

**WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**Thursday, April 6, 2023**  
**Room: Waterfront A&B**  
**Location: San Francisco Hyatt Regency**  
**8:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

Members Present: Regina Branton, Tony Carey, Ivy Cargile, Anand Commissiong, Jason Casellas, Richard Clucas, Elsa Dias, Michaele Ferguson, Lorrie Frasure, Ron Hayduk, LaDella Levy, Pei-Te Lien, Yalidy Matos, John Meyer, Char Miller, Sean Parson, Ricardo Ramirez, Tony Smith

Members Absent: Michael Bowers, Brent Boyea, Juliet Carlisle, Sara Sadhwani, Fred Smoller

Guests: Tony Affigne, Michael Artime, Mark Brown, Julio Castilleja, Valerie Martinez-Ebers, Anthony Pahnke

**Meeting called to order by Pei-te Lien at: 8:16 a.m. PDT**

**I. Approval of Minutes**

- A. March 2022 WPSA Executive Council Meeting
- B. July 2022 WPSA Executive Council Meeting
- C. October 2022 WPSA Executive Council Meeting

Motion by Ricardo Ramírez to approve minutes, seconded by Anand Commissiong. Motion passes unanimously.

**II. Reports**

**A. President's Remarks: Pei-te Lien**

Pei-te talked about the biggest transition for WPSA this year is Elsa Favila no longer working for WPSA. Thank you to Ricardo Ramírez for suggesting the committee seriously consider Julio Castilleja as the association's conference coordinator and to Richard Clucas for ensuring the smooth transition.

**B. Executive Director's Report: Richard Clucas**

Thanked Pei-Te for all of her detailed and passionate work for the organization. Welcoming old and new members of council.

Richard provided a report on his activities for the past six months. A large share of his activities have revolved around developing the association's new administrative structure with Elsa Favila's retirement. Has hired 3 other people. Richard has also taken on some of Elsa's responsibilities, including the handling of bookkeeping, taxes, working with banks, and mailings. Julio has done superb job handling all the details of conference planning. Elsa is still being consulted for conference planning and running on organization. Payment was offered to her as a consultant but she has declined it.

Hired bookkeeping company to handle WPSA's financials. Been okay except that they're a little slow. Also found someone to handle the website. Was a bit of a challenge but found someone good. So far Richard has been handling most of mailings and other business that Elsa used to handle on the day to day.

Richard also reported working on conference-related activities, including for this year and future years. This conference has been extremely busy for Richard and Julio. The San Francisco Hyatt is a unionized hotel, so there has been additional time involved with working with the union. Julio handled most of the fine details in conference planning. Richard thanks Jason for putting program together and working with section chairs. Marcela Garcia Castañon and Anthony Pahnke provided local arrangements and they did a great job.

Encourages council to attend APSA President Lisa Martin's talk Thursday (4/6/2023) at noon. Also Thursday night is the reception recognizing awards recipients and special attention to PGI editors. Friday's keynote is by Assembly Member Evan Low, who is a leader in AAPI in CA politics and LGBTQ+ politics. Friday (4/7/2023) is reception honoring Elsa Favila and Ron Schmidt. Lastly, encourage all to please go to undergraduate poster session on Friday afternoon.

Planning for next year's conference in Vancouver, Canada. Room rates are in Canadian dollars – 289 CAD a night. But were able to get them to charge no more than \$233 US dollars a night but all will depend on exchange rate. Steven Welden from Simon Fraser University will serve as local arrangements chair. Aaron Hoffman is also on the local arrangements team. Tomorrow morning will be first planning meeting for next year's conference.

Later in the council meeting we will discuss the planning conferences for next 3 years after 2025 (2026 through 2028).

Other work has included interacting with the journal editors and with association committees, along with handling various administrative chores. PRQ and PGI are both in great new hands. Happy to have Toney Carey and Regina Branton as PGI editors and Tony Smith for PRQ. Editors of Western – great group that keeps Richard in the loop for newsletter. Has worked with committees to make sure to get awards in on time.

Spring and Summer will be working on 2024 conference, going to Vancouver and find future contracts for future conferences. Opening up of new bank accounts. Meeting in L.A. for APSA. Encourages council members to attend because quorum is needed for any decision making for WPSA.

### **C. Program Chair's Report: Jason Casellas**

Jason said it has been a pleasure working with Pei-Te, Richard, and Julio on the conference while in transition. Could not do conference without section chairs – about 28 who did work voluntarily. Put together 263 panels (plus or minus a couple depending on cancellations). Currently, WPSA has 882 members in association and about 918 registrations for this year – been an uptick in attendance from last year where there were 691. So, somewhat back to normal after the pandemic. Thanks Pei-Te for getting Assemblymember Lowe to do keynote. Thank you to all for helping with program and serving as chairs.

Pei-Te noted that some panels have no chair or discussants, in part, because of the transition in administrative structure. Otherwise, the conference was almost back to normal.

### **D. Local Arrangements San Francisco 2023: Marcela Garcia-Castenon, Anthony Pahnke**

Marcela and Anthony gave a report on Local arrangements, including receiving a donation of \$500 from San Francisco State University. Marcela has worked for the WPSA in local arrangements previously, and was able to recycle some of her work in the past in providing support this year.

Two special features for this year. First one is a walking tour of important locations tomorrow afternoon. Second, a mariachi band will be playing for about one hour at the reception honoring Elsa Favila. Band is a surprise for Elsa.

### **E. Local Arrangements Vancouver 2024: Richard Clucas**

Richard gave the local arrangements report. The conference will be at the Vancouver Hyatt Regency. We have been there before. Great location but big issue is that it's international and need passports. The Western doesn't just cover the western regions of the U.S. but also it represents the western regions of Canada, which is why we go there. Recognizes that some people have issues travelling to Canada but also need to meet needs of others in the organization.

Elsa Dias suggests that it be noted that passports and other documents may be needed when the call for papers goes out as a way to notify people in timely manner.

#### **F. VC Program Chair Report: Mark Brown**

Mark Brown provided the Virtual Communities Report. Gave quick overview of the VC Program, including how it was launched and how many groups have participated. Basic idea of program was to create a way to meet but not create climate issues caused by travel, though also seen as way to democratize access to networks. Especially for people not at research universities and provide way to meet more regularly instead of just once or twice a year.

Mark reported that we have lost a few communities but gained others. Currently, have nine groups that are meeting with three being some of the originals while rest are new. Some have thrived while others are struggling because of Zoom fatigue. This year there were three brand new communities: diversifying political science publishing, pandemic inequity, and education politics and policy. Six that are continuing are: Contemporary Feminist Political Theory, Critical Disabilities Studies, Embodies Social Change & Healing Justice, Inclusive Teach & Pedagogy, Interpretive Methods in Political Science, and Political Theory.

Last year at this time he was asked to put together strategic plan. Held off due to all that was happening with website as well as new VCs coming in but will do that before fall. Future plans – send out call for new VC groups in May. Outreach to disciplines that have not been well represented like IR and Comparative Politics. Theory and other American disciplines seem well represented

Mark reported that he is working with others to figure out how to get more people enrolled. Some were concerned that VC would take away from in person but that doesn't seem to be happening. These are more of an add-on.

#### **G. Nominating Committee Report: Valerie Martinez-Ebers**

Valerie reported that the committee is putting forward Tony Affigne's name for program chair; Michael Bowers to continue as treasurer; and Ivy AM Cargile to continue as recording secretary. For the executive council region A the slate is Marcela Garcia Castañon and Gabriele Magni; region B is Mina Suk; and region C is Brian Calfano.

#### **H. Financial Report: Michael Bowers**

Michael Bowers not present due to personal reasons. Richard reports notes that there was negative net revenue, which is unusual. Usually try to grow each year in order to protect WPSA during down periods. Several factors contribute to this such as there being a good percentage of money in index fund and market is down. In past index fund has benefited WPSA – more so than if money just left in bank account. Also Taylor & Francis payments are not included. WPSA pays Taylor & Francis for certain subscriptions but they hadn't charged the organization for two years. So, that took a large chunk of money. Richard reported that the statement of activity was not accurate in the distribution between registration fees and membership dues. The combined total amount should be accurate, just not the distribution. He will be working with the bookkeeper to get the numbers corrected.

Elsa Dias inquired if WPSA has considered raising dues a bit since everything is costing more? Richard responded that he would like to discuss this during summer meeting. Elsa's question lead to a discussion on the costs and benefits of raising the fees.

#### **I. PRQ Report: Tony Smith**

Tony Smith was not present initially, so council was asked to review written report and email questions.

John Meyer noted that PRQ submissions are down and reasons given for this is the pandemic. He noted that submissions to other journals went up considerably despite pandemic. John's comments lead to a discussion on submission rates.

Tony Smith arrived during the discussion. He reported that when his editorial team took over in July 2022 there were over 120 articles in the Online First queue that had not yet been published. There were something like 180 R&Rs that had been given. Sage has been really helpful and have been publishing very large volumes in order to get caught up. Data you see is what can be generated from SAGE platform.

He also reported that submissions were coming in from every sub-field. Percentages may be down but raw numbers are actually higher.

### **J. PGI Report: Regina Branton and Tony Carey**

The editors reported that intention is to maintain reputation of PGI as inclusive and innovative journal. Trying to prioritize front end of process. So, there's new decision option – reject but resubmit. Don't plan to use often but it's an option for manuscripts that don't make the mark but has potential. Providing guidance by connecting authors with someone from editorial board. Helps with the fatigue of getting over finish line with a particular manuscript. Make sure that discipline reflects the association and profession more broadly. Since the editors just took over in January, they were not in a position to answer questions about the journal's past practices.

They reported that there is currently a backlog of 9 issues – essentially equals up to 2 - 3 years of their editorship. UNT put in money to get a 6th issue (like \$2-\$3k) out because if not only one year of the editorship will be under directly them. Council discussed implication of backlog for junior scholars working towards tenure and for those working towards promotion.

Under their editorship they want to have more international submissions.

Branton would like to note that there were 130k downloads in 2022, which is slightly down from 2021. Most downloaded piece was on COVID by Tyler Reny & Matt Barreto and downloaded 10k times with 268 citations.

### **K. The Western Report: Michael Artime**

Michael is at meeting on behalf of team. Open to feedback on how to be more useful to members of organization. Doing things like highlighting the virtual communities, conference events, putting plugs in from association leadership, etc. Want to highlight both pedagogy and scholarship. So, they've included material on innovative teaching practices being used by association members. In this edition had remarks from editors of journals. They want newsletter to be place where community is built beyond just conference. They include calls for folks to share personal updates (personal/professional). Still relatively new editorship, only on year 2. So, open to making changes. Please review newsletter and email them about how it can be more useful.

## **Old Business**

### **A. WPSA Legal Street Address: Richard Clucas**

During fall meeting there was discussion about changing the association's legal street address in California from Elsa's Sacramento address to Richard's address in the Orange County. A motion was made at that time for Richard to explore the possibility of changing the address to an institution like UCSB. Richard looked into this proposal, but found numerous problems with it. One problem is that legal documents have Richard's name on them and without affiliation to UCSB how will he get the documents. Also, is the council willing to pay for him to travel to UCSB to pick up the documents? WPSA is a non-profit stand alone entity and Richard argued that he didn't think it was a good idea to be seen as a sub-entity of a university. So, Richard asked the council to approve the change of address.

Tony Smith moved; Michael Ferguson and Anand Commissiong seconded. The motion carried unanimously to change WPSA's legal street address to Richard's house in Orange County (665 N. Handy St., Orange, 92867).

### **B. Convention Site Planning: Richard Clucas**

Richard gave an overview of the problems he has been facing in securing a conference hotel for 2026 and then asked votes on several motions.

Richard reported that there is such pentup demand for hotels that he has been unable to secure a location. He would like to work with HPN Global – company that works with organizations to book conference sites. Benefits to working with company like HPN is they have more leverage since they work with multiple and different clients. WPSA would not pay HPN; rather HPN gets a commission from the hotels. The only reason the WPSA would have to pay HPN is if it cancelled a conference, then there would be a cancellation fee. Richard believes working with HPN will help us overcome the problem we have had in signing a contract. The first question Richard asked the council to consider was to allow him to sign contract with HPN.

2) Richard then asked the council to consider changing the number of panels slots scheduled each day during the conference. One of the challenges, he said, in secure a hotel is the large number of breakout rooms we required. With 4 panel slots a day, WPSA needs 30 breakout rooms. Many hotels do not have that many rooms. In Portland, for example, there is only one hotel that has 30 breakout rooms – the Hilton. On the other hand, if we add a fifth panel slots each day, we could get by with only 24 breakout rooms, which would provide more hotel options. Richard reported that the WPSA is the only conference with 4 panel slots with other political science organizations having 5 – 7 panel slots. The second question put before the council was to allow the scheduling of five panel

slots per day. The motion also called for the council to consider the starting and ending times for the panels as we get closer to the conference.

3) Richard asked for permission to sign a multi-year contract with hotels because this allows for better hotel rates and other benefits.

4) The final question put before the council was where to hold the conference in 2026, 2027, and 2028. Richard would like council to consider Southern California in 2026, Denver in 2027, and Portland or San Diego in 2028. These location choices are based several factors: there are rotation rules indicating that WPSA is supposed rotate in and out of CA every year. So, one year in CA (northern or southern) and the following out of CA. He made the case that we haven't San Diego in a while, and that it is likely to have much better turnout than Los Angeles or other southern California destinations. Richard said he has some reluctance to Denver because of its weather, but knows the council and others would like to return there. The reason he wants Portland because it would put us back closer to the regular rotation. However, he said that returning to San Diego in 2028 would enable us to sign a multiple year deal with the same hotel, which could help us receive a better deal.

A long conversation followed on the benefits and drawbacks of having more panel slots per day, along with other siting issues and options.

Michaele Ferguson moved to amend the proposal on expanding to five panels slots per day. Her motion called for using 5 panel slots only if there are no other choice, but to otherwise keep 4 panel slots wherever possible.

Pei-Te put 4 motions on table:

- 1) Authorize Richard to sign contract with HPN
  - a. M.Ferguson – moved
  - b. S.Parson – seconded
  - c. No Abstention or objections
  - d. Unnaimaous yes vote
- 2) Panel slots (allowing for 5 only if no other choice)
  - a. C.Miller – moved
  - b. S.Parson – seconded
  - c. Unanimous yes vote
  - d. No abstentions and no opposition
- 3) Conference Locations for 2026, 2027, and 2828 – Richard recommends to vote on each city separately –
  - a. Southern California in 2026
  - b. Denver in 2027
  - c. Portland in 2028

After some discussion about sites, M.Ferguson made a motion to vote on

- i. 2026 Southern California with preference for San Diego
- ii. 2027 Denver
- iii. 2028 Southern CA with a preference for L.A.

- d. Unanimous yes vote on M.Ferguson's proposal
- e. No abstentions or objections

4) Negotiate final details of contracts and consult with council over small details when they are really serious. Freedom to move in best interests of WPSA.

- a. L.Frasure - moved
- b. A.Commissiong – seconded
- c. Unanimous yes vote
- d. No abstention and no objections
- e.

After the vote, Richard noted that one of the reasons for suggesting Portland in 2028 is because WPSA has made commitment to Jewish members to not hold WPSA on 1<sup>st</sup> or 2 day of Passover/Seder. For 2026 there is conflict but we have no choice because WPSA got no other bids. If we want to avoid the holiday conflict in 2028, the Portland Hilton is only place that offered a contract off the holiday weekend that is within our means. So, if we go to LA in 2028 then WPSA will sign contracts for dates that go against what was promised to the Jewish membership.

A.Commissiong – move to reconsider location for 2028 and C.Miller seconded the motion

So, for 2028 – PDX in 2028 to honor promise to Jewish membership and not hold WPSA during initial days of Seder/Passover

Richard – as possible alternative will lean on Lisa to find other venue in LA for 2028 that is off the holiday weekend.

A.Commissiong moves that Richard work with Lisa to try for other venue in LA but if nothing then back to Portland in 2028 in order to honor Jewish community.

J.Meyer – this is something we can come back to since 2028 is in a few years

Conclusion – going to try to stay in Southern California for 2028 and honor promise to Jewish members but if nothing is found then back to Portland that year.

### **C. Creation of Queer Status Committee: Zein Murib**

Pei-Te appointed Zein in 2022 to move forward in helping to create an LGBTQ status committee. Zein talked with others about creating such a

committee. The response was positive, but there was a discussion about the appropriate name. The recommendation put forward by Zein and those working on the creation of the committee was to call it the “Queer Status Committee.”

TSmith – Moved to approve the creation of the Queer Status Committee  
ACommissiong seconded the motion  
Unanimous yes vote

#### **D. Favila Travel Fund Program Policies: Richard Clucas, Pei-te Lien**

Pei-Te – an endowment is being established starting last year and fundraising is ongoing. Currently only have 27% of \$100,000 goal for fund. The question put before the council was on the rules governing the travel award fund.

Among the main parts of the proposal:

1. to have the Wage Committee determine in August how much funds to be made available for providing travel support;
2. to use staff guest rooms at the conference hotel, if available, to provide additional travel support as part of the travel award program;
3. to establish the amount of each award at \$250, or an equivalent amount if a recipient is receiving access to a staff room;
4. to authorize the WPSA Equity and Access Committee shall select the recipients of the award.

The proposal also established deadlines, criteria, and priority in the granting of the awards.

ACommissiong – moved the proposal  
TSmith seconded the motion  
Unanimous yes vote

#### **E. Pi Sigma Alpha Travel Award Policies: Richard Clucas**

Pi Sigma Alpha has agreed to provide the WPSA \$500 to underwrite the undergrad poster session. The proposal before the council is use this funds to help underwrite the cost of travel for participant. The proposal calls for provide two travel awards for \$250 for undergraduates to attended the poster session and need support.

JMeyer – Moved the question  
TSmith – Seconded  
Unanimous yes vote

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. Budget: Richard Clucas**

Michael Bowers was unable to attend the meeting, so Richard gave the budget presentation in his place. The proposed budget is similar to the previous year, but added a little money in some categories. This includes for bookkeeping expenses since not sure how much that will cost. Richard received a pay raise at PSU, so we have to pay a bit more to buy out his time. Added \$6k for audio visual contract to pay union dues in San Francisco. Hired a web content manager so there is a new fund line for that expenditure. Employee net salaries based on Julio's pay. We have cancellation insurance up through next year, but need to book for next two, so that expense has been added. Insurance for mariachi performance already purchased but should be included as a separate budget line. The award amounts given each year are not accurate in the budget line – usually give more money. So, what's in line currently is actually correct amount.

Motion to approve the budget.

JMeyer – Moved

ACommissiong – Seconded

Unanimous yes vote

Tony Smith – asked that the budget be amended to provide PGI and PRQ editors a small amount of money to go to different affinity groups at APSA during fall 2023 and give them \$100-\$150 and cosponsor reception and pitch journals. He argued that this might be effective way to increase submissions. The motion before the council is to give editors \$2k for co-sponsoring of receptions at APSA.

ACommissiong – Moved

EDias and LFrasure – Seconded

Unanimous yes vote but Tony Smith, Tony Carey, and Regina abstaining

#### **B. Changes in WPSA Banking: Richard Clucas**

Richard presented a proposal to begin moving the WPSA's funds out of Golden One Bank. Currently, the WPSA houses its funds with Golden One and Bank of the West. Richard reported that there are a myriad of problems in working with Golden One, including their poor CD rates and lack of internet access for online banking. He proposes moving some of the funds to new CDs at Bank of West, and then coming back to the Council in six months with a plan for moving the remainder of the funds. The motion

before the council was to allow Richard open new CDs at Bank of the West, and close respective CDs at Golden One?

JMeyer – moved

EDias – seconded

Unanimous yes vote

**C. Conference Fee Waiver Policy: Pei-te Lien**

Table until next meeting

**D. WPSA Roommate Finder Service: Richard Clucas**

Table until next meeting

**E. MFerguson – Feminist group is asking WPSA to make a statement**

Michael Ferguson asked that the Equity Committee look into the laws discriminating against teaching and research in CRT, intersectionality, feminist/gender studies, LGBTQ+, etc., and produce a formal statement about it.

ACommissiong – Motion to approve

JMeyer – Seconded

Unanimous yes vote

**F. Adjournment**

JMeyer – Moved to adjourn

RBranton – Seconded

Unanimous vote to adjourn

**Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.**

---

Ivy Cargile, Recording Secretary

---

Date