

MINUTES

WPSA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING

FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

5:15 PM – 6:00 P.M.

Seattle Hyatt Regency

Room 505

1. *Call to Order* 5:20pm

Lorrie Frasure

2. *Reports*

a. Seattle Conference

Program Chair

Local Arrangements

Tony Affigne

George Lovell and Scott Lemieux

Tony was unable to attend the meeting. Scott Lemieux gave a brief report on the community and the Local Arrangements team. Of particular importance, he noted that the University Washington Political Science Department contributed \$1500 to the WPSA.

b. Executive Director

Richard Clucas

Overview of what he's been doing over the year. Much of his work has revolved around conference planning, including on this year's conference and beginning to plan next year's meeting in San Diego, CA, at the Manchester Hyatt. Big happenings with PGI and PRQ. PGI—Gina and Tony serving one more term at PGI; a new search has begun for the editors of PRQ. Richard also reported he was involved with negotiating a new contract for publishing PGI. Richard reported that during the upcoming summer he will review finances from this WPSA, work on 2026 WPSA, and hopefully sign new contract for PGI.

c. Treasurer

Natalie Masuoka

Natalie reported that she has been reviewing the association's finances, adding things up to make sure things make sense. Financially the WPSA is doing well. A new bookkeeper has been hired and is provided more detailed books. She also noted that the budget is slightly larger than what was distributed in handout because the council set aside money at its meeting on Thursday to increase childcare support to conference attendees. The council raised the amount of matching funds available from \$150 to \$300 per family.

d. Political Research Quarterly

Tony Smith

Tony reported that the editors have made some innovation to the editorial review process and has seen some valuable changes in what has been published. Among the innovations,

he asks reviewers to review only one manuscript a year to avoid burnout. If graduate student or junior faculty are submitting a manuscript for review, decisions on desk rejects are made within 48 hours. Among the valuable changes, the journal has seen an increase in IR and LGBTQ+ articles, and in the overall number of articles submitted. Tony credits an increase in the quality of PRQ articles, in part, to the tendency of the journal to receive submissions after the submissions have already gone through a review process in other journals, including the APSR and AJPS.

The journal editors reported receiving 211 submissions last year and have an acceptance rate of 30 percent. Impact factor is 2.3 making PGI quite competitive. Unfortunately, have lost co-editors, so are looking for replacement. Engagement on social media has been good. Both editors are active in attending conferences, symposia, and pre-conferences in order to promote PGI.

f. Nominating Committee Angel Saavedra Cisneros

Angel provided an overview of the Nominating Committee's work in putting together the nomination slate. He said they selected a solid group of new people who want to participate. A lot of representation from state schools. The committee wanted more from community colleges and small liberal arts colleges. This is the slate presented:

Vice President and Program Chair: April 5, 2026—March 27, 2027

Christopher Stout, University of California, San Diego

Executive Council: March 1, 2026 – February 289, 2028

Region A

Desiree Melonas, University of California, Riverside

Christopher Harris, University of California, Irvine

Region B

Natasha Altema McNeely, University of North Texas

Region C

Hope Dewell Gentry, Montana State University – Billings

3. *Old Business*

None

4. New Business

a. Election of Officers Lorrie Frasure

Valerie Martinez-Ebers motioned for new slate of officers to be accepted. Tony Smith seconded. The slate was approved unanimously.

5. Introduction of Incoming WPSA President Tony Affigne

Lorrie Frasure introduced the new president, Tony Affigne, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Scott Lemieux and seconded by Valerie Martinez-Ebers. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at: 5:50 pm.

Submitted by Ivy Cargile, Recording Secretary