Minutes: Fall 2010 APSA Council Meeting

2010 APSA Council Meeting
September 1, 2010
Delaware A—Marriott Wardman Park
Washington, DC
9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Present: Cristina Beltrán, Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, Henry Brady, Michael Brintnall, Jodi Dean, Roxanne Euben, Mark Graber, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Evelyne Huber, Jeffrey Isaac, Michael Jones-Correa, Jane Junn, Atul Kohli, Arthur Lupia, Thomas Mann, Lisa Martin, Joseph McCormick, Rose McDermott, Maria Victoria Murillo, Julie Novkov, Carole Pateman, Mark Peterson, Ronald Rogowski, S. Laurel Weldon, and Franke Wilmer
Absent: Yun-han Chu and Sherri Wallace

APSA Staff: Jeffrey Biggs, Regina Chavis, Robert Hauck, Polly Karpowicz, Michael Marriott, Kimberly Mealy, and Sean Twombly

Guests: Luis Fraga, Kirstie McClure, Colin Elman, Susan Peterson, Dianne Pinderhughes, Etel Solingen, and Dara Strolovitch

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the American Political Science Association Council was held at the Marriott Wardman Park, Delaware A room, on September 1, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Brady. President Brady declared a quorum present.

II. WELCOME AND REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Brady welcomed and introduced the Council members and guests to the meeting. He spoke on the advantages and benefits of the association and the discipline's breadth and skill development.

III. APRIL 24, 2010, COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the April 24, 2010, Council meeting were read and approved as corrected.[1]

IV. APSA COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON THE RULES

Dr. Brintnall reported on the proposed amendments to the APSA bylaws.[2] The report was adopted.

V. REVIEW OF THE AUGUST 27, 2010, ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes were received and placed on file.

VI. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Brintnall acknowledged the APSA staff and their effectiveness. He said that the state of the association—membership, meeting attendance, finances, and so forth—is strong. But he also noted areas of concern: membership is flat and operations cost more and threats to university budgets and federal funding of research could be detrimental to the discipline. He said he sees more downside risk than upside potentials in most areas of the association's operations. He remains optimistic due to the quality of the voluntary leadership and membership. He said staff will explore future revenue sources, expenses, and programming directions and report to the Council in the spring. He closed by thanking Dr. Brady for his service as APSA president.

VII. BUDGET AND INVESTMENTS

Dr. Lupia reported on the budget and investments of the association. He noted that the change in the accounting scheme fits with best practices and the overall finances are stable. The association's investments are managed to minimize risk, lower fees, and the prospect for maximizing growth ahead of prospects from two to three years ago by moving from iShares Exchange Trade Funds to Vanguard Index Funds. Ms. Chavis noted that the association had a better position than last year by a 9.3% increase of total assets.

The Council continued to discuss the budget and applauded its new format.

Dr. Mann moved "to approve the [2010–11] budget." The motion was adopted.

VIII. MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZED SECTIONS

Mr. Twombly reported that although membership remains on firm ground, it is not growing. He speculated that it could be due to the current economic climate, and he noted that other associations have similar declines. He reported that the 2010 Annual Meeting should break attendance records, which often drives higher membership numbers, but this year there are lower renewal rates from this group.

The Council informally discussed and offered solutions to improve membership rates, including ways that Organized Sections contribute to membership and how increasing Section dues because of alignment with journals may be contributing to membership sticker shock.

IX. 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

President Brady thanked the program chairs, Andrea Campbell and Lisa Martin, and the APSA staff.

X. 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Dr. Hauck presented background on the current situation at the 2011 Annual Meeting site, where there is an ongoing labor dispute with the labor unions and the Annual Meeting hotels. The Council discussed at length the issue.

Dr. Graber moved "that in light of the long standing policy of APSA and in light of our 2007 siting policy of the APSA and in light of our contractual language with the [Hilton San Francisco, the Parc 55, the Nikko, and the Hyatt] for 2011, the current labor dispute underway makes it inadvisable to conduct the 2011 meeting at these hotels with the [Hilton San Francisco, the Parc 55, the Nikko, and the Hyatt] in San Francisco." The motion was adopted, 21–0.

Dr. Dean moved "that in light of the long standing policy of APSA and in light of our 2007 siting policy of the APSA and in light of our contractual language with the [Hilton San Francisco, the Parc 55, the Nikko, and the Hyatt] for 2011, the current labor dispute underway makes it inadvisable to conduct the 2011 meeting at these hotels with

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the [Hilton San Francisco, the Parc 55, the Nikko, and the Hyatt] in San Francisco be communicated immediately to the hotels and the union. If we are not assured by October 1, 2010, the hotels are deemed in breach of contract and APSA will withdraw the conference from San Francisco." The motion was adopted, 14–7.

After consulting with the association's attorneys for the best legal phrasing, Dr. Brintnall moved "that the previously adopted motion be amended to strike 'If we are not assured by October 1, 2010, the hotels are deemed in breach of contract and APSA will withdraw the conference from San Francisco' and insert 'If not assured by October 1, 2010, that conditions are advisable, APSA will treat the situation as an event falling in the scope of section 10.01 performance of contract thereby excusing the association from performance." The motion was adopted.

XI. 2011 TEACHING AND LEARNING CONFERENCE

Dr. Mealy stated that the conference is on track, and it will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

XII. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SITING AND ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Hauck presented the committee's report and its request to pay speaker's fees for the purposes of the committee's work. The Council encouraged the raising of an endowment to fund speaker's costs in the future. The Council discussed the report and budget for a speaker.

President Brady moved "that the report and budget of the committee be approved." The motion was adopted.

XIII. UPDATE ON THE *APSR* EDITORIAL OFFICES

Dr. Brintnall updated the Council on the *APSR* editorial offices and noted that UCLA will continue to fund the bulk of the *APSR* editorial functions for a fifth year, with APSA contributing additional support for one or two of the graduate student assistant positions. This will carry the agreement through the summer of 2012, after which UCLA support will not be available to continue. In the fall of 2010, the association will begin a search process for a new editorship, and President Brady and President-Elect Pateman are creating a search committee for this purpose.

XIV. *STATE OF THE DISCIPLINE*

Ms. Karpowicz announced that the *State of the Discipline* anthology has been published on a 10-year cycle, and if APSA wishes to continue it, preparation of a new edition should be scheduled to begin next year. The Council recognized the value of the publication but noted as well that the market for such anthologies has changed significantly since APSA first published it, with many new encyclopedias and annual reviews in place. They asked the Publications Committee to consider what needs are not being met today, and whether and in what format publication of a new edition of the *State of the Discipline* would make sense.

XV. GUIDELINES FOR APSA JOURNALS

Ms. Karpowicz reported that the Committee on Publications has reviewed the guidelines in light of the Council request to consider ways to provide guidance to editors regarding the balance across submissions and publication across fields and styles of scholarship. The committee recommends that the focus remain on assuring review and transparency of editorial practices and decisions, rather than rules. They will expand the guidelines to call for regular reporting on submissions by field, and encourage the editors to work together to develop a "mixed methods" category for classifying works.

XVI. REPORT FROM THE EDITOR OF THE *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW (APSR)*

Drs. Rogowski and McClure presented the report. They noted that total submissions rose by about 2%, to 770, and new submissions declined by about 3%, to 670. Turnaround time was reduced from 87.8 to 69.6 days, or over 20%. Following the report from the editor, the Council discussed the amount of qualitative-based scholarship published in the *APSR* and the small numbers of submissions of such work to the journal.

In response to a query from the editor for a sense of the Council, Dr. Rogowski moved "that the *APSR* be allowed to have a special issue devoted to works drawing on qualitative methods." The motion was adopted.

XVII. UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR OF *PERSPECTIVES ON POLITICS*

Dr. Isaac presented an update on the journal. He noted that the journal is still thriving, and that it has a good staff. He noted future themed review sections and Annual Meeting panels.

XVIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

President Brady reported that he is composing an ad hoc committee to follow up on the themes he has discussed with the Council regarding how we can best make the case for political science to various publics. The Council agreed that challenges to public support for political and social science and humanities can be expected in the near future, and that the association needs to be prepared to improve its public outreach.

XIX. RESEARCH DATE ARCHIVE

Drs. Lupia and Elman reported on the progress of the data archive project. The Council discussed issues related to archiving data underlying published research and assuring transparency in research practice. Issues range from finding mechanisms that serve both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, managing costs, protecting confidentiality, and respecting differences among research communities. Drs. Lupia and Elman were asked to form the core of a small working group to refine a statement of issues, and to consider preparation of a proposal to the NSF through APSA to get funding for advancing this work.

XX. HIG ADVISORY GROUP PROPOSAL

Dr. Brintnall reported to the Council that the FBI has approached the association to nominate or appoint a member to an advisory group for the High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group that has been established by President Obama. The group would provide a voice for the academic community and other communities to have a voice in long-term planning of interrogation policies. The Council spoke on the importance of political scientists being involved in governmental advisory groups, but also noted that having the association formally represented might signal a collective policy positions or support for policy that is inappropriate.

Dr. Isaac moved "that [the association] decline the FBI's offer." The motion was adopted, 11–8.

XXI. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dr. Brintnall reported on actions by the association to accommodate members with disabilities at its meetings and facilities, and findings from the departmental survey about faculty and student circumstances. Findings show that a quarter of all political science departments report having some request for accommodation from faculty, for which 92% reported full accommodation and 5% partial

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accommodation. The Council urged continued attention to this issue.

XXII. APSA AFRICAN AMERICAN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Dr. Mealy reported on the availability of audio tapes and transcripts becoming available online, drawn from an oral history project supported by Pi Sigma Alpha, APSA, and the University of Kentucky some years ago. The association is focusing in particular on bringing forward audio tapes and transcripts of oral histories of African American political scientists, which have not heretofore been published.

XXIII. 2010 CONSTITUTION DAY COLLABORATION

Dr. Mealy reported on the association's collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania to provide civic education discussion with high school students on Constitution Day by aligning political science professors with interested secondary schools. The initiative is supported by the Sunnylands Constitution Day project.

XXIV. TASK FORCE ON POLITICAL SCIENCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Drs. Pinderhughes and Fraga submitted their final report to the Council. It was noted that the task force will report its findings during the Annual Meeting and publish the report in the fall of 2010, and has received external funding from the NSF.

XXV. AD HOC COMMITTEE ON AWARDS IMPLEMENTATION

President Brady introduced the purpose of the committee and noted that the administrative committee approved the first half of the report but had reservations concerning the latter half.

Dr. Wedeen gave the committee report on ways to implement changes to the financing, naming, and organization of APSA awards. The Council adopted the proposed new standards for funding, naming, and administration of awards, including setting a $50,000 minimum corpus for award funds. The Council opted not to adopt proposals to transfer responsibility for some extant APSA-wide awards to organized sections. The Council also endorsed creation of an APSA Distinguished Teaching award.

Dr. Mann moved "that Subsection 3.3 of Part I be amended to insert 'no more than' between 'be' and '4%.'" The motion was adopted.

President Brady moved "that Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Part I of the report be adopted." The motion was adopted.

Dr. Rogowski moved "that Subsection 1.1 of Part II be struck from the report." The motion was adopted.

President Brady moved "that Section 1 of the report be adopted." The motion was adopted.

President Brady moved "that all currently APSA Council administered non-dissertation awards shall remain APSA Council administered awards.'" The motion was adopted.

Dr. Rogowski moved "that all currently APSA Council administered dissertation awards shall remain APSA Council administered awards.'" The motion was adopted.

Dr. Novkov moved "that the association's operation funds continue for one year to fund the Helen Dwight Reid Award, and the committee will report a long-term plan concerning the award for the Council to consider at its 2011 fall meeting. The motion was adopted.

XXVI. SELECTING AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dr. Brintnall reported on the Council's role of reviewing award recipients. The Council also affirmed that the decisions of award committees are not subject to further review, but that committees should notify of the executive director of their choices and not independently notify recipients or make public their choice.

XXVII. AFRICA WORKSHOP

Dr. Hauck reported that the third workshop, which took place in Tanzania, was a success. The association has received a Mellon continuation grant to fund at least three additional years.

XXVIII. PROPOSED APSA COMMITTEE ROSTERS

President-Elect Pateman reported on her selection of committee members.

President Brady moved "that the committee nominees be approved." The motion was adopted.

XXIX. TASK FORCE PROPOSAL ON DEMOCRACY, ECONOMIC SECURITY, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN A VOLATILE WORLD

President-Elect Pateman reported that the group met, and she is excited by the project.

XXX. UPDATE ON THE TASK FORCE ON DEMOCRACY AUDITS AND GOVERNMENTAL INDICATORS

President Brady updated the Council on the progress the group has made, and it seeks to publish its report soon.

XXXI. AD HOC ON EQUITY IN THE DISCIPLINE

President-Elect Pateman noted a recent article in PS that reported on obstacles to increasing the numbers of female scholars in political science. She solicited ideas from the Council on drafting a charge for a future ad hoc committee to concentrate on practical steps to advance more women in the profession.

XXXII. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought to the attention of the Council. President Brady thanked the officers and members, who are rotating off the Council, for their service. He also thanked Michael Brintnall and the APSA staff. President-Elect Pateman thanked him for his leadership, and she noted his excellent humor and enthusiasm.

XXIII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m. ■

NOTES

1. Corrections to the April 24, 2010, Minutes, as corrected at the September 1, 2010 meeting. Dr. Lupia moved "that the sentence 'They recommend making the methods used mandatory' be struck from Subsection A of Section XXII." The motion was adopted. Dr. McCormick moved "that the word 'they' be inserted between 'that' and 'have' in the second sentence of Section XXI." The motion was adopted. Dr. Isaac moved "that the phrase 'particular subfield' be struck and to insert 'substantive field' in the fifth sentence of Section VII." The motion was adopted.
2. Five amendments to the bylaws were recommended and approved: (1) requiring IRS Form 990 to be reviewed by the Council before it is filed with the IRS; (2) requiring the auditing firm to be rotated at least every five years; (3) creating a chapter to clarify the role of Organized Sections; (4) amending the section concerning the Annual Meeting to conform to current practices; and (5) clarifying that the lead editor of APSA journals be identified as the Editor in Chief.

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