

MINUTES
WPSA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Date: Thursday, 5 September 2024

Time: 6:30 to 7:30 pm

Location: Marriott Philadelphia Downtown, Room 308

Council Members Present: Tony Affigne, Regina Branton, Brian Calfano, Tony Carey, Ivy Cargile, Jason Casellas, Richard Clucas, Carrie Currier, Michael Ferguson, Lorrie Frasure, Claudio Holzner, LaDella Levy, Natalie Masuoka, Yalidy Matos, Char Miller, Tony Smith

Council Members Absent: Anand Commissiong, Marcela Garcia-Casteneda, Ron Hayduk, Gabriel Magni, Sean Parson, Fred Smoller, and Mina Suk

Guests: Julio Castilleja

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm

I. Approval of Minutes:

Tony Affigne moved to approve minutes from April 2024 executive council meeting. Seconded by Michelle Ferguson. Minutes approved unanimously.

II. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report: Richard Clucas

Richard Clucas reported three main areas of work since last report: general administration, conference planning, and publications. A large portion of the administrative work revolved around setting up books with the new bookkeeper and learning new bookkeeping duties. As for conferences, he has begun work on the 2025 Seattle meeting with the other members of the conference planning team. He has also begun looking for a conference site for 2029. As for publications, he has been working on how to proceed with the initial terms of both PRQ and PGI editors ending soon. The association has also received a bid from a prominent publisher to publish *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, which requires his attention.

B. 2024 Conference: Julio Castilleja

Julio reported that the 2024 conference went well. There was a slight increase in membership (by 53 members) bringing WPSA close to 2022 numbers, which is about 1,116. He said he would monitor panels to see which ones are working well and which ones not.

C. 2025 Seattle Program: Tony Affigne

Tony, the program chair for the 2025 conference in Seattle, gave the following report. As of the APSA meeting, it appears that there will be between 34 and 35 different sections with 300 total panels, which is up from 229 panels in 2024. There will be a new Indigenous Politics and Sovereignty Section, organized by Melani Fillmore (University of Oklahoma) and Kouslaa Kessler-Mata (University of San Francisco). There will be a new mini-conference on theorizing violence. Three pre-conference workshops (Feminist Theory, Environmental Theory, Latina/o Politics) have been scheduled. The Interpretive Methods pre-conference workshop will not be held in 2025, but the related section is being planned as usual. Tony also said he would like to organize a TEDx-type event where three panels are livestreaming. He is currently investigating how to set up a livestream and where to get the equipment.

D. Local Arrangements Seattle: George Lovell and Scott Lemieux

George and Scott were unable to attend the meeting, so Richard Clucas gave the report about the 2025 Seattle meeting in their place. He pitched the council on how lovely Seattle is in mid-April and how the Seattle Hyatt Regency will provide a great setting. He reported that the guestrooms are only \$209 a night. He also said that he is organizing a Happy Hour reception for current and old executive board members, to be held on Wednesday evening before the start of the conference.

E. Membership Report: Julio Castilleja

Julio presented the membership report at the same time as giving his 2024 conference report. See Agenda Item B above.

III. Old Business

A. Future Site Selection: Richard Clucas

Richard spoke with an HPN rep about possible sites for the 2029 conference in Las Vegas, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, and Texas, but nothing available in Albuquerque or Salt Lake City that fits the WPSA. Found competitive possibility in downtown Austin and Houston. Richard asked that the council grant him the authority to work with association officers to make a final decision on the 2029 location. He said with the approval of that authority, he would then move forward with the HPN representative in obtaining bids from hotels in these cities, which he would present to the other officers to help make the final decision. The proposal would allow him to negotiate a final contract without having to hold a full council meeting.

Char Miller made a motion to accept Richard's proposal. The motion was seconded by Jason Casellas. The motion passed unanimously.

B. PRQ Editor Search timeline revisited: Richard Clucas

Richard reported to the council that he and Lorrie were continuing to work with Tony Smith to find a way in which Tony could remain editor of PRQ for a two-year extension on his term. If these efforts prove unsuccessful, then the association will need to move quickly in launching a search for new editors. Richard is presenting a proposed new timeline for that search in case Tony cannot remain editor and a full search is necessary. Yalidy Matos moved to adopt the revised timeline. Seconded by Jason Casellas. The motion passed unanimously.

III. New Business

A. Mid-Year Budget Report: Natalie Masuoka

Richard opened the mid-year budget report to discuss the changeover to the new bookkeeper. Richard reported that the new bookkeeper has expertise in non-profit corporations and is thus much more capable in meeting the association's needs. The hiring of someone with expertise in this area means some changes for the association. Of particular importance, the bookkeeper wants WPSA to change current budget categories to a more traditional style used by non-profit organizations. The change also means more detailed reporting. The final mid-year budget report shows the association attaining net earnings of \$36,109 between March 1 and July 31.

B. Wage Committee Recommendations: Lorrie Frasure

September marks the end of Julio's second year of working for the association. The association Wage Committee (Lorrie, Jason, Tony, and Natalie) recommended that Julio's annual salary be increased by \$3,000 from base of \$50,000, making his new annual salary \$53,000. Some questions were raised about Julio's workload to make sure the increase treated him fairly. Michael Ferguson moved to approve the recommended new salary. Brian Calfano seconded the motion. The proposal was approved unanimously.

C. Creation of Individual Accounts for Award Funds: Richard Clucas

Richard reported that all associated endowed funds and reserves are invested in one Vanguard index fund. Richard is requesting that the council allow him to create individual Vanguard accounts for the four individual endowments that have surpassed the required savings threshold (\$6,250), allowing their interest to be used to fund award prizes. These four endowments are for Asian Pacific American and Politics; Betty Moulds Award; Favila Travel Award; Connelly Award). The association's new bookkeeper recommended creating these individual accounts so that it would be easier to track their individual gains and losses. Michael

Ferguson moved to grant Richard the authority to create these accounts. Seconded by Jason Casellas. Motion carried unanimously.

D. PGI Editor Reappointment/Search: Richard Clucas

Richard reported that the association is reaching the timeframe in which it needs to consider the future editorship of PGI. If the council wants to conduct a search, then it needs to begin the search process approximately two years before the current editors' terms end. Rather than conducting a search, Richard said it would be preferable if the association could retain the two current editors (Gina Branton and Tony Carey) for a two-year extension given what a superb job they have been doing. Richard put forward a proposal asking the council to approve a two-year extension if Gina and Tony are able to get the support from their universities to remain editors. Richard also asked the council to approve a search timeline in case Gina and Tony cannot remain editors. Tony Affigne moved to approve the proposals. Second by Lorrie Frasure. Motion approved unanimously.

E. Approval of Executive Director Search Timeline: Richard Clucas

Richard reminded the council that he has signed off on his final three-year contract. He presented a proposal to the council creating a process and a timeline for hiring a new executive director. The timeline calls for hiring a replacement one-year prior to his retirement from WPSA in order for new person to get training. The search itself would be concluded in September 2026 with the new ED entering the one-year period right afterwards. Richard's formal final day as ED would be September 15, 2027. Michael Ferguson moved to adopt the proposal. Seconded by Brian Calfano. Proposal approved unanimously.

Tony Affigne motioned to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Submitted by Ivy Cargile, Recording Secretary