APSA Council Meeting Final Minutes

Midwest Political Science Associaiton Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 22nd, 2006
Chicago, IL

Present: Ira Katznelson (president), Bob Axelrod (president-elect), Michael Brintnall (executive director), James L. Gibson, Tony Affigne, David Laitin, Andrew Aoki, Dvora Yanow, Bryan Jones, Timothy Kaufman-Osborn, James Johnson, Michael Jones-Correa, Aili Tripp, Neta Crawford, Lisa Anderson, Gary Cox, Rogers Smith, Harvey Mansfield, David Vogel, Jack Levy, Andrea Simpson

Not Attending: Katherine Tate, Catherine Boone, Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Richard Valelly, Judith Goldstein, Lee Sigelman

APSA Staff: Jeff Biggs, Rob Hauck, Robin Smith, Bahram Rajaee

I. Report of the President

President Ira Katznelson welcomed the Council, and reported on activities since the fall meeting. He provided a summary of his presidential visits to regional meetings (NCOBPS, Southern, Northeast, Southwest, Western) and noted intriguing varieties in their constituencies and cultures.

He also provided a summary of Katrina funding efforts; APSA raised about $25,000 and matched it to provide $50,000 to four schools. This included $12,000 to Xavier, Dillard, the University of New Orleans, and the University of Southern Mississippi. An advisory board comprised of the president of NCOBPS, Melissa Nobles, the president of the Southern PSA, Paula McClain, and the former president of Duke University, Nannerl Keohane, also oversaw the process.

II. Report of the Executive Director

Michael Brintnall reported that the overall picture is of a healthy, vibrant association. He noted key staff changes: Rebecca Myers has left for an advanced association management position and has been replaced by Lauren Tighe; Linda Lopez is on family leave until July. In Linda's absence, Mary Breeding and Isis Leslie have filled in on a part-time basis to assist with the Minority Program Review, the Teaching and Learning conference, and the ACE internationalization initiative.

Brintnall raised three additional items:

- First, plans for a Department Chairs Conference are proceeding. The conference will take place next spring on a developmental basis in conjunction with the Teaching and Learning Conference. The intent is to create a large forum for chairs to interact.

- Second, the Higher Education Act reauthorization bill has been delayed. The National Research Council has been charged with a review of the program. The question of an advisory board is still alive, but looks increasingly as if the outcome will be more favorable than originally anticipated.

- Third, Brintnall reported on conversations about the Report on Women's Advancement and on plans for follow-up research and action, based on questions raised at the previous Council meeting. The Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession (CSWP) has submitted an ADVANCE grant proposal to the NSF for follow-up work (this was recommended for funding by the NSF review committee, but not funded) and will continue to pursue further efforts. He believes that the existing report is sufficiently clear that the observations there are tentative and suggestive, and that he would like APSA to continue to circulate the report in this spirit, and that he will work with the CSWP to draft a cover memo explaining the context.

III. Items for Approval/ Review on Consent Agenda

- The August 31, 2005, Council Meeting minutes were approved.

- The September 1, 2005, Business Meeting minutes were approved.

IV. Financial and Budget Reports

Tony Affigne reported that APSA finances are good and that income and expenditures are balanced. The endowment is growing with $27 million in assets. Revenue is $4.406 million and expenditures are $4.395 million.

Affigne also reported on the following specific items:

- A decision was made not to purchase 1525 New Hampshire Ave (the "Slovenian Embassy") in order to retain future program flexibility with our endowment funds, which would have otherwise been encumbered. We will continue to focus on use of the 18th Street building, for which $150k was set aside from purchase funds for renovations. The Trust and Development Committee invites input from Council members with experience. All current tenants in 18th St. are on short-term leases; APSA is looking for a long-term solution.

- The Trust and Development Board has prepared a new policy document that reflects restructured reporting and investments. Five APSA portfolios exist (APSA trust; CFP trust; Working Capital; Operating; Building) that each have specific investment strategies, and that each support an array of different funds or purposes.

- Affigne reported on steps that the Trust and Development Board (T&D) has taken to respond to Council inquiries about socially responsible investing. APSA By-Laws have stated for many years that "the Association accepts responsibility for the social and moral implications and consequences of its investment policy, and avoids investments inconsistent with the pursuit of peace and of a democratic and humane social order." T&D asked our investment management, Loren Ross, to report on how he implements this policy. His report concludes that it makes sense for APSA to consider the social responsibility of where we invest, as those who meet their obligations are better investments in the long run, and that he regularly considers this

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when making investments.

Council noted that APSA should adopt an open-book policy regarding its holdings and, separately, commented that reporting five-year trend data on portfolios would be helpful.

• Affigne provided an overview of a request the AAUP made to APSA to contribute to its Endowment Campaign. He suggested there are two options, if we wished to respond at all: first, we could make a direct donation of APSA funds and second we could assist in raising funds directly for the AAUP. The Council discussed many implications of assisting in one way or another, including whether a donation to the AAUP would call for a donation to other faculty groups such as the National Association of Scholars. Brintnall reported no other associations have yet followed through on the request, and there is no precedent for APSA to do so; moreover, no obligation flows from APSA's role as a founding member of the AAUP. A motion was introduced for reallocation of $25k to the AAUP and was rejected unanimously. A further motion regarding a request for additional information from the AAUP was also rejected by a vote of 12-3.

Robin Smith, APSA finance director, reported on key elements of the proposed FY07 Budget. Key elements of the proposed budget are the following:

• The proposed budget for fiscal year 2006–07 calls for operating revenues of $4.616 million and expenses of $4.608 million, resulting in a projected surplus of nearly $8,000. These figures assume a 4.8% increase in both total revenues and total expenses over the current-year increases of 3.6% and 3.4%, respectively. It is proposed that individual member dues increase 3%, ranging from $39 for student members to a scale from $82 to $202 for professional members.

• Department dues, based on a multi-year phase-in plan approved in 2003, will conclude this fiscal year. Proposed dues rates range from $90 to $1,600, with increases ranging from 4.7% for undergraduate departments with less than five faculty to 16.1% for those departments with more than 31 faculty members.

• Journals revenue and expense projections suggest increases of 5.3% and 4.0% in revenues and expenses from the estimated 2005 calendar-year projections.

• Modest growth was projected in both the revenues and expenses for the 2006 Teaching and Learning Conference. The estimates for the 2007 Conference are based on 300 attendees. The Conference cost is partially, but not fully, covered by registration fees, exhibits, and sponsorships. There is a proposed new conference, for APSA department chairs, to be held in conjunction with the T&L Conference in February 2007.

• Increases in the revenue and expense budgets are projected for the scheduled 2006 Annual Meeting at the Philadelphia Convention Center site.

• Investments/Drawdowns: Based on the Council-approved 4.5% draw, we have budgeted the drawdown from the Trust and Development Fund at $186,300, an increase of 13.9% over the current-year draw because of the growing health of the endowment returns. Other transfers to support APSA activities are anticipated from the Centennial Center endowment and the CFP administrative fee, of $123,500 and $58,100, respectively.

• Total operating costs (including salaries and benefits) for the 25 regular full-time APSA staff positions are projected to increase 5.6% over the current fiscal year budget.

The Council unanimously approved the budget. The budget is routinely revisited when the Council meets during the annual meeting in August in response to updated financial information.

V. Report of the Audit Committee

Tony Affigne, treasurer and chair of the Audit Committee, moved to renew the audit firm for another term. Council approved the motion unanimously. He also noted that the Audit Committee was making this request of Council now, but should have this authority itself in the future. The cost of the audit is $19,000, along with another $2,600 for filing. Brintnall said he would work with the Audit Committee and the Council Committee on Rules to prepare a recommended change to APSA By-Laws to recognize new practices of the Audit Committee, for attention in the fall Council meeting.

VI. Governance

The nominated slate was presented and approved by the Council as required by the Association's Constitution. Timothy Kaufman-Osborn observed that non-Ph.D.-granting institutions are underrepresented on the Nominating Committee, comprising only 7% of the Committee's membership from 1973–2003. Bryan Jones and Harvey Mansfield noted the low representation of regional state institutions, and the absence of political theorists, respectively.

In consideration of the possibility of an additional Council meeting this year, one possibility would be targeted meetings with foundations and other relevant NGO's, perhaps located in New York. The visits might focus on several of the international initiatives the Association is considering. These ideas will be pursued if there is Council interest.

The Council reviewed an analysis of voter participation in the 2005 APSA election, prepared by Rebecca Myers. Data analysis showed overall election participation percentage and concluded that there was no evidence of difference in turnout among major groups (such as by gender, race, rank, or nationality). No action was necessary.

APSA has experience a recent dip in membership but is recovering from this drop as the Annual Meeting approaches. This dip was evidently a one-time effect of a member renewal mailing glitch. Nevertheless, APSA staff and the Administrative Committee would like to explore data trends to learn more about membership directions. Don Green and Jim Gibson volunteered to serve as an ad hoc advisory group.

VII. Journal and Publications Issues

Perspectives on Politics Editor Jim Johnson informed the Council that the full editor's report will be given in March rather than August. He reported that the journal is implementing the manuscript submission and tracking software the APSA journals will use. The journal is filling its allocated pages. Several Council members questioned whether the decline in submissions could be attributed to the character of the submission process. Council also noted a concern with this trend and with the use of staff approval as a screening process (47 articles rejected without review). Johnson clarified that those rejections largely met one of three criteria: first, they were not of publishable quality; second, they were not in the purview of political science; and third, they

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were submissions on themes previously accepted. Council also noted that a policy issue may exist here regarding the role of centralized or decentralized associate editors.

An interim report on the *APSR* was submitted by Editor Lee Sigelman, who was unable to attend the meeting. The final report will be submitted to the August Council meeting and will be published in *PS*.

Michael Brintnall briefed the Council on the *APSR* editor search. A short list exists and interviews have begun. The search committee anticipates completing its work by the end of May, at which point the committee's nominations will be submitted to APSA President Ira Katznelson who will follow up with additional interviews. He will send his recommendation to the Council in August.

Brintnall reported to the Council that contract negotiations with Cambridge University Press are moving forward positively. APSA has worked with an experienced outside consultant in reviewing the terms, and her assessment is that our past and proposed contract arrangements have been appropriate and equitable. Under terms of the proposed new contract Cambridge will also work with APSA to improve online member access to journal materials.

VIII. Conferences

APSA Deputy Director Rob Hauck gave a summary of the upcoming 2006 Annual Meeting. Hauck indicated that there will be 1,000 events at this year's meeting in Philadelphia, which will probably be larger than 2005's record attendance. Hauck reported that the city of Philadelphia has been very helpful.

APSA plans on creating more opportunities for networking for attendees. The Grand Hall in the Convention Center will be set up to include more intimate space. Large sponsors include CSPAN, the Policy Studies Organization, Blackwell Publishing, and Cambridge University Press. More exhibitors have signed on, likely meaning more revenue to offset rising costs. There will also be a rich collection of plenaries and panels. "All is well."

2007 Program Chair Liz Gerber requested Council approval of the slate for the 2007 Annual Meeting Program Committee. The motion was approved unanimously. Program chairs looked at underrepresented groups, institutions, and methodologies to fill out the slate. The Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Section (REP) currently has no nominee, but chairs are working on it in conjunction with the section head (the default nominee for now). Council noted the active links of several of its members to the REP Section, and encouraged co-chairs to solicit their help.

The theme of the 2007 meeting, based on President-Elect Axelrod's emphasis on interdisciplinarity, will be "Political Science and Beyond." Council noted that organizing theme panels jointly with other associations and interdisciplinary groups (sociology, economics, MESA, women's studies, etc.) could be very helpful.

Brintnall encouraged Council to look at the program from the 2006 Teaching and Learning Conference (TLC) and asked for its input and attendance at the meeting. President-Elect Axelrod's nominees for the TLC program committee were submitted to Council. His proposal was to make it a standing committee for greater continuity with staggered terms. Council (Laitin) noted that teaching and learning assessment on campus bears little reflection on marginal impact on student education. APSA should try to find serious methods of evaluating teaching and curricular inputs if the Association is going to invest in the TLC. Brintnall stated that he would raise this both with the conference program and committee and with the new standing Teaching and Learning Committee. He said the TLC program organizers last year emphasized that the TLC must not lose site of rigor in presentations, including careful evaluations, literature reviews, and theoretical perspectives. President Katznelson observed that TLC experiences an unusual level of engagement by its participants, but that the accumulation of that engagement is not obvious. Council (Green) suggested that APSA could build into TLC a theory element and testing/experimenting.

Council (Yanow) also wondered about department chair feedback on the meeting; Brintnall responded that it was supportive—as indicated by a willingness to fund attendance. TLC participants themselves expressed eagerness for their chairs to take note of their work at the TLC. APSA is looking into building a chair's component into the TLC meeting.

IX. Public Presence and Council Initiatives

President Katznelson provided an update on the task force he intends to appoint on Religion and Democracy in the United States. Katznelson submitted a list of proposed members to Council, motion for approval of list and $10k annually in APSA support for two years (approved unanimously).

APSA Deputy Director Rob Hauck reported that the Task Force on Inequality and Difference in the Developing World expects to make its final report at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. In March, four members participated in a roundtable at the International Studies Association and the members gave a presentation in April at the British Political Science Association meeting.

The Task Force on Political Violence and Terrorism offered a panel at the 2005 APSA Annual Meeting, the 2006 International Studies Association meeting, and will present a panel and workshop at the 2006 APSA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The task force also plans a lecture series this fall in Washington, D.C.

President-Elect Axelrod provided an overview of his planned interdisciplinarity initiative. Axelrod plans to focus on this chosen theme in four ways: through the Annual Meeting theme, through collaboration with *Science* magazine (John Aldrich is now book review editor and Lin Ostrom has been named to the editorial board), through his presidential address, and through the appointment of a Task Force on Best Practices regarding Interdisciplinarity. The Task Force would focus on teaching and research (quantitative and qualitative); an NSF grant has already been submitted whose prospects for funding appear good. John Aldrich has been named chair of the Task Force and is currently inviting other members. The goal will be to identify disincentives and incentives regarding interdisciplinarity as well as assessment questions. Axelrod welcomed suggestions and stated that the composition of the Task Force will be framed broadly. The Task Force will also have an advisory board to review draft reports, suggest literature, etc. Council noted that the Task Force should be mindful of the impact of different institutional types and various meanings attached to the term "interdisciplinarity" in different contexts.

Bahram Rajaee provided a brief update on press and public outreach. Regular press releases are prepared (about one per month) based on ongoing APSA journal research and basic tracking of their appearances is in place. He is working with Task Forces to develop a model for outreach of published reports and developing a media plan for the Annual Meeting.

Rob Hauck reported that Centennial Center applications continue to grow, particularly from advanced graduate students from the U.S. and abroad. Resident scholars are encouraged to share their research with colleagues and APSA staff over brown-bag lunches. The Center has also hosted events such as a recent discussion on the Constitution with staff from George Washington University, and will

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jointly sponsor a lecture series in the fall with the Task Force on Political Violence and Terror in Washington, D.C.

Jeffrey Biggs provided a brief update on the Congressional Fellowship Program. Herb Asher chaired the CFP Review Committee, which met for two days (including the meeting of the CFP advisory board). The Review Committee provided good feedback, some of which has already been implemented, such as the appointment of Mike Frank (Heritage Foundation) to the Advisory Board.

X. APSA Committees and Programs

An overview of the Annual Meeting Review Committee and interim report was given by Joan Tronto (chair). The Committee met once in the spring. It has collected data and started its analysis. A request has been made of previous program chairs for a survey, and the Committee intends to contact chairs, exhibitors, sections, etc. The Committee will do a random sample survey of 2006 Annual Meeting attendees, organized by Kathleen Frankovic of CBS News who is a Committee member. APSA will also try to track Annual Meeting behavior better through various technologies. The Committee will also approach other associations about their meeting practices. Survey data should be available in the fall of 2006, with a final report completed in the spring of 2007.

The Committee is focusing on six questions:

- The Annual Meeting is the largest professional activity of the Association; we need to know if it serves all needs.

- What are the tradeoffs and balances; for example, meeting quality vs. number of attendees or Meeting size. Perhaps threads through the meeting can help narrow this gap.

- What role could technology play in improving the Meeting?

- The panel allocation system is complex, but perhaps it could be adjusted.

- The timing of submissions, acceptances relative to the Meeting itself. Maybe we could ask for full papers, not just abstracts, in October.

- Sites of future meetings: labor laws, LGBT Status Committee request, etc.—these will be on the survey.

Council noted that Related Groups, Poster Sessions, were also items that merit attention.

A report on B.A./M.A. programs was received by the Council. The Council suggested a special project committee to work with the Departmental Services Committee. The Administrative Committee agreed and recommended to the Council the selection of such a subcommittee. Its mission would be to suggest areas of improvement, prioritize tasks enumerated in report. The starting point would be the report itself (in Council book, p. 115). Tim Osborn volunteered to serve; Andy Aoki will chair. Other names will be provided by Brintnall to President Katznelson for consideration.

President Katznelson gave an overview of the Africa Project. This initiative builds on work by the International Committee; a formal proposal will be ready in August. The core idea is to launch a series of two-week long activities in Africa, conducted jointly by U.S. and African scholars and targeted to junior African scholars. The initiative would include a governance structure, substantive and methods focus, and external funding.

Katznelson also took the opportunity to brief the Council on a developing initiative in India, which follows on visits by his two immediate predecessors. The focus is on an intellectual project as an outcome—a "Tocquevillian project" emphasizing the themes of religion and the public sphere; subalterns; inequality; liberty; and democracy. Outputs would include a volume of essays and externally-funded workshops on the same themes to broaden its scope; the Ford (Delhi) and MacArthur Foundations have expressed interest. Request for a sense of Council to proceed with the India effort was approved unanimously.

Two organized sections have proposed new linkages with journals, and with the recommendation of the Organized Sections Committee, the Council approved these unanimously. The new journals are *Religion and Democracy* and *Political Behavior.*

The Minority Program Review Committee appointed by former-President Margaret Levi and chaired by Valerie Martinez-Ebers is charged with restating APSA's commitment to diversity and considering other steps. The Committee is currently reviewing ongoing programs such as the Bunche Institute, the Minority Fellowships, and the Minority Identification Program. A final report will be prepared by the Annual Meeting.

Council observed (Green) that surveys of participants in minority programs will likely be flawed if conclusions are drawn just from respondents, since response rates are low. The study should therefore be framed as providing information on the quality of throughput, not outcomes, and "texture" as opposed to definitively explaining. Council (Katznelson) noted that perhaps it was more important to get a sense of where the program is now, as opposed to long-term trends, and that data from many sources, including the NSF application itself, should be tapped.

Council noted the evaluation of the APSA mentoring project and expressed thanks to the Committee on the Status of Women for assuming oversight on mentoring evaluation. The Council also noted the work of the Task Force on Mentoring for initiating the project.

A request has been made by Kanchan Chandra for an APSA Working Group on the topic of collaborative research. Katznelson has appointed a group, including Gary King, Skip Lupia, Chandra, Edward Mansfield, and Jennifer Gandhi that will report to Council on request and guidelines for collaborative research.

On matters of academic freedom, when President Katznelson wrote to senior UCLA administration expressing broad concern with developments there, we recognized that APSA was not in a position to issue a broad public statement about principles of academic freedom and protection of scholars. In response, a question arose whether APSA should issue a new statement on its own or endorse other statements on academic freedom. As a first step, the Administrative Committee recommends APSA endorse the statement (in Council Book) recently coordinated by the American Council on Education. The Council discussed this statement and alternative language and voted 13-2 both to endorse the ACE statement and to charge the Ethics Committee to explore whether a stronger statement is also needed that speaks to the special vulnerabilities of political science faculty who are dealing routinely with controversial issues in the classroom.

Following completion of the formal agenda, the Council entered Executive Session.

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