President Kathleen Thelen calls the meeting to order and, noting the lack of a quorum, explains that any votes taken at the meeting will be advisory and will not be binding. K. Thelen welcomes attendees and gives the President’s report, focusing on steps to increase transparency and outreach, expansion of anti-harassment efforts, implementation of the inaugural special projects fund, and continued efforts to support diversity at APSA (including the diversity and inclusion hack-a-thon).

Executive Director Steven Rathgeb Smith presents the Treasurer’s Report on behalf of Treasurer Thomas Pepinsky. The Treasurer’s Report indicates that the Association is continuing in sound financial shape with $38.79 million in investments, including $17.48 in the Trust and Development Portfolio, and $18.39 in the CFP Trust Portfolio as of July 31, 2018. S. Smith adds that as of June 30, 2017 APSA’s is projecting revenue of $7.88 million from operations and operating expenses of $8.17 million, which includes the carryover special projects budget from the prior year, resulting in a projected operating net loss of year-end of $287 thousand, before investment income.

Juliet Hooker, Chair of the Rules and Elections Committee reports on the APSA Council Election. The APSA elections were held from July 6 to August 5, 2018. The ballot consisted of the Nominating Committee’s slate of Council and officer nominees, and no additional nominees by petition were submitted. Under APSA bylaws, voters have the opportunity to vote “for,” “against,” or abstain for each position. Candidates must receive more “for” votes than “against” to be elected to the APSA Council or officer role for which they have been nominated. A quorum of 10% of the APSA membership, or 1091 completed ballots, was required. In total, 2,674 ballots were cast, for turnout of 24.5%. All nominees were resoundingly elected. The Rules and Elections Committee examined the vote tally and certified the election results.

K. Thelen opens the floor to new business. T. Dumm presents a statement expressing concern about APSA’s Hubert Humphrey Award being given to Condoleezza Rice. The statement argues that by giving the award to Rice APSA honors a person: who developed a rationale for and aided in lies surrounding the invasion of Iraq; participated in and defended the creation of policies of rendition and torture against foreign nationals; and supported the creation of the detention camp at Guantanamo Bay. The statement urges APSA to establish an oversight committee that reviews the credentials and records of those who are nominated for public-service awards, and to rescind the 2018 Humphrey Award to Professor Rice. Dumm notes that so far 132 signatures have been gathered to support the statement.

B. Galston, chair of the 2018 Humphrey Award Committee presents the committee’s response to this statement, noting that while Rice’s role in the Iraq war remains controversial, her record of service is long and the committee decided that her career as a whole merits the award. While the committee recognizes that others looking at the same body of evidence could reach a different conclusion, they note that if APSA believes that public service is honorable only if unblemished the Humphrey Award should not exist. Galston adds personal remarks, noting that he stands by the decisions of the committee but is sympathetic to the idea that an oversight committee could be created to review awards like the Humphrey Award. Galston is questioned as to whether there is a threshold that could disqualify a candidate from receiving a similar honor, and agrees that there is a threshold but does not
believe that Rice, given the information she had when making her decisions, was disqualified. J. Dean speaks in favor of creating an oversight committee to ensure that those who support torture will not be honored by APSA. J. Stoner expresses concern that an oversight committee will introduce censorship, and notes that the committee acted in good faith and the APSA leadership acted in good faith when nominating the committee.

K. Thelen notes that the time allotted for discussion of new business has elapsed and asks if there is a motion to further the discussion. Seeing none, Thelen reminds attendees that without a quorum any discussion or vote is only advisory and will not be binding. Thelen asks for an informal vote, to get a sense of the meeting. The meeting attendees overwhelmingly indicate their support for referring this matter to an appropriate committee.

K. Thelen passes the gavel to incoming APSA President Rogers Smith. R. Smith thanks the attendees for their discussion, and thanks K. Thelen and D. Lake for their work as APSA President and APSA Past-President. K. Thelen adjourns the meeting.