Minutes: Fall 2009 APSA Council Meeting

2009 APSA Fall Council Agenda
Wednesday, September 2, 2009
InterContinental Ballroom B
Toronto, Ontario
9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Present: Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Henry E. Brady, Michael Brintnall, Wendy Brown, Simone Chambers, Wendy K. Tam Cho, Jodi Dean, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, H N Hirsch, Jeffrey C. Isaac, John Ishiyama, Bruce Jentleson, Peter Katzenstein, Stephen Krasner, Nonna Mayer, Rose McDermott, Maria Victoria Murillo, Thomas L. Pangle, Mark A. Peterson, Ron Rogowski, Joanna Vecchiarelli Scott, Rogers Smith, Sherri L. Wallace, Franke Wilmer, and Catherine Zuckert
Absent: Dan Reiter and Leonard Wantchekon

APSA Staff: Jeffrey Biggs, Robert Hauck, Vernice Howard, Polly Karpowicz, Kimberly Mealy, Bahram Rajaee, and Hayle Ziobro

Guests: Yun-han Chu, Carole Pateman, and Laurel Weldon

President Katzenstein called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

I. WELCOME AND REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Katzenstein welcomed and introduced Council members and guests to the meeting. He went on to thank APSA staff, Annual Meeting Program Chairs Simone Chambers and Bruce Jentleson, and Task Force Chair Jeff Legro for their time and work during his Presidential year.

Katzenstein reviewed the new Council format, which is an attempt to use the Council better. He explained, following review and consent of the action agenda, Council will break into three discussion groups to allow the opportunity for more intensive and engaging discussion of important issues facing the discipline and association. The three small group discussions were organized sections, journals, and jobs.

Katzenstein posed three issues on which he had hoped for more progress in his presidency.

The first involved APSA finances. APSA had been invested 90% in stocks and with the downturn of the economy lost 1/3 of their value. Even after emergency procedures were instituted, he felt APSA was too slow and too late to protect funds from the worst risks, and to restructure investments against declines in equities.

Second, Katzenstein had hoped to expand APSA's international efforts and engagement. Given that APSA had 44 countries pre-registered for the annual meeting and 20% of the membership is international, he had sought to open up broader contacts internationally, especially with China. However, even with substantial contacts in China, it still remained hard either to move the organization or locate the corresponding partner in China, and we were not able to get a program in place.

Finally, he feels APSA is saddled with a balkanized intellectual meeting that lacks an intellectual center in its meeting ground. Junior scholars attend the meeting to tie names to authors and to link with other scholars, and we risk not conveying a picture of the integral breadth of the discipline. APSA needs to produce an intellectual frame. Katzenstein posed this as a challenge for the Association as it moves ahead, and illustrated the options by posing for consideration moving the APSA Presidential address to a more central time period, as a way to raise member attendance and make the event and more intellectual and integral to the meeting.

Katzenstein concluded that even with these concerns, APSA is in great shape because of the enormous generosity of time, resources, and spirit of the membership.

II. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL AND REVIEW ON CONSENT AGENDA

April 4, 2009 Council Meeting Minutes

Council asked that the minutes be copy-edited before approval.

Review of Action Items since Last Council Meeting

Council reviewed the action items since last Council meeting, listed in the Council book.

ACTION: Council unanimously approved the action items since last Council meeting.

III. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Michael Brintnall provided the Council updates on APSA staff. Melissa Pewett has joined the Meetings and Conventions department; Robin Smith has left APSA and Vernice Howard is here in the interim while the search for Smith's permanent replacement is completed; and Bahram Rajaee will be leaving APSA to continue on at the University of Delaware.

Brintnall noted the Rules Committee will be advised to consider a time change for the APSA General Membership meeting to encourage member participation and attendance.

Lastly, Brintnall thanked President Katzenstein for the opportunity to work with him during the year, and recognized Katzenstein's vigorous leadership.

IV. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Committee Nominations

President-Elect Henry Brady presented the Council with his APSA slate of committee nominations for the coming year and asked for Council consent and prior approval for nominations of vacant spots.

ACTION: Council unanimously approved slate of committee nominations and granted prior approval for nominations of vacant spots.

APSA Task Force on Governmental Indicators: Conceptualization, Measurement, Usage, and Meaning

The participants of the APSA Task Force on Governmental Indicators will be attending an October conference at UC Berkeley, hosted by President-Elect Brady, to discuss the importance of these indicators in press and policy-making bodies and what role politi-

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096510002337 Published online by Cambridge University Press

cal scientists can play. The conference will help establish a charge for the task force with goals and deadlines.

V. FINANCE

APSA Finances: Budget, Audit, and Investments

APSA Treasurer Jan Box-Steffensmeier reviewed recent developments regarding APSA finances. She reported that upon review of APSA's investment manager by the Trust and Development Committee, APSA has transitioned to the Boghdan group and converted individual equity holding in the Trust Pool and CFP portfolio to a small number of exchange-traded funds. This provides APSA with a more conservative investment profile. Since the transition, APSA investments have risen to $19.8 million from $18.7 million within a few months. Another development within APSA finances is the change of fiscal year, which now runs from October to the following September; this change was made to incorporate the annual meeting revenues and expenses within the same fiscal year. Box-Steffensmeier concluded her report stating membership dues, Annual Meeting, and journals remain the primary sources of APSA revenue and income.

Brintnall added that a high priority for APSA staff will be to improve the budget presentation to Council, with further breakdown of budget lines, a clearer presentation, and alignment with planning goals. The 2009–10 budget in the Council book was updated since the last Council meeting and now reflects a 1% salary increase for staff over a 15-month year through September 2010. The Administrative Committee has asked to revisit and review this issue in the winter to see if staff salaries should be adjusted.

Brintnall turned the overview of the budget to Vernice Howard who provided an explanation of funds.

FY2009 Actuals and FY2010 Budget

Vernice Howard presented the financial results for fiscal year 2008–09 and the revised budget for fiscal year 2009–10. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, the operating budget anticipated revenues of $5.43 million and expenses of $5.16 million, for preliminary net operations of 275,026. This surplus included a budgeted draw from investments of $213,200. Excluding this draw, the operating surplus was $61,821 for the year. The Council approved a modest dues increase that went into effect on July 1, 2008, for individual membership. This resulted in an increase of $1 for students and increases ranging from $2 to $7 for professional members.

On the expense side of the ledger, Howard stated that Annual Meeting costs accounted for 17% of all operating expenses in 2008–09, while APSA's three journals were expected to account for 16% of all operating expenses, followed by committee programs at 14%, and building and equipment (including depreciation costs) at 8%. Publications accounted for 7%, while governance and the business office stood at 6%. At 5% or less were costs related to general administration, external relations, organized sections support, the Teaching and Learning Conference, education and professional development, employment services, the Centennial Center, program review and endowed awards.

Lastly, Howard explained the treatment of APSA's investment draws. APSA money is in reserves within the APSA trust fund. We set aside a certain amount of our budget for reserves and in the past, we have moved funds back into the trust. This year, APSA suggested a more conservative move, to keep the funds in the operating reserves.

Howard asked for Council vote on the following items:

- To approve the treatment of the investment draws, to budget a conservative draw and to move funds to operating reserves.
- To approve the revised budget for fiscal year 2009–10

ACTION: Council approved the items unanimously.

c) APSA FY2008 Audit

Brintnall asked for acceptance of the 2008 Audit, provided in the Council book, following its approval by the Audit Committee. There were no objections.

VI. JOURNALS AND PUBLICATION ISSUES

APSR Editor Report

APSR Editor Ronald Rogowski presented the *APSR* report noting new submissions are slightly more manageable. One trend that shows up anecdotally is the increase in number of international submissions. Rogowski added that the quality of submissions is on the rise. The turnaround time from paper receipt to editor assignment has dropped significantly, in large part to the addition of a fourth editorial assistant. Due to Council guidance, Rogowski pointed to a sharp increase in summary rejects. The journal is getting closer to on-time production and the August issue will be online soon.

Rogowski raised larger issues with Council not touched upon in the editorial report, they included:

- The journal has invested in more elaborate video conferencing equipment, which facilitates using co-editors that aren't physically there and has proved useful so far.
- Can the editorial model work in the long run? While the *APSR* has become broader and more interesting, intensive co-editor discussions are demanding. The workload usually is four manuscripts, per week, per editor, and Rogowski fears this will lead to overwork.
- The Thompson and Reuter Impact Factor survey of *APSR* has dropped and is a fairly long-term trend over the past four years. Rogowski reported that specialized journals seem to have risen, especially *Political Analysis*, reflecting a balkanization of fields.

Council asked Rogowski if the *APSR* tracks submissions by institutional affiliation of the corresponding author. Currently, the journal does not track submissions; however, they can easily start to do so in Editorial Manager. Council further discussed the impact factor, which refers to about 40% of journals. Concerns were raised that the discipline is being yanked by a factor that is being conjured by publishing houses and not scholars. Further, Council inquired how APSR's decision making is affected by the impact factor. Rogowski responded that Cambridge worries about the impact factor in terms of advertising, and the only effect it has had on *APSR* is the added pressure to stay on time. Cambridge had expressed nervousness and pressure but *APSR* does not feel any pressure. Overall, what matters to *APSR* is how the journal is being viewed and perceived in the profession. Rogowski welcomed feedback from Council members and their colleagues.

PS: Political Science and Politics Report

Deputy Director Robert Hauck gave a brief update on *PS*. This past January, *PS* had a new redesign to make the journal easier to read and introduced color for clearer presentation. Cambridge Press financed the entire effort. The journal had a number of symposia, which focused on the presidential nominations, voter ID, and the financial crisis. Hauck noted the two most popular articles by online downloads were on the presidential elections and political science journal rankings.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096510002337 Published online by Cambridge University Press

A challenge faced by the journal has been the large number of submissions to the teaching section and the difficulty to find reviewers. Hauck will discuss this challenge with the *PS* editorial board, and one solution may be to increase the role of the board to assist with the teaching section.

Perspectives on Politics Update

Perspectives on Politics (POP) editor Jeff Isaac announced the journal's launch event on Saturday afternoon to help raise the journal's profile in the discipline. *POP* wants to communicate in variety of different ways.

As editor, Isaac has made a branding decision and decided to change the description of the journal to one oriented around "a political science public sphere." The journal has been in transition mode since June 1, and Isaac is pleased to work with a great staff and fantastic editorial board. As well, Cambridge and APSA have been great in every way.

Isaac reported on upcoming issues that will include mostly articles accepted by the former *POP* editor. The first editorial board meeting is Friday, and the main goal will be to discuss new policies. As editor, one of Isaac's goals is to help authors to write better, and this includes reducing superfluous citations, which could actually reduce impact factor scores. In response to questions regarding backlog issues, Isaac is trying to publish quickly, with the December issue including eleven articles and the March issue having two symposia on gender.

VII. CONFERENCES

2009 Annual Meeting

Meeting co-chairs Simone Chambers and Bruce Jentleson thanked Peter Katzenstein, Rob Hauck, and Lauren West.

The memo on page 64 of the Council agenda included overall statistics from the Annual Meeting program. One other statistic not included in the memo is the 10% decrease in pre-registration rates, which is a much lower rate than other academic associations.

Chambers and Jentleson wanted to give an intellectual coherence to the meeting, and they went on to give main highlights of the program, which included a number of panels in memoriam, theme panels addressing questions of siting and engagement, Friday's panel on Obama and Change, and Saturday panel on the question of "How free should hate speech be?" Chambers noted the Toronto Star's interest in publishing some points from these panels with hopes that it would be the lead piece in their op-ed section.

Chambers reported one glitch in the Annual Meeting programming came with paper submissions, which came online late and was not user friendly. Chambers suggested for future annual meetings thinking through the paper submission process to make it easier and more accessible.

Jentleson took this time to share institutional memory with the Council and APSA staff. As the annual meeting will be in Washington, DC, next year, it will be very valuable to engage the DC community in the conference. Jentleson urged the 2010 program chairs and staff to think through systematically how to use DC, especially as the process to get individuals to speak at the meeting is a continual issue.

Council was concerned with the perception from abroad that there is not enough transparency and requested that future Annual Meeting reports include paper submissions broken down by divisions and international verse national submissions. To increase transparency, the reports need to include the acceptance rates of these submissions.

Annual Meeting 2010

Henry Brady briefly reported on the progress of planning for the 2010 Annual Meeting. The program chairs have tried to include every subfield from the discipline, and the program committee is complete.

Siting and Engagement Committee

Michael Brintnall explained the action memo asking for approval of the appointments to the Siting and Engagement Committee. Brintnall recounted the elements of the structure to the committee; it is a nine-person committee with three-year terms; nominations are made by the President with advice from the Council; one member is recommended from the Status Committees; one member is by general appointment; and one member is centrally located at future annual meeting sites. Brintnall noted the Administrative Committee had seen and approved the names put forth for the Siting and Engagement Committee. With no questions raised, Council approved the committee appointments.

ACTION: Council unanimously approved the Siting and Engagement Committee appointments.

VIII. APSA INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS

Guidelines for Public Presence Task Forces

Council was updated on the status of APSA Task forces:

- The Task Force on U.S. Standing on World Affairs' short report has been sent to the publisher.
- The Task Force on Religion and Democracy in the United States is in the last stage of completing their book.
- The Task Force on Political Violence and Terrorism report is awaiting the final revision before going to print.
- The Task Force on Interdisciplinarity report has been completed. The task force is considering development of a full-length book.

President Katzenstein recommended increasing the Presidential Task Force budgets to support greater dissemination. Past presidents have used outside sources for funding as task forces can not carry out their work solely on APSA funds. Council wondered if the Association would be able to secure long-term funding to allow for the budget to be more than $20,000.

President Katzenstein reviewed the Guidelines for Public Presence Task Forces, which will set a more specific schedule for Task Force completion. The guidelines articulate a program to have task force work completed in one year and in time for debate at the annual meeting.

ACTION: Council unanimously approved the Guidelines for Public Presence Task Forces that sets a more specific schedule for their completion.

Affiliation between the Organized Section on Information Technology and Politics and the *Journal of Information Technology and Politics* Request

Michael Brintnall asked for Council approval to support the affiliation between the Organized Section on Information Technology and Politics and the *Journal on Information Technology and Politics*.

ACTION: Council unanimously approved the organized section and journal affiliation.

Persons with Disabilities in Political Science Policy

Michael Brintnall introduced the Disabilities in Political Science Policy memo that was created by APSA staff at President Katzenstein's request in response to member inquiries to him. It is focused on:

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096510002337 Published online by Cambridge University Press

- What academic departments are doing and if there is a role for APSA to backstop departments in supporting students and faculty with disabilities;
- What APSA is doing to assist persons with disabilities;
- Are there areas to advance scholarship on this topic and should APSA take a leading role?

Council called for:

- APSA staff to continue gathering information on persons with disabilities in political science, including questions in the Departmental Survey, contacting other associations, contacting former members of the APSA related group, and talking with scholars who specialize on the issue.
- Creating a mentor group for veterans returning to graduate school in political science, and agreed to form a small Council subcommittee to coordinate ways to follow up.

Following Council suggestions, an action memo will be brought to the Council for the spring meeting.

IX. APSA UPDATES

President Katzenstein asked Council to raise any questions regarding Council Agenda item X. APSA Updates. Council requested discussion on item a. Africa Workshop Update, specifically why women's rights have not appeared on the program. Bahram Rajaee responded that the Africa Project is based on basic research. There is a competitive process in place for submitting topics and workshop leaders set the program. No particular substantive theme is given preference. The topics have tended to be broad and conceptual rather than Africa-specific policy topics. [NOTE: the subsequent Africa Workshop has been organized on themes of Gender in Global Politics.]

With no further questions raised, Council broke for lunch at 12:00.

Council reconvened and split into their Council Discussion Groups at 1:30 PM.

X. COUNCIL DISCUSSION GROUPS

Council broke into three discussion groups to allow the opportunity for more intensive and engaging discussion of the important issues facing the discipline and Association. The three small group discussions centered on:

- Organized Sections
- Journals
- Jobs

Following group discussion, Council came back together at 3:10 pm to share their small group findings.

- Council Discussion Topic: Journals
- Council Discussion Topic: Organized Sections
- Organized Sections Background

Council Discussion Topic: Jobs

President Katzenstein concluded the small group discussions.

President-Elect Henry Brady acknowledged the service of President Katzenstein and presented him a token of appreciation from the Association.

President Katzenstein closed the Council meeting by thanking for their service to the Association those Council members rotating off: Wendy Brown, Wendy K. Tam Cho, H. N. Hirsch, John Ishiyama, Nonna Mayer, Thomas L. Pangle, Dan Reiter, and Catherine H. Zuckert.

Council meeting adjourned at 3:53 PM. ■

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096510002337 Published online by Cambridge University Press