

MINUTES

WPSA Executive Council Meeting Vancouver Hyatt Regency March 28, 2024

Call to Order: 8:15am

Members Present: Tony Affigne, Regina Branton, Tony Carey, Ivy AM Cargile, Jason Casellas, Richard Clucas, Anand Commissiong, Michael Ferguson, Lorrie Frasure, Ron Hayduk, Claudio Holzner, Pei-te Lien, LaDella Levy, Gabriel Magni, Yalidy Matos, Char Miller, Sean Parson, Mina Suk

Members Absent: Brian Calfano, Marcia Garcia-Castenada, Natalie Masuoka, Tony Smith, and Fred Smoller

Guests: Michael Artime, Mark Brown, Jamie Mayerfeld, Amanda Patterson, Althea Sicar, and Benjamin Gonzalez O'Brien

I. Approval of Minutes

A. September 2023 WPSA Executive Council Meeting

Vote taken on minutes for September 2023 WPSA Executive Council Meeting. Motion to approve: Anand Commissiong; Seconded: Pei-te Lien. Minutes approved unanimous.

II. Reports

A. President's Remarks: Jason Casellas

Jason welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked those involved in organizing the conference for their work.

B. Executive Director's Report: Richard Clucas

Richard reported on his major activities since the last meeting:

- Been working on the planning of WPSA 2024 conference
- Has continued to work on the transition to a new administrative structure since Elsa's departure. Closed bank accounts in California and moved funds to banks with offices in Oregon. Hired a new bookkeeping company, which appears to be working out well. New bookkeeper has experience with non-profits and will take over a number of other activities, such as taxes and payroll, which have been handled separately in the past. He has also hired a web content manager who's been great at updating website

- Publications: has been working with PRQ, PGI, and newsletter editors on different matters. He reported that the association was accidentally overcharged for member subscriptions by Taylor and Francis, which is being corrected.

C. Program Chair's Report: Lorrie Frasure

Lorrie reported details about the 2024 conference:

- 41 section chairs and co-chairs for WPSA 2024
- As program chair, Lorrie implemented training for section chairs because many people who agreed to serve were newer faculty who are already busy. Julio did a virtual training with section chairs and recorded it for future use.
- She also reported that the association has begun to use the platform Constant Contact in order to get correspondence out to members and conference participants

D. Local Arrangements Vancouver 2024: Steven Weldon, Aaron Hoffman

1. Neither were able to attend the council meeting. Richard gave a few words of welcome in their place

E. Local Arrangements Seattle 2025: Richard Clucas & Tony Affigne

Tony reported:

1. New theme for 2025 less apocalyptic and interested in drawing in best political science conclusions and theoretical framings as only WPSA can do
2. About one-third of section chairs have been appointed, but also looking for more suggestions from council for senior and active junior scholars who would be willing to serve.

Richard reported:

WPSA 2025 will be at Hyatt Regency in Seattle in late Feb/early March (which is early for WPSA). [The dates he gave at meeting were incorrect. The conference is in April 2024]

We are returning to the Northwest for a second year in a row because of the negotiations that took place to get the association out of the 2021 Seattle Hyatt contract during the heart of the covid pandemic

The hotel rates are: \$209 a night for single occupancy tried to get lower price deal but rates are going up everywhere – this price is competitive

F. VC Program Chair Report: Mark Brown

Mark reported:

1. VC started 4 years ago as initiative of Climate Action Committee spearheaded by Jaime Mayerfeld and Sharon Hall – idea is for small group of scholars to meet at least once a month online (carbon neutral format) regarding shared interests

2. Program has not grown as much as they'd like – have 10 strong committees but lost 2 last year one on diversifying publishing in political science and other on environmental political theory. But gained two new ones: Environmental and Climate Change Politics and Environmental and Climate Justice
3. Seven VCs are meeting often, while it is not clear what is happening with other three
 - a. VCs want stronger commitment from people to participate also want more international participation
4. Brown's term ends soon – asked council for suggestions for who can take over
5. Questions/Comments – number of council members provided suggestions regarding how to increase visibility and membership to VCs. Some suggested stronger messaging about VCs and tie to WPSA membership and others suggested using synergy of pre-conferences to advertise VCs as well as creating webinars by the successful VCs discussing how they “fill the virtual room.”

G. Nominating Committee Report: Valerie Martinez-Ebers

Valerie could not attend meeting. Richard presented proposed slate. Tomorrow is WPSA business meeting and election of slate will happen then.

H. Financial Report: Natalie Masuoka

Richard delivered since Natalie Masuoka not present:

1. WPSA experienced financial loss last year. He listed several reasons for this:
 - a. Spent far more on receptions and other activities than have done so in previous years. Hotels asking for more money to be spent on food and drink in order to secure contracts.
 - b. PSU is bad at billing and so last year it was discovered they undercharged for some previous years. Had to cover that last year. Also, overbilling by Taylor & Francis, which was discussed earlier
 - c. Membership and registration dues have not rebounded from pandemic
 - d. Less outside support last year than in previous years – PRQ donated less for receptions
 - e. Payment of 2 bookkeepers due to onboarding from old one to other – this won't be an issue for this year
2. Richard also talked about the changes in investment policies over the past decade. The association used to rely entirely on CDs for investment. About 10 years ago, the council approved the use of investing in mutual funds. The result has been stronger returns on investments. Over the past 10 years, the investments have earned over \$300k for association

A discussion followed about participation:

Lorrie Frasure asked that all keep in mind that there are 805 panels, and all people have not registered – doing so in person. So, registration will improve

Several questions were raised including the effect of competing associations on attendance and whether there are more popular locations (such as San Diego and Las Vegas).

I. PRQ Report: Tony Smith; Ian Balisy (SAGE)

Neither Tony nor Ian could attend the meeting. So, Richard Clucas and Claudio Holzner, PRQ Managing Editor, gave the report.

1. Most of the report focused on the future publishing of PRQ, including whether the journal should continue to be published by SAGE or another publisher; another publisher has reached out to both Richard and Claudio about publishing PRQ and PGI. The two also reporting having a conversation about the ownership of PRQ. The University of Utah is considering whether to sell the journal. The WPSA has first rights to refusal. SAGE has expressed an interest in buying it. If it does, it would likely affect the journal's ties to the association.
2. Richard also talked about PRQ's contributions to the WPSA conference. In past years, it has contributed around \$5,000 to conference receptions. PRQ didn't provide the same level of funding this year because Sage is giving the subvention directly to editor, which means it has to be reported as income. As a consequence, a large amount of the subvention is going to pay income taxes, rather than supporting journal activities. Richard would like to see Sage go back to its past practices of providing funds in a non-taxable manner to the editors.

J. PGI Report: Regina Branton, Tony Carey, Amanda Patterson (T&F)

Regina and Tony reported:

1. Have received 182 new manuscripts but have been processing more because of lingering work from previous editors and backlog.
 - a. 26% of manuscripts have been accepted for publication – down from previous year
 - i. Desk rejection rate is down from 56% in 2020 to 23%
 - ii. About 58% of articles are from US – submissions are actually worldwide
 - iii. Average day to decision is 84 which is in line with previous editors
 - b. Asking people to review has been hard
2. Tony – staying active on social media (w/Facebook and BlueSky accounts) in order to increase attention to journal – created new X (formerly Twitter) account
 - a. Trying to stay active on conference circuit – will be at APSA (inc. Women of Color workshop), were at NCOBS, were at PRIEC UNT and PRIEC UNC
 - b. Have 3 special issues under development:
 - i. Flowers of Our Founders – highlighting key contributions in Black Politics
 - ii. LGBTQ (+) politics special issue coming out to celebrate 25th anniversary of first LGBTQ publication in political science journal
 - iii. Community Engaged research is last special issue – primer on how to do community engaged research

Questions and comments followed: council interested in how PGI is reaching out to areas like theory. Also, others asked about the use of other social media platforms, such as Spoutible, and extending editorship to historically underrepresented scholars in areas like theory.

Amanda, PGI's editor at Routledge, spoke about trends in publishing and at Routledge regarding Open Access

K. The Western Report: Michael Artime and Benjamin Gonzalez O'Brien

Michael and Benjamin, two of the newsletter co-editors, gave this report:

- a. The editors are interested in increasing the reach/solicited content for newsletter. Some of the ideas they are pursuing is to move to an on-line format and finding ways to get connected with WPSA website, or maybe journals in order to get wider reach in terms of content

L. Social Media Committee Report: Meredith Conroy

1. No report

III. Old Business

A. Future Site Selection: Richard Clucas

Richard reported:

1. Future conference schedule: Seattle in 2025, San Diego in 2026, Denver in 2027, and back to SD in 2028
2. He asked where should we go in 2029. For now, he recommends waiting to act because of high hotel conference rates in the post-pandemic era. He then discussed some options for a location:
 - a. Texas
 - i. The association has not been going to TX due to CA (25% of membership) delegation not being able to attend, but now no longer an issue
 - ii. Usually do Austin or San Antonio but also can visit Dallas or Houston
 - b. If not in TX in 2029, then where? Back to northwest...maybe PDX? Las Vegas? Somewhere else?
 - c. After some discussion, Richard said he will look into options in Texas, NM, Salt Lake, and come back with another report at next meeting.

B. Graduated Scale for Membership Dues: Richard Clucas

Council considered new membership rates at its previous meeting in September. Richard was asked to come to this meeting with a proposal for an updated graduated scales for dues. Richard reported that he looked at the membership rates of the other major political science associations and found that while the associations differ in what they charge in dues, they are fairly similar in the formula they use for increasing the cost from one membership level to the next.

Richard recommended that we raise the lowest dues from \$70 to \$75, then use the same formula for setting our rates.

He proposed the following dues amounts:

Income Rate	
Under \$50,000	\$75
\$50,000-74,999	\$90
\$75,000-99,999	\$110
\$100,000-149,999	\$130
\$150,000-199,999	\$150
Over \$200,000	\$165
Adjunct/CC Faculty	\$75.00
Non-Profits	\$75.00

A discussion followed:

- a. Question raised as whether we should be worried about raising rates given decreasing number of participants.
- b. Several council members expressed the desire to increase the fees for members at the higher income levels. Tony Affigne recommended amending the proposal so that members earning \$100,000 to \$149,999 would pay \$140.00; those earning \$150,000 to \$199,999 would pay \$175; and those earning over \$200,000 would pay \$200
- c. A formal motion to make this amendment was moved by M. Ferguson and seconded by A. Commissiong. The motion was passed unanimously
- d. A motion was then put forward to by S. Parson and C. Miller to approve the new amended graduated scale. The proposal was approved unanimously, with no abstentions or opposition

IV. New Business

A. Climate Committee Expenditure Proposal: Jamie Mayerfeld

Jamie is making a proposal from the committee to use the association's Climate Action Funds to encourage members to use more climate-friendly forms of transportation to attend the Seattle conference.

Althea Sircar reported that the Climate Action Fund currently has around \$20,000 available to it

Climate Action Committee wants to propose that \$10k be used for those who are coming from long distances to be reimbursed if they use ground transportation (buses & trains) to attend the 2025 WPSA. This would be a pilot project.

Specially, the committee recommended that members who use a bus or train to attend the conference be given \$250 to help cover their travel expenses.

A discussion followed. A question was raised as to whether this approach prioritizes people who live close to conference location? The committee representatives responded that it does in some way, but also short flights are more environmentally costly to use than train. The question was then raised as to how equity can be ensured for those who are in areas that have to fly? Maybe come up with some kind of distance calculator in order to gain equity. Other questions were asked: How would reimbursement work when having to go through university vendors? Have you considered restricting

to those who do not get travel reimbursements? Can also include reimbursement for using air shuttles? What about carpools?

A motion was made by Jamie and Althea for the council to adopt the committee's proposal. It was seconded by Anand. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Alternating with a Fully Online Conference: Jamie Mayerfeld

The council decided to jump forward to item G on the agenda since Jamie was already at the meeting. Jamie put forward a recommendation from WPSA Climate Action Committee that calls for WPSA to adopt a 4-year trial of alternating between in person and online conferences

- i. He said there was need for up and down vote today, but to seriously consider the proposal
- ii. This same proposal is being made to the other three major Political Science associations: APSA, MPSA, and SPSA
- iii. Pro argument – for sake of climate and make conferences more inclusive for those with disabilities, caretaking responsibilities, visa issues, do not get reimbursed

A discussion followed. Among the questions and comments raised: Hybrid format could be good for those whose institutions will not reimburse. Can there be both in-person version that is followed by some on-line version similar to how APSA does it? There is concern about the economic ramifications of an on-line version given that WPSA is sustained by royalties, membership, and conference dues. Will alternating cause WPSA to lose membership to those conference that are in-person? Need to consider trade-offs and if it's worth it. Maybe taskforce to research this would be helpful to research impact on WPSA and also importance of sustainability. Concern also about what will WPSA look like as an association in 15 years due to climate change, changes in higher ed, etc. Some wonder how it will be constituted. Do other regionals have taskforces as well? Can they all coordinate?

The council then focused on the need to create a taskforce to research all of the issues that an alternating conference style would create for WPSA. Need to more clearly define what the issues are that taskforce will research with climate as the main issue

A Motion to create such a task force was made by LaDella Levy and seconded by Anand Commisiong. The proposal was approved unanimously.

B. Budget: Richard Clucas

Richard presented a proposed budget for 2024-2025. The proposal was similar to the current year's budget, though some changes were made to more accurately capture spending (of particular note: accounting fees will now be \$12k and workshops should be close to \$7k and not \$4k) and to accommodate the approved \$10,000 transportation proposal from the Climate Change Committee

Anand moved to approve the budget; seconded by Ron Hayduk and Sean Parson. Council approved the budget in a unanimous vote.

C. Executive Director Contract: Jason Casellas

Richard's current contract ends in September 2024. The council is being asked to renew the contract for three more years. Richard told the council that he does not intend to sign another contract after this renewal.

A discussion followed on who will take over after Richard steps aside.

Anand moved to approve Richard's contract renewal. Sean seconded. The proposal was approved unanimously.

D. Whistleblower Policy: Richard Clucas

Richard reported that under IRS rules, the association is required to have a whistleblower policy. Richard put together a whistleblower policy, which the council was asked to approve.

Anand moved to approve policy. Pei-te Lien seconded the motion. Motion carried in a unanimous vote.

E. Renaming of Committee on the Status of Women in Profession: Kathryn Perkins

Anand, speaking on behalf of Kathryn Perkins, put forward a motion to change the name of WPSA's Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession to the "Committee on the Status of Women's and Gender Justice" to reflect an intersectional feminist praxis, and to attract folks from the gender justice community.

A discussion followed. Members asked for clarification about how name change reflects intersectionality? Considering that intersectionality is usually thought of through a racial or ethnic lens, council members are wondering if the addition of intersectionality was also considering ethnoracial intersectionality. Current name change does not make that clear. Also, if the purpose of the name change is to be broad and inclusive including racial and ethnic intersectional considerations council members wondered if other relevant groups such as the Women's Caucus in Political Science have been consulted/included in conversations about change. But if intersectionality is being thought of differently, perhaps not necessarily reflective of racial or ethnic considerations, then that needs to be clarified. Council members also suggest that conversation about name change needs to first happen with the committee and caucus before the executive council can vote on it. Council members also want more explanation about what the intention/goal is for the name change and if it is to be more inclusive of gender then that brings up question of how might change affect the Queer Status Committee. There isn't opposition from executive council to name change but just seeking clarification.

Given concerns that were raised, Jason Casellas proposed a motion to send back to Status Committee for further clarification and to reconsider the motion at the September council meeting

Motion seconded by Yalidy Matos and LaDella Levy. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

F. Editor Timeline for new editors: Richard Clucas

Richard reported that the term for the current editors of PRQ ends on June 30, 2026, and that it takes a long time for finding and training new editors. So, even though the new editors won't be taking over until more than two years from today, the council needs to approve a timeline for a new search now. Richard also said that the council can ultimately decide when it meets again to renew the current editors' term for two years without having to do a search. The proposal before the council was to approve the timeline.

Anand moved to approve the timeline. Pei-te seconded the motion. The timeline was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52am

Submitted by Ivy Cargile, Recording Secretary