

MINUTES
WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Date: Friday, 1 October 2021
Time: 8:00 to 9:30 am PDT
Location: Virtual meeting on Zoom

Members present: Ricardo Ramirez, Pei-te Lien, Jason Casellas, Janni Aragon, Richard Clucas, Elsa Favila, Mario Guerrero, Natalie Masuoka, Sarah Shair-Rosenfield, Shirin Deylami, Melissa Michelson, Mark Ramirez, Laura Evans, John Meyer, Sara Sadhwani, Brent Boyea, Elsa Dias, Seth McKee, Nadia E. Brown, Brent Steele, Jessica Lavariega Monforti

Members absent: Michael Bowers, Ainsley LeSure

Guests: Cheryl Hall, Efren Perez, Emily Ray, Ron Schmidt, Kim Williams

Call to Order 8:03 a.m. PDT by President Ricardo Ramirez

Ricardo Ramirez thanks members for their support during the pandemic in making the fall meeting happen. Gives thanks to Richard, Elsa, and others behind the scenes.

I. Approval of Minutes

- A. April 2021 WPSA Executive Council Meeting. Brent Boyea moved to approve. Jessica Lavariega Monforti seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

II. Reports

- A. Executive Director's Report: Richard Clucas. Gave update since last report. Much of his work focused on conference related activities. Site visit completed for the next WPSA conference. Section chair meeting took place, too. We will see primarily an in-person conference, but some hybrid panels will be made available. Extending the proposal deadline worked well with 125 more submissions. The conference is March 10-12, 2022, in Portland, OR. Richard said he spends a good part of his time on smaller administrative details, but that he has also been working a lot with several committees, including awards, 75th anniversary, and journal editor search. As for future work, he said a lot of the fall he will be focusing on the 2022 conference. Pei-te Lien had a question referring to NCOBPS and the time conflict with our conference and their 2022 conference. Richard said he has had conversations previously with NCOBPS about this, but that nothing has moved forward.
- B. 2021 Conference: Elsa Favila. 2021 Conference was virtual and we had more than 600 registrants and around 30% were students. Our rates were lower with the virtual conference. We had 184 panels with more than 900 participants. We also had five exhibitors virtually, which made some income. Elsa reached out to chairs to ensure

- that Zoom accounts were in sync. Ricardo thanked Elsa for her work. John Meyer asked a question about tracking attendees on panels virtually. This has taken place face to face in the past. Elsa noted that some chairs provided numbers, but others did not. We do not have real numbers from every virtual session. Elsa Dias said that there was not a huge drop in terms of attendance in her opinion. She also noted that in Zoom we can look at the numbers of people participating. Ricardo also felt that there was good attendance, but that it is hard to ask the panel chairs to monitor.
- C. Local Arrangements Portland: Kim Williams. Kim gave a short pitch on attending the 2022 conference in Portland. She will be meeting with Richard Clucas to work on local arrangements planning. She has a list of marching orders about what needs to be completed. Ricardo thanked her.
 - D. Virtual Communities Committee: Cheryl Hall gave a report on the Virtual Communities Committee. She discussed efforts to get communities together. In the initial pilot period, the VCs did not require membership dues, but made open access. Ten virtual communities in the pilot. It is now a regular permanent program moving forward. For the new year, 18 proposals were submitted and the ten selected. Cheryl discussed how WPSA membership now includes participation in VCs. Discussed a second tier of membership for those who only want to participate in VCs. Also discussed the changes in the website to support the VCs. Committee spent \$4500 to get this work completed. Good grad assistant working on this. Lots of work. For web access, the VCs are using a new WordPress site to make it easy to set up and revise. The WordPress site is linked to the WPSA site. Some challenges with the work. Now officially launched the week of Sept 28, 2021. For 2022, there are Feminist Theory, and other types of groups.
 - E. WPSA Climate Action Committee: Emily Ray presented report. Gave recap of the committee's work, including efforts on Virtual Committee and discussions about decarbonization efforts for the WPSA. Discussed how committee conducted survey and the responses it received that were related to climate change. Members want more resources to use with their teaching and that there is a need to offer more intersectional lens with climate change strategy.
 - F. Nominating Committee Report: Richard Clucas gave a quick report on the Nominating Committee, which is still putting together a slate for the March election.
 - G. Membership Report: Elsa Favila reported that the association's membership dropped due to Covid19. Brent Boyea asked about how we are working on dealing with the membership drop. It was brought up that the VCs and the 2022 conference should help boost numbers again.

III. **Old Business**

- A. Selection of *PRQ* Editors: Efrén Pérez gave an overview of the search for new *PRQ* editors. He reported that we had two strong applications for the editorial teams. The committee thought either team could handle the editorship, but ultimately decided to recommend a team based at University of California, Irvine.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation. The council voted unanimously to approve the new editorial team: Tony Smith, editor in chief, UC Irvine; Angelia Wilson, University of Manchester; Stephen Nuno, Northern Arizona University; Jami

Taylor, University of Toledo; Julia Jordan-Zachery, Wake Forest University (as of 7/10/2021, currently UNCC); Wendy Wong, University of Toronto; Davin Phoenix, UC Irvine; Heather Smith-Cannoy, Arizona State University; Christopher Stout, Oregon State University; Jennifer Garcia, Oberlin College; Andrew Flores, American University

Ricardo and other members of the council expressed their thanks to Efrén for his leadership on the search.

- B. PGI Editor Selection Committee update: Nadia Brown, the search committee chair, reported that she has not yet received any formal applications, but had heard from at least one group from a major university that is considering applying. She reported that some other individuals have also contacted her to ask questions.
- C. 75th Anniversary Committee: Ron Schmidt, the committee chair, gave a report on the committee's activities. Ron said that committee is making good progress in planning and that the fundraising component of the anniversary will be launched this month. He said the launching of related webpages is coming next, including a section devoted to the histories of WPSA-related groups and another one on WPSA innovations in the discipline. As for the conference, there will be some anniversary themed panels and a dinner/dance. The committee is also looking into some type of conference outing.
- D. Task Force on Equity, Inclusion, and Access in the Discipline: Jessica Lavariega Monforti reported that the taskforce is busy. It wants to gather more information via a survey that the APSA is sending out. She then talked about some of the proposals before the committee. She said that the committee would submit a report to the council at a future date.

IV. **New Business**

- A. Mid-Year Budget Report: Elsa Favila gave the budget report for Michael Bowers. She explained how some costs were higher than budgeted because of the increase in salaries for some WPSA staff, but otherwise it is on target.
- B. Health and safety steps for 2022 Conference: Richard Clucas gave an overview of the safety steps he thinks the association should take to protect the health of participants at the conference. He presented a proposal for a covid protocol, including a vaccination requirement. The proposal was moved, seconded, and approved.
- C. Contingency Planning for 2022 Conference: Richard also asked that the council to authorize a committee composed of the president, program chair, treasurer, and executive to approve additional safety steps if necessary. Ricardo added that that the association needs to be flexible in case things change with the Corona virus and our conference, and that allowing the committee to make these types of decisions would help in planning and protecting participants' health and safety without having to bring everything back to the council. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.
- D. Proposed changes in Nakanishi Award rules: Pei-te Lien spoke to making some changes with the Award. Currently, the award can be given out to a best conference paper, an outstanding book, or for outstanding service. The proposed change would

establish a separate annual award for the WPSA Best Paper in Asian Pacific American Politics. The Nakanishi Award would then be given to the best book on APA politics and/or for outstanding service advancing the understanding or practice of Asian Pacific American politics. The change would mean that rather than one award given out each year, the total would be from one to three. Richard Clucas noted that these changes were consistent with association policies, including financial requirements. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Ricardo thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 am.