. Pre-registration is at 901, which is the 4th highest in the association's history, just a little below Vancouver and

Las Vegas. Conference revenue \$89,270 and \$26,910 in dues for a \$116,180 in total anticipated revenue.

3. Future convention planning: 1) site visits were conducted in Las Vegas and in San Diego; the next conference is in Portland. The Local Arrangements Chair is Chris Shortell. Conference dates for Portland are March 22 – March 24. It will be held at the Marriott Waterfront (same location as in 2004).
4. Publications: An agreement to keep Cornell and Amy on as editors with PRQ is in progress. *Politics Groups and Identities* editorial board was approved unanimously at the 2010 APSA with some messages to be conveyed – about structure of editorship.
5. Finances and money: Clucas notes that he is a) looking into donations and endowments; b) had a graduate student look at all publishers and contact them to see if they could exhibit more with us and/or place ads in program. Clucas will continue to work on finding more revenue through exhibitors and notes that there has been a drop off of exhibitors. WPSA needs a better placement of exhibitors in the main foyer and near registration; c) there is an airline deal in the works for reduced rates to the conferences; d) and, he is looking into sponsorships for specific conference activities.
6. Routine administrative work: Clucas noted that he continues to work with WPSA committees; he is working smoothly with award administration; he is busy updating the website; he continues to work on contracts with hotels; his focus is on finances; and he plans to survey graduate attendees to explore how to better serve them.

B. Program Chair's Report: Manuel Avalos

Avalos noted that there was a good turnout overall with roughly 1,100 participants and 240 panels. He noted that he has tried different section configurations – immigration; political theory was divided into three distinct areas. He plans a lunch on Saturday with section chairs to see what might work better or could be changed. Avalos thanked all section chairs and but noted that we are still having trouble finding discussants, asking people to do too many panels. Thus we need to figure out ways to encourage others to join to help fill these roles.

C. Local Arrangements: Sonia Garcia

Sonia Garcia said she is excited to have the WPSA in San Antonio; she thanks Richard and Elsa and the rest of the local arrangements committee for their work - Arturo Vega and Celine Jacquemin. She also thanks Dean of Graduate School, Henry Flores, and President Charles L. Cotrell for their monetary contribution to the conference from St. Mary's. Garcia notes that the initial discussions about panels regarding local politics ensured that we got the mayor of San Antonio for a speaker. She congratulates the artist for the cover on the program –Brother Cletus Behlmann from St. Mary's. She also thanked the student volunteers and Dr. Vega's graduate students from his Latino Politics class.

D. Nominating Committee Report: Richard Clucas

Clucas notes that Anna Sampaio, chair of the nominating committee, Peter Steinberger, Jane Bayes, put together great slate. The committee is nominating Gary Segura, Stanford University, for Vice President and Program Chair (March 23, 2012 – March 29, 2013), and the following individuals for Executive Council (March 1, 2012 – February 28, 2015): Mary Caputi, California State University, Long Beach; Mark Bevir, University of California, Berkeley; Gabriel Sanchez, University of New Mexico; Jeanne Morefield, Whitman College.

There was a concern raised by Pei-Te Lien about not enough women and especially women of color on the slate and she requests that we continue to be attentive to this problem. Richard notes he will talk to the Nomination Committee about being attentive to this issue. Julie Nokov, Jane Bayes, Valerie Martinez-Ebers will be next nominating committee. Manny Avalos notes that many women and women of color have been asked, but turn it down because of life's circumstances.

E. Financial Report: Michael Bowers

Michael Bowers referred to the financial report in the meeting packet and notes that we started the year with a beginning balance of \$280,400 and ended the year with \$293,890. We are incrementally increasing assets each year. He notes that we are always in the black, rather than in the red! He reviewed each city where we have held the conference in recent years and notes what our revenues from each conference have been. In summary, the state of our finances is very good!

F. PRQ Report: Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton

In summary, Mazur and Clayton noted that there are 238 pages per issue; they are working on turnaround time – 2 months (or approximately 70 days); they continue to reach out to areas in discipline that aren't normally represented and often do this through mini-symposia. Mazur refers to page 3 of the PRQ report to highlight that submissions increased by 14% and have doubled since 2006. She notes that the acceptance rate is up a bit because of mini-symposia. Page 5 of the report shows the manuscripts accepted by field. On page 7, there is a list of mini-symposia. Mazur and Clayton invite all to the PRQ reception Thursday at 6:00 and to the Editors Roundtable, Friday at 1:15.

They both thanked the referees for excellent reviews.

Ange-Marie Hancock asked about how distinct the editorial board and review board were for the PRQ. She also asked if good referees were selected from the editorial board. Mazur and Clayton noted that they might change the editorial board during their next term because some are ready for break and gaps in representation exist.

Karthick Ramakrishnan asked about plans for new mini-symposia. Mazur noted that there is only one coming up and there are no set plans for more at this time.

G. Western Newsletter Report: Stephen Stambough, Val O'Regan

Stambough reviewed the most recent edition of the WPSA Newsletter. They are working on making articles clear and clean and plan to report on conference roundtables and other conference highlights. They are open to ideas about what they might include. They are also looking for more book reviews and want feedback on the format and the kind of software they should use to distribute the newsletter. Christine DiStefano asked if anybody has feedback to offer at this time. Karthick Ramakrishnan suggested that a pdf file is the best format to distribute the newsletter. Julie Nokov notes that some readers don't use pdf well. Christine DiStefano asks if newsletter might simply supplement the distribution with another format or two formats.

Christine DiStefano thanks Stambough and O'Regan them for good work.

III. Old Business

A. Future Convention Sites: Elsa Favila, Richard Clucas

Clucas asks for authority to negotiate for 2015 and 2016 with Las Vegas and San Diego. Ceasars Palace has put in a good bid for 2015 in Las Vegas - \$185 per night. They also offer all WPSA needs for specifics in meeting space and rooms. Although there are concerns about Las Vegas itself, Clucas doesn't think this should be an issue with Ceasars. Elsa and Richard have been doing sniff tests to see how bad the smoking is in meeting rooms and so far, so good! The hotel is in the heart of Las Vegas and it's in a place where we always have record turn-out.

For the 2016 meeting, Favila and Clucas looked at the San Diego Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott, and Sheraton. All are near each other, except the Sheraton. All are lovely locations, but of the four the best bet is the Hyatt! Guest room rates for the Hyatt are - \$199, the Sheraton \$189; and the other two were \$219. All four were fine facilities – which will meet our needs except the Hilton which has a food and beverage minimum of \$90,000. They noted that we can't consider the Hilton because of the food and beverage costs. The Sheraton is in a beautiful setting, but is isolated from the rest of the city and there is no public transportation. There are no longer any political issues with the Hyatt that our members would find objectionable – Manchester has sold the hotel and his politics are no longer an issue. Clucas recommends the Hyatt for 2016, but asks what direction the Executive Council wants him to take. Favila highly recommends Ceasars in 2015 as the only viable bid. Michael Bowers weighs in on Ceasars – noting that it's an excellent hotel, not too smoky and that there are niche retail and restaurants

nearby. Peri Schwartz-Shea and Noelle Norton note that they don't like the Sheraton in San Diego because of the location.

ACTION: Motion to approve negotiations for Ceases Palace Las Vegas in 2015 and the Hyatt or Marriott in San Diego 2016 by Julie Nokov. Seconded by Karthick Ramakrishnan. Motion is approved unanimously.

The Executive Council took a 5 minute break at 10 a.m.

B. PGI Editor Introduction and Report: Rosalee Clawson, Ange-Marie Hancock, James McCann, Eric Waltenburg, and Laurel Weldon

The editors in attendance at the meeting noted that they want *PGI* to be a leading journal on social groups, politics of gender, race, religion, sexuality, and other dimensions of identity and structural disadvantage. They passed around a post-card describing the journal and note that they are accepting manuscripts in 2012 with a launch in 2013. The editors also passed around a handout on journal structure and operations outlining principles of operation, editorial operations and responsibilities, and the review process. They also passed out a list noting the Proposed Editorial Board, but asked the Executive Council not to circulate yet. Karthick Ramakrishnan questioned why there was no comma between “Groups” and “Identities” in the journal title. The editors noted that it might be a publishers decision and they aren't sure why. It is an issue they plan to discuss with the publisher because they prefer a comma too. Ted Lascher asked the editors if they were willing not to send around an article that is obviously poorly written. The editors noted that they will cast a broad net to find referees in order to give one level of review to make sure articles that have an interesting perspective and that are typically turned down by traditional journals won't be automatically turned down by *PGI*. They indicated that they want to give layers of feedback to as many as scholars as possible. However, if an article is poorly written, it will be turned down without sending it around. Karthick Ramakrishnan noted that certain areas of scholarship appear not to be covered by the editorial board. The board noted that the Editorial Board has not been fully formed. Christine DiStefano and Karthick Ramakrishnan both asked if the editors have all agreed on the selection of the Editorial Board so far. The editors replied yes they did agree and that there will be leading scholars in the field in the inaugural issue to get attention too. Ted Lasher asked if pedagogical articles regarding teaching groups and identity would be accepted or if that material has to go to PS. The editors answered that they are debating whether it will have a separate section for pedagogy or if it will simply be part of the journal. Pei-te Lien asked if they are considering shorter articles, research notes and the editors replied that they don't want to limit any choices yet and are open to any kind of symposium. Gary Segura noted that he wanted the journal to be a serious location for LGBT research and he also wants to make sure that the organized section of ASPA – LGBT, might want to use *PGI* to be a primary outlet for this research community. Amy Mazur noted that the Editors Roundtable will include *PGI* at that meeting and the editors commented that

Mazur has been great about being helpful in giving tips. Karthick Ramakrishnan asked if the editors are going to release an electronic version of the journal prior to the printed copy. The editors noted that *PRQ* has an electronic version and *PGI* should! Ange Marie Hancock asked the council how important a book review section is to the WPSA and what format should it have. Many replied, yes, that a book review section is critical because *Perspectives* doesn't cover it all; they don't do law or environmental theory for example. Peri Schwartz-Shea asked what the editors meant by referring to "Humanities" as part of the scholarship in the journal in their "blurb" describing the journal. The editors noted that they were not just doing quantitative social science or politics, but that they doing inter-disciplinary work that was historical, philosophical / theoretical, anthropological, and qualitative.

C. PRQ Editor Search: Richard Clucas

(Note: Amy Mazur left the room for this discussion). Clucas noted that it was time to do a new search for editors for PRQ and that Christine DiStefano asked Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton if they would stick around for one more term. But, their Dean noted the tight fiscal situation they were in and they needed some financial support from Sage, Utah, or WPSA. Their institution has asked for a graduate student assistant for three years. The total costs to cover this graduate assistant for three years is \$13,000. Clucas discussed this issue with Executive Board and agreed that it is in our best interests to keep them on at the *PRQ*. He also noted that it was not a good time for a search given the financial situation facing most institutions and that he would like to wait two more years for a full search. Clucas noted that he has designed a three-year financial plan with the editors, SAGE, and University of Utah for handing the *PRQ*. The plan calls for the following cuts and contributions:

May 2011-12: Editors cut \$3000 from budget; Utah, Sage, and WPSA each contribute \$3,500.

May 2012-13: Editors cut \$3000 from budget; Utah, Sage, and WPSA each contribute \$3,500.

May 2013-14: Editors cut \$7,500 from budget; Utah and WPSA each contribute \$3,000.

The WPSA responsibility would be to contribute: \$3,500 on or before January 30, 2012; \$3,500 on or before January 30, 2013; and \$3,000 on or before January 30, 2014.

Gary Segura noted that Amy Mazur and Cornell Clayton have done GREAT work, but this is an unusually long time for any two scholars to be editors. Clucas assured that Mazur, Clayton and Sage state that this will be their last term for sure. Karthick Ramakrishnan asks when the next search will begin. Richard notes

that it should start by the 2012 APSA meeting. Ted Lasher notes that two years from now, even if things are better financially, it might be harder to find a good editorship because people might demand more resources to make it work. Manny Avalos notes that this has been hard process and we had few options despite the concerns expressed here. Gary Segura noted that the relationship with Utah might be too complex. Manny Avalos notes that we still might be able to find an institution who might be trying to elevate reputation, but now the financial situation makes these kinds of institutions hard to find anymore. Richard Clucas thanked SAGE, the University of Utah, and the PRQ editors for working together to find a solution to the problem. He gave particular thanks to Leah Fargotstein at SAGE and James Gosling at the University of Utah for their help.

ACTION:

Motion to approve one final extension of current editor's terms and approve the financial agreement for hiring a graduate assistant made by Peri Schwartz-Shea; seconded Melody Rose. The motion was approved unanimously.

Amy Mazur was brought back in to the room to congratulate her on the decision.

D. Proposal to Create Permanent Sections: Andrea Simpson

While Program Chair in 2005, Andrea Simpson noted that she found that the conference sections kept changing and that in the future they should be made more consistent. Consistency and clarity would make it much easier for those who want to write a paper with a certain section in mind. She noted that it makes it hard for graduate students when the section titles keep changing. She saw a real problem with theory section because there were so many types of papers and so many proposals. Plus, she found four sections that were brand new since 2004. Simpson provided the Executive Council with a proposed list of permanent sections. Ange-Marie Hancock, who worked with Simpson on the set of proposed sections, notes that these would be permanent and have permanent descriptions. The council then proceeds to have a long discussion about the costs and benefits of not having permanency. Some argued that there is a benefit to responding to what is going on in the world in a given year. What we have is a renaming of sections that do the same thing. Peri Schwartz-Shea, as incoming programming chair, notes that she likes the more organic approach without having permanent sections and that graduate students rarely have trouble getting on the program regardless of section type. Simpson noted that more students would respond to permanency and that the Program Chair would still have the ability to add an ad hoc panel or section. Ange-Marie Hancock notes that the proposal for permanent sections makes the proposal process more transparent and it would stop section chairs from randomly changing names. Karthick Ramakrishnan agreed that permanent sections will allow conceptual clarity, but that mixing organic with predictability would be great! Julie Novkov – suggests that having flexibility is good, but she is also sympathetic to the concerns of permanency; she suggests that what makes sense is to institutionalize process by which sections are created –

system by which the program chair makes a list and then sets them out the Executive Council and so people know what they have. She also noted that the norm should be to defer to the program chair with his/her interests that year. Peri Schwartz-Shea acknowledged that she is sympathetic to transparency, but wants to have a small committee to put something together in writing for a “process proposal.”

ACTION:

Motion to endorse permanent sections, to still leave flexibility for program chair and executive council, and to establish a committee (Peri, Gary, and Manny) to make recommendations on a process by the September APSA in 2011 by Ted Lasher; and seconded by Julie Novkov. Vote: Aye 16; Nay 1; Abstention 1.

E. Telecommuting to WPSA conferences: Christine DiStefano

Did not cover due to lack of time.

F. Committee on the Status of Asian Americans in the Discipline: Pei-te Lien (moved until last item on agenda).

IV. New Business

A. Budget: Michael Bowers

The budget for 2011-2012 was presented by Michael Bowers. The proposed budget is same last year. Pei-te Lien added that there would be some cost to starting the Committee on Asian Americans in the Discipline and wondered if this group should be included in the budget. Because we had to move the item to the end, she wondered if they would be excluded from the budget if voted on later. Bowers says there is room to spend money for this group if approved. Melody Rose asked why are taxes budgeted for double what we pay in the budget? Bowers responded that this is simply to allow a cushion.

ACTION:

Motion to approve budget with “wiggle-room” for Asian status committee was proposed by Julie Novkov; seconded by Melody Rose. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Membership Dues: Shaun Bowler

Bowler notes that we are going to have to increase the dues because of our contractual obligation to Taylor and Francis to provide a *PGI* subscription to our members. The annual cost per member for a subscription will be \$20. We are in the black, but just in the black as an organization. He also noted that an increase in dues would help give us a stronger revenue source, especially as costs go up.

We need to have dues work a little bit harder for us and he suggests \$10 increase for dues and \$10 increase for conference, this is only a \$20 increase. Bowler notes that we will come back with \$20 increase for PGI in the near future. Dues would be \$60 and the conference would be \$120 with this increase. Gary Segura: - notes that an increase of \$20 is not too high. Clucas notes that a raise in dues would protect us as an organization but that we do have to find the funds to meet our obligation to Taylor and Francis. Still he notes that we should be cautious about raising costs, and that we should only do it incrementally. Gary Segura asks if we can suggest a graduated scale of dues and whether there is no increase in student fees. Clucas notes that the Long-Range Planning Committee did consider a plan for a graduated scale - two step increase with untenured faculty paying \$80; Associate Professors paying \$85; and Full Professors paying \$90.

ACTION:

A motion to raise dues to \$20 and to allow the president to appoint a committee to establish a graduated fee was offered by Julie Navkov and seconded by Peri Schwartz-Shea. The motion passed unanimously.

The Following Items C to G we did not cover due to lack of time.

C. WPSA Endowments: Richard Clucas

D. WPSA Lifetime Service Award: Shaun Bowler

E. Official Airlines: Richard Clucas

F. Expansion of Executive Council to include Program Chair Elect and PGI editor: Richard Clucas

G. Facebook page: Richard Clucas

III. C. Committee on the Status of Asian Americans in the Discipline: Pei-te Lien

(moved to last item on agenda). Pei-te lien refers to a report about the creation of a Committee on the Status of Asian Americans in the Discipline. She notes that the WPSA would be the first association of its kinds with this kind of committee. Peri Schwartz-Shea notes that she thinks the report is good and is in the spirit of the WPSA. She suggested that the only thing for conversation is budgetary impact. Elsa Favila reports that all committees receive \$250 for an annual paper award and \$500 for a pre-conference workshop.

ACTION:

A motion to we create the Committee on the Status of Asian Americans in the Discipline and to encourage the committee to have a preconference workshop next year in Portland is made by Louis DeSipio; seconded by Julie Novkov. The motion passed unanimously.

Christine DiStefano notes that this is an important step for the WPSA and asks Richard Clucas to put together the necessary language to make it happen.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15.

Submitted by Noelle Norton, Recording Secretary