

2022 Fall Council Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2022, APSA Council Meeting
Le Westin Montreal
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Present:

John Ishiyama, University of North Texas, *President*
Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Ohio State University, *Past-President*
Lisa Martin, University of Wisconsin-Madison, *President-Elect*
Amrita Basu, Amherst College, *Vice President*
Juan “Carlos” Huerta, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, *Vice President*
Mark Warren, University of British Columbia, *Vice President*
David Lublin, American University, *Treasurer*
Ben Ansell, University of Oxford; **Erik Bleich**, Middlebury College; **Scott Desposato**, University of California, San Diego; **Alexandra Filindra**, University of Illinois, Chicago;
Raymond Foxworth, First Nations Development Institute; **Rebecca Gill**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; **Terry Gilmour**, Midland College; **Terri Givens**, McGill University; **Catherine Guisan**, University of Minnesota; **Nancy Hirschmann**, University of Pennsylvania; **Eileen Hunt**, University of Notre Dame; **Nahomi Ichino**, Emory University; **Soo Yeon Kim**, National University of Singapore; **David Leal**, University of Texas at Austin; **Suzanna Linn**, Pennsylvania State University; **Sara Mitchell**, University of Iowa; **Mary McHugh**, Merrimack College; **Tamara Metz**, Reed College; **Ido Oren**, University of Florida; **Costas Panagopoulos**, Northeastern University **Melanye Prince**, Prairie View A&M University; **Jillian Schwedler**, Hunter College

APSA Staff:

Steven Rathgeb Smith, Michelle Allendoerfer, Dan Gibson, Kim Mealy, Ashley Vande Bunte, Nathan Bader, Mellissa Bell, Casey Harrigan, Jon Gurstelle, Meghan McConaughy, Andrew Stinson, Dragana Svraka, Julia Walters

Other Attendees:

Zoltán Búzás, University of Notre Dame; **David Rasch**, Ombuds

Introduction:

APSA President John Ishiyama calls the 2022 APSA Fall Council Meeting to order.

Consent Agenda:

Ishiyama introduces the consent agenda for Council approval. The consent agenda includes the February 2022 Council meeting minutes, Spring 2022 Council meeting minutes, and editorial board changes for the *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Political Science Education*, and *PS: Political Science and Politics*. Hunt moves to approve the consent agenda; McHugh seconds and the motion passes unanimously.

President’s Report:

Ishiyama provides an update to Council on recent association activities and accomplishments. He begins his report by thanking APSA staff, his presidential predecessors, Council, and volunteers for their guidance and commitment over the past year. He expresses excitement for the Annual

Meeting and its theme, as well as appreciation for the program co-chairs. Next, Ishiyama reports that APSA co-organized two international workshops in July 2022, with conferences in Amman, Jordan, and Bangkok, Thailand, that built on APSA initiatives to promote scholarship in the Global South. Additionally, he reports that APSA is moving forward with providing grant funding to restart the African Association of Political Science, which has been dormant for fifteen years. He reports that APSA has also launched a new data infrastructure and dashboard that centralizes data on the profession. Next, Ishiyama provides updates on the work of the two presidential task forces. First, he reports that the Task Force on Rethinking Political Science Education has been studying the structure of undergraduate and graduate programs to better prepare political science students for the job market and to be engaged citizens. He thanks the task force members and co-chairs, and he notes that the task force will release a report in 2023. Ishiyama continues by reporting the work of the Task Force on Promoting Responsible Political Party Behavior. He notes that the task force, which is comprised of scholars of both American politics and comparative politics, seeks to synthesize and publicize scholarship on political parties so that practitioners can use it to promote responsible political party behavior. Lublin, one of the task force co-chairs, adds that the task force is examining the role of political parties in democracies, some of the sources of irresponsible political party behavior, and some of the potential means to resolve irresponsible political party behavior. The task force is partnered with Protect Democracy, a non-partisan organization that provides significant logistical and financial support for the work of the task force. Ishiyama concludes his updates by noting that the task force will issue a report in 2023.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer David Lublin introduces the treasurers' report to update the Council on the Association's financial position. He reports that, as of August 31, 2022, the total combined fair market value of APSA investments was \$45.4 million, with total assets of \$51.2 million. The most significant investment groups are the Congressional Fellowship Program trust portfolio which totaled \$22.4 million and the Trust and Development portfolio which totaled \$23 million. Lublin notes that this represents a decline in total value in line with the decline in the broader stock market in 2022; however, he notes that APSA is a long-term investor. Next, he reports that APSA is approximately \$1 million over budget in the 2022 fiscal year. He notes that this deficit is mainly a result of the 2021 Annual Meeting being more expensive and less profitable than typical annual meetings as well as the substantial renovations of the APSA headquarters building in Washington, D.C. Additionally, Lublin notes that APSA, similar to other associations, is experiencing pressures on traditional revenue sources. In response to Ansell, Smith notes that the amount for staff salaries has increased as the staff has grown. This staff growth is partially driven by the transition of managing editors of APSA journals to the APSA budget rather than institutional budgets. Smith reports that while total staff salaries have increased as a result, the transition saves APSA money in other areas. Additional staff investments have been made in the meetings and events and diversity and inclusion teams. Bell also reports a decline in rental income. Hunt raises a point about the financial implications of virtual and hybrid conferences or other events, and Leal expresses interest in further examining the financial impact of open access publications.

Executive Director's Report:

APSA Executive Director Steven Rathgeb Smith introduces updates on association programming

and operations. He begins his report by noting that the renovation to the APSA headquarters building was completed in April 2022, with continuing upgrades being made to systems, including telephone, security, computers, and networks. Smith indicates that staff have returned to the office one day per week and will move to two days per week in the fall. He reports that some in-person programming has resumed, while a simultaneous increase in virtual non-Annual Meeting programming has also taken place. Smith highlights APSA's diversity and inclusion programs, including a successful return to in-person programming at Duke University for the Ralph Bunche Summer Institute and the growth of APSA's diversity and inclusion grant initiatives.

Smith continues by updating the Council on APSA's traditional sources of revenue. He begins by noting that APSA has not increased membership rates since 2016. Despite consistent membership numbers aside from the pandemic, the percent contribution of membership revenue to the total budget has been decreasing. This decrease has historically been offset by increased revenues from the annual meeting, publications, and othersources. However, these traditional revenue sources are also facing pressures. Smith reports that Annual Meeting revenue has declined in recent years across registrations, exhibitors, and advertising. He notes that annual meeting registration rates have not increased since 2016. He reports that royalty revenue from Cambridge University Press will decrease as a result of the contractual reset; however, Gurstelle notes that the transition to digital access rather than print significantly reduces costs, while the growth of open access will affect editorial support models. Smith reports that APSA has benefited from grant funding in recent years, that along with draws from restricted funds and the endowment have supported increased programming. Smith reports that APSA is in a healthy and fortunate financial position; however, similar to other academic associations, APSA faces pressure on traditional revenue sources. He notes that APSA will need to be prudent in fiscal management while seeking new sources of revenue to support members. In response to Ansell, Smith reports that APSA staff are also discussing additional development and fundraising opportunities to support programming.

Proposed Joint Award Between APSA and the Political Studies Association:

Stinson introduces a proposal for a joint award between APSA and the Political Studies Association (PSA). He notes that APSA and PSA have a longstanding connection. The proposed award is meant to highlight collaborative partnerships, specifically partnerships with a scholarly output in the areas of teaching, research, or civic engagement by two or more scholars based in two or more different countries. Stinson notes that PSA is requiring that if at least one scholar is based in the United Kingdom, that individual must be member of either PSA or APSA. If no scholar is based in the United Kingdom, then there are no membership requirements. He reports that the award would be jointly funded by PSA and APSA in the amount of £2,000 annually. Finally, Stinson notes that the award proposal has been approved by the PSA Executive Committee. Price moves to approve the proposal for the joint award; Guisan seconds and the motion passes unanimously.

Discussion on Publications and Open Access Publishing:

Gurstelle introduces a discussion on APSA publications and open access publishing. He opens the discussion by updating Council on APSA publications. He reports that the *American Political Science Review* and *Perspectives on Politics* are anticipated to hit their largest ever page counts in 2022 at more than 1,500 pages. He also reports that new editorial teams for *Journal of*

Political Science Education and *PS: Political Science* began their terms on August 1 and September 1, respectively. Gurstelle begins the discussion on open access by providing an overview the publications environment and the August 2022 memo from the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Next, Gurstelle notes that Cambridge University Press projects a significant increase of open access articles in the next three years. Smith reports that APSA intends to sign a comprehensive contract with Cambridge University Press in 2026 that will include APSA journals as well as organized section journals owned by APSA. Mitchell asks how increased open access may affect APSA's revenue model. Gurstelle replies that open access's effects on APSA's revenue model are unknown. Smith adds that publishers, as a result of open access, are anticipating less revenue over time, which will result in lower revenues for scholarly societies. Council discusses the implications of various revenue models in the changing publications environment. Smith notes that APSA will work to influence federal policy. Additionally, he notes that APSA may begin to consider institutional support as a factor for decisions regarding editorial teams.

Best Book Award Renaming:

Smith introduces an update and discussion on the renaming of the Best Book Award. He recaps the Best Book Award renaming process, noting that the Executive Committee and the Membership and Professional Development Committee did not support the initial recommendation from the Ad Hoc Best Book Award Renaming Committee. Oren reports that the Membership and Professional Development Committee referred the matter back to the Executive Committee with support for renaming the award the "Outstanding Book Award," or renaming the award after a single individual that represents restorative justice who does not already have an APSA or organized section award named in their honor. Ishiyama reports that the Executive Committee expressed reservations regarding the "Outstanding Book Award" recommendation as it does not address the need for restorative justice. He informs Council that the Executive Committee will present a small list of possible names to be voted on by the Council at an upcoming meeting. Smith and Martin note that input from Council, status committees, and the membership is welcome. Council discusses possible award names.

Annual Meeting Discussion:

Smith introduces a discussion on siting and format for annual meetings. He begins by updating the Council on the 2022 Annual Meeting and reviewing attendance and panel allocations at previous meetings. Vande Bunte reports on the siting policy and the sites for the 2023-2027 annual meetings. She adds that APSA utilizes a large amount of conference space as compared to room nights, which can be a limiting factor in sites that can host the annual meeting. Council members inquire about the possibility of increasing the acceptance rate for papers. Ansell notes that panel formats may limit the total number of papers that can be presented. Bleich suggests the creation of a selection committee for paper proposals that may not fit into a singular organized section. Some Council members express interest in holding a virtual conference in alternating years or as a separate conference. Council members express interest in hosting the annual meeting in more Midwest, South, and Southwestern cities. Ishiyama notes that the siting policy requires that all host cities must have a welcoming environment such that all members have a reasonable basis for feeling welcome to attend the meeting. Council discusses potential impacts of this siting policy, including unintentionally restricting APSA from hosting conferences and events in most majority-minority cities. Ishiyama reports that APSA staff and the Executive

Committee will further discuss the siting policy.

Program Participant Removal Policy:

Linn introduces a discussion on a program participant removal policy. She reports that the Conference and Meetings Committee met in summer 2022 to discuss a recommendation from the Membership and Professional Development Committee to consider the development of a policy that would provide APSA the authority to have the final decision on panel participants, along with considerations that such a policy might include. She continues by reporting that legal counsel advised APSA that the association already maintains the authority to remove participants from the program at its sole discretion. Linn notes that most peer associations do not have a separate participant removal policy, and it is near impossible to comprehensively enumerate all possible actions that may merit the removal of a participant from the program. Linn reports that the Conference and Meetings Committee recommends not developing or adopting a formal policy for the removal of participants from the program. In conclusion, she notes that the committee seconds the recommendation of the Membership and Professional Development Committee that a process should be in place to handle decisions on program participation, which should be applied only in extraordinary circumstances. She notes that members who are concerned about the participation of individuals at APSA conferences and related functions should submit their concerns in writing through APSA's EthicsPoint system or other previously established mechanisms to be reviewed by relevant staff and committees. Martin expresses interest in further examining criteria for removal and if those criteria may be different for virtual participation and in-person participation. Smith, Harrigan, and Oren note that APSA is in the process of converting most related groups that are 501(c)3 organizations to an MOU status.

Whistleblower Policy:

Smith introduces the proposed update to the APSA Whistleblower Policy. He reports that all nonprofits of a certain size are mandated to have a whistleblower policy, and that APSA's whistleblower policy was enacted in the early 2000s. In 2018, APSA implemented EthicsPoint, an online confidential reporting system, which was initially focused on professional misconduct. In addition, however, it can serve as a confidential whistleblower complaint system. Smith notes that the proposed updates to the Whistleblower Policy include harmonizing the policy with the updated APSA bylaws and including information about the EthicsPoint system. He reports that both the Audit Committee and the Executive Committee reviewed and recommended the policy. Warren moves to approve the updated Whistleblower Policy; Givens seconds and the motion passes unanimously.

Contingent Faculty Guidelines Proposal:

Guisan, on behalf of the Committee on the Status of Contingent Faculty in the Profession, introduces and provides background information on a proposal for suggested minimum standards for contingent faculty. Oren notes that some language appears in the APSA Ethics Guide, but the proposed contingent faculty guidelines proposal could be included as an appendix to the guide. Council expresses optimism for the guidelines as positive aspirations that the association should embrace. Council also expresses some concern about the current version of the proposal. After making suggestions to specific points, Council refers the proposal back to the status committee for additional edits.

Policy Committee Reports:

Linn, chair of the Conference and Meetings Policy Committee, reports that the committee has no additional updates to provide.

Oren, chair of the Membership and Professional Development Policy Committee, provides updates on the work of the committee. He reports that the committee reviewed updates to the organized section guidelines.

On behalf of the Publications Policy Committee, Gurstelle provides updates on the work of the committee. He reports that the committee approved changes to the APSA Style Guide in regard to age inclusive language. Additionally, he reports that the committee will consider proposed updates to the author demographic questionnaire for the *American Political Science Review*.

The Public Engagement Policy Committee reports that the committee has no updates to provide.

Gilmour, chair of the Teaching and Learning Policy Committee, provides updates on the work of the committee. She reports that the teaching and learning department held four teaching symposia in 2022. She notes that the committee is planning for the 2023 Teaching and Learning Conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

Executive Session:

Council enters into an executive session, following which the meeting is adjourned.