

Minutes
WPSA Executive Council meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2020
Noon- 2:00 p.m. PDT
Virtual meeting on Zoom

Members present: Ainsley LeSure, Tony Carey, Seth McKee, Elsa Favila, Jamie Mayerfeld, Lan Chu, Jessica Lavariega Monforti, Natalie Masuoka, Nadia Brown, Mario Feit, Farah Godrej, Michael Bowers, Mario Guerrero, Melissa Michelson, Mark Ramirez, Ricardo Ramirez, Richard Clucas, Pei-te Lien, Sarah Shair-Rosenfeld, Shirin Deylami, Laura Evans, Brent Steele, Melissa Michelson, and Jason Casellas

Members absent: Lan Chu

Guests: Ian Balisy, Elsa Dias, Ashley Dodsworth, Cheryl Hall, Lisa Magaña, Efren Perez, Ron Schmidt, and Rebecca Thorpe

Call to Order 12:04 pm PDT by President Jessica Lavariega Monforti

I. Approval of Minutes

Jessica put off consideration of the minutes until later in the meeting, giving everyone a chance to review. [The minutes from the four previous council meetings and the one Action without a Meeting were approved unanimously, as noted below.]

II. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report: Richard Clucas

Richard says he focused his attention on three main areas since last report: conferences, committees, and general administrative duties.

Richard thanks those who put the online conference together, and reports L.A. hotel returned deposit.

Richard has sent a note to the sales representative at the 2021 conference hotel (the Hyatt Regency) in Seattle to get some sense of how the prospects for holding the conference look. He has not heard back yet from the hotel. The Hyatt is slated to reopen on October 1. The city is still in Phase 2, but needs to reach Phase 4 for the conference to meet.

Richard introduces local arrangements co-chairs, University of Washington Professors Laura Evans and Rebecca Thorpe. The University of Washington is the local host campus.

Richard comments on the different committees with whom he has been working.

Richard discusses agenda for this meeting and planning for the 2021 meeting. He says a few awards will still be given out next April even though this year's conference was cancelled.

B. Local Arrangements Los Angeles: Elsa Favila

Elsa Favila reports there were 80 panels with just over 300 participants for the virtual meeting. No significant loss of income because many registrants did not request refunds (about half did). Association netted \$9,000.

C. Local Arrangements Seattle: Laura Evans, Becca Thorpe

Jessica recognizes the local arrangements co-chairs for the 2021 meetings.

Rebecca Thorpe and Laura Evans report that much is on hold due to uncertainty of conference.

An extended discussion ensues about whether to hold conference in person in Seattle.

Ricardo Ramirez reports difficulties of signing up section chairs, too much uncertainty regarding whether meeting will be possible.

Some council members suggest the association hold discussions with other associations as to what the impacts have been of the coronavirus.

Some brought up the option of a hybrid meeting, or at least giving people the option during sign up.

Discussion about submission form and giving participants an option when submitting proposals.

R. Ramirez motions to vote on a proposal to use a hybrid model for the 2021 meeting, allowing participants to participate either in person or virtually. Pei-te Lien seconds.

Amendment by Farah: If the in-person conference at the Hyatt Regency in Seattle is cancelled, we will proceed with planning for a virtual conference.

Vote unanimous in favor of proposal to amend participation form immediately with options for hybrid model (in person and virtual). Vote also empowers Richard to explicitly begin discussing potential of canceling in-person of conference with Hyatt staff.

E. Virtual Communities Committee: Cheryl Hall

Jessica moves item E. up further in the agenda because Cheryl Hall has to leave. Cheryl presents report on the virtual communities pilot project. She notes that 20 inquiries were received, yielding 18 eventual proposals of which 10 have been scheduled. More than 40 people are involved, with many volunteers.

I. Approval of Minutes (continued from earlier)

The meeting returns to the question of approving the minutes. Mario Feit moves for adoption, R. Ramirez seconds. Minutes approved unanimously.

II. Reports (continued)

D. 75th Anniversary Committee Report: Ron Schmidt

Committee has met and the hope is that the in-person conference will be held as scheduled in 2022. The committee has been assigned two tasks: developing proposals for a fundraising campaign for the association and special events for the anniversary event. Ron reports that the meeting went well and shares some of the ideas presented, including anniversary lapel pins and a plenary session with a lunch or dinner, which could be used as a fundraising event.

F. Nominating Committee Report: Lisa Magaña

Because we could not meet in person in Los Angeles, Richard notes that we had to vote to authorize the executive director to conduct a vote by email in order to approve the previous nominations committee slate. The vote took place in June.

Lisa Magaña discusses how only one person was nominated for the council at this point, due to complexity of situation. The committee is still moving forward in putting together the slate.

G. Membership Report: Elsa Favila

Elsa Favila notes membership is stable due to many members donating the registration fee.

III. Old Business

A. PRQ Call for Editors: Efrén Pérez

Efrén reports that the committee put together a draft of the Call for Editors, which he presents for council approval. The Call is similar to the previous one though it was revised in two ways. Efrén says the call asks applicants to be clear about WPSA wide research interests and that it encourages potential applicants to apply even if their institutions have financial constraints.

Mario Feit notices there is no political theorist on committee. He moves to postpone approval of Call for Editors until a theorist has been appointed to committee and has a chance to weigh in on the document. Proposal seconded by Farah.

Vote: 6 in favor of postponing, 11 opposed. MOTION fails.

Motion by Mario Feit to request that president add theorist to committee, seconded by Farah: 17 in favor, 0 opposed motion passes.

Motion to adopt call for PRQ editors, by E. Perez, seconded by R. Ramirez

Favor, 15, Opposed 1

Motion by JLM to approve rest of committee, seconded by R. Ramirez,

Approve 15

Disapprove 0

B. PGI Editor Selection Committee: Richard Clucas

Richard reports that the nominees to the PGI Editor Selection Committee need to be approved by the Council. Mario Feit makes a motion that president add a theorist to the committee. Farah seconds. Vote passes unanimously.

Motion to adopt other members of committee made and seconded.

Vote: council approves unanimously.

C. Funding for Women Also Know Stuff: Jessica Lavariega Monforti

Richard notes that WAKS has requested funding twice in the past. Discusses Vote without a Meeting in the fall about funding the group, which was defeated. He says that two other groups also asked for funding this year, and that he receives requests every year. Richard says the problem in funding the group is that the association does not have criteria or process for deciding which groups to fund. He says that the council needs to approve some type of formal structure for funding groups so that it is fair to all.

Richard proposes several solutions. Consensus is on option 4, which provides a line item in the budget for the Program Chair, which can be used to help support similar requests in the future or other initiatives of importance to the Program Chair. The President currently has such a line in the budget. This proposal calls for a similar line for Program Chairs.

The proposal put forward calls for adding the line item of \$1000 to the budget immediately.

Motion by Pei-te Lien, seconded by Michael Bowers,

Favor: 17

Oppose: 0

IV. New Business

A. Mid-Year Budget Report: Michael Bowers

Michael Bowers, treasurer reports on budget, which is attached to packet. Budget looks good despite the cancelled meeting. Lower expenses due to no conference.

B. Task Force on Equity, Inclusion, and Access in the Discipline: Jessica Lavariega Monforti

Jessica proposes new task force to investigate issues of equity, inclusion, and access in the discipline. Ricardo Ramirez seconds.

Favor: 17

Oppose: 0

C. Proposed Changes to Clay Morgan Book Award: Ashley Dodsworth

Richard gives overview of the EPT group's proposal to make some changes in the Clay Morgan Book award. The proposed changes are minor adjustments to the criteria and selection process. Ainsley Dodsworth spoke as a representative of the EPT group.

Motion made and seconded.

Favor: 17

Oppose: 0

D. Confidential Matter

Richard briefed the council on a confidential matter, which was conducted in closed session.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m. PST

Respectfully submitted,

Jason P. Casellas, Secretary, Western Political Science Association