

# Minutes of the February, September, and December 2021 Council Meetings

## February 2021

### February 26, 2021

#### PRESENT:

Janet Box-Steffensmeier, *The Ohio State University*, President  
 Paula McClain, *Duke University*, Past-President  
 John Ishiyama, *University of North Texas*, President-Elect  
 Michelle Deardorff, *University of Tennessee at Chattanooga*, Vice President  
 Mala Htun, *University of New Mexico*, Vice President  
 John Sides, *Vanderbilt University*, Vice President  
 David Lublin, *American University*, Treasurer

**Council members:** Ben Ansell, *University of Oxford*; Erik Bleich, *Middlebury College*; Ann O'M. Bowman, *Texas A&M University*; Alexandra Filindra, *University of Illinois at Chicago*; Catherine Guisan, *University of Minnesota*; Rebecca Gill, *University of Nevada, Las Vegas*; Terri Gilmour, *Midland College*; Nancy Hirschmann, *University of Pennsylvania*; Nahomi Ichino, *Emory University*; Julia Jordan-Zachery, *University of North Carolina at Charlotte*; David Leal, *University of Texas at Austin*; Suzanna Linn, *Pennsylvania State University*; Lori Marso, *Union College*; Tamara Metz, *Reed College*; Ido Oren, *University of Florida*; Melanye Price, *Prairie View A&M University*; Jillian Schwedler, *Hunter College*; Charles "Tony" Smith, *University of California, Irvine*

**APSA Staff:** Steven Rathgeb Smith, Betsy Super, Dan Gibson, Kimberly Mealy, Nathaniel Bader, Larry Burner, Jon Gurstelle, Casey Harrigan, Meghan McConaughy, Abby Paulson, Andrew Stinson, Ashley Vande Bunte

#### INTRODUCTION

APSA President Janet Box-Steffensmeier calls the 2021 APSA February Council Meeting to order.

#### REVIEW OF CURRENT POLICY ON PUBLIC STATEMENTS

APSA Executive Director Steven Rathgeb Smith opens discussion on the APSA policy on public statements by providing background on the current policy. He notes that the current advocacy policy was approved by council in April 2017, and that nearly all public statements issued by APSA pertain to academic freedom and topics concerning the discipline. He adds that public statements are prepared by APSA staff and reviewed by the three presidents, while routine sign-on statements are approved by the

Executive Director in consultation with APSA staff. He continues by noting that the same process was followed for the January 7, 2021, statement, but the circumstances of this particular statement meant that the process did not work as well as it had with prior statements. These circumstances include the time pressure of the situation, magnitude of the issue, having too many contributors and not enough review, and that the process for issuing public statements is not intended for crisis communication. S. Smith continues by expressing a commitment to working with the presidents, the executive committee, and the council on strengthening and, where necessary, updating the policies and procedures for issuing public statements.

S. Smith describes three possible options for the writing and issuing of statements going forward. First, he details an option for a smaller writing group consisting of the Executive Director; Deputy Director; Senior Director of Diversity and Inclusion; and government relations staff. Statements would then be reviewed by the three presidents and the executive committee. As a second option, routine statements relating to academic freedom and disciplinary issues as well as sign-on statements would be developed by APSA staff and the three presidents, while statements on policy and structural issues would also be sent to the executive committee or council. The third option, S. Smith notes, is to continue the current collaborative process while soliciting input from the executive committee, the council, or selected members depending on the statement. He notes that other options and possibilities also exist. He expresses interest in further discussion with the goal of preparing a revised advocacy policy for review at the April 2021 council meeting.

Council deliberates about the situations in which APSA should issue statements, with some council members preferring a narrow focus for public statements and others expressing a desire for APSA to issue both routine statements and also some statements on crisis, policy, and structural topics. Some council members express interest in involving the executive committee or another representative set of council members in the writing, review, and issuing of non-routine statements. Marso and Hirschmann suggest that statements should be clearly signed by the issuers to clarify if the statement was approved by the council, the executive committee, the three presidents, or another subset of APSA leadership. Htun notes that the question of when to issue statements and the procedure for issuing statements are separate conversations and may both require discussion moving forward.

#### MEMBER REBATE PROPOSAL

Box-Steffensmeier begins the discussion of the member rebate

proposal by applauding APSA's ongoing efforts to assist members during the pandemic. Super provides an overview of the member rebate proposal, which is to provide an optional \$25 reduction on Annual Meeting registration or member dues through the end of the 2021 calendar year. In addition, there would be an option to contribute to a fund that would assist with membership fees for those who cannot afford member dues. Lublin moves to approve the member rebate proposal and the motion is seconded. Lublin notes that this one time \$25 reduction will be a larger share of membership dues for those who pay less in membership dues based on their member type and will especially assist those members who would benefit from the assistance. Leal expresses concern that the member rebate would negatively affect the operating budget. S. Smith replies that it could affect the budget, but he notes that it would not alter APSA programs. Bleich proposes clarifying language used on the membership form, and Lublin accepts this as a friendly amendment. The member rebate proposal is unanimously approved.

### PROPOSAL FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION POLICY COMMITTEE:

Box-Steffensmeier begins the discussion of the proposed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy Committee meeting by noting that a formal proposal will be forthcoming at the upcoming spring council meeting. S. Smith reports that this committee has been conceptualized as either another council policy committee or a council-created Active Committee that is comprised of both council members and non-council members. Super notes that this proposal is a continuation of discussions and efforts begun in summer 2020 to address systemic racism within the discipline and make APSA a more inclusive body for members. Htun welcomes the proposed committee and inquires about the workload for council members, the possibility of merging functions or committees, and ensuring that women and persons of color are not disproportionately asked to serve on this committee but that all persons are engaged.

### ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

S. Smith provides an update on the upcoming 2021 Annual Meeting in Seattle. He reports that in response to a poll among Annual Meeting participants, 22 percent of respondents preferred to participate in-person, 28 percent preferred virtual, and 50 percent did not express a preference. He notes that division chairs are constructing panels in both virtual and in-person formats based upon participant's preferences, but business meetings and receptions are still being worked out to fit a hybrid meeting. He also notes that APSA is renegotiating hotel contracts to account for a smaller in-person meeting. S. Smith expresses a belief that hybrid meetings will be common in the coming years.

Box-Steffensmeier adjourns the meeting.

## September 2021

**September 29, 2021**  
**Washington State Convention Center**  
**Seattle, Washington**

### PRESENT:

Janet Box-Steffensmeier, *The Ohio State University*, President

Paula McClain, *Duke University*, Past-President  
 John Ishiyama, *University of North Texas*, President-Elect  
 Michelle Deardorff, *University of Tennessee at Chattanooga*, Vice President  
 Mala Htun, *University of New Mexico*, Vice President  
 John Sides, *Vanderbilt University*, Vice President  
 David Lublin, *American University*, Treasurer

**Council Members:** Ben Ansell, *University of Oxford*; Adam Berinsky, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*; Erik Bleich, *Middlebury College*; Ann O'M. Bowman, *Texas A&M University*; Alexandra Filindra, *University of Illinois, Chicago*; Catherine Guisan, *University of Minnesota*; Rebecca Gill, *University of Nevada, Las Vegas*; Terri Gilmour, *Midland College*; Nancy Hirschmann, *University of Pennsylvania*; Nahomi Ichino, *Emory University*; Sooyeon Kim, *National University of Singapore*; David Leal, *University of Texas at Austin*; Suzanna Linn, *Pennsylvania State University*; Tamara Metz, *Reed College*; Ido Oren, *University of Florida*; Melanye Price, *Prairie View A&M University*; Jillian Schwedler, *Hunter College*; Rocio Titiunik, *Princeton University*; Lisa Wedeen, *University of Chicago*

**APSA Staff:** Steven Rathgeb Smith, Betsy Super, Dan Gibson, Kimberly Mealy, Ashley Vande Bunte, Zainab Alam, Michelle Allendoerfer, Nathaniel Bader, Larry Burner, Jon Gurstelle, Casey Harrigan, Meghan McConaughy, Abby Paulson, Jasmine Scott, Julia Walters

**Other Attendees:** Niambi Carter, Co-chair of McClain Presidential Task Force; Cathy Cohen, Co-chair of McClain Presidential Task Force; John Garcia, Co-chair of McClain Presidential Task Force; Carol Mershon, Co-chair of McClain Presidential Task Force; Rebecca Deen, chair of PS Editorial Search Committee; Amanda Rosen, chair of JPSE Editorial Search Committee; Ling Zhu, Immediate Past-President, Public Administration Organized Section; David Rasch, Ombuds; Alison Dundes Renteln, Chair of Committee on Professional Ethics, Rights, and Freedoms

### INTRODUCTION

APSA President Janet Box-Steffensmeier calls the 2021 APSA Fall Council Meeting to order.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Box-Steffensmeier introduces the consent agenda for approval. The consent agenda includes the Spring 2021 council meeting minutes and editorial board changes for *APSR*, *PS*, and *Perspectives*. Ishiyama moves to approve the consent agenda; the motion is seconded and approved.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Box-Steffensmeier provides an update to council on recent association activities and accomplishments. While noting the unique challenges of the past year, she expresses appreciation for the adaptability and dedication of the APSA staff, the service of members, and the guidance of the council during the past year. Box-Steffensmeier emphasizes the work of the association in reaching political scientists across the spectrum and supporting progress. She highlights pedagogical seminars focusing on online teaching that leveraged the expertise of community college faculty, webinars on systemic racism, the work of the new standing committees on career diversity and election assistance, and a