

Minutes of the May 2026 APSA Council Meeting

May 2026

2026 Spring Council Meeting, May 12, 2026

APSA Officers and Council Members in attendance:

Susan Stokes, *University of Chicago*, President

Beth Simmons, *University of Pennsylvania*, President-elect

Sara W. Goodman, *University of California, Irvine*, Treasurer

Cristina Beltran, *New York University*, Vice-President

James Mahoney, *Northwestern University*, Vice-President

Council

Lonna Atkeson, *Florida State University*; Julia Azari, *Marquette University*; Nadia Brown, *Georgetown University*; Paul Carrese, *Arizona State University*; Nicholas Carnes, *Duke University*; Thomas Dolan, *University of Central Florida*; Colin Elman, *Syracuse University*; Jane Gingrich, *Oxford University*; Stacie Goddard, *Wellesley College*; Michael Goodhart, *University of Pittsburgh*; Anna Grzymala-Busse, *Stanford University*; Alice Kang, *University of Nebraska-Lincoln*; Alison McCartney, *Towson University*; Tamir Moustafa, *Simon Fraser University*; Julie Mueller, *Southern Maine Community College*; Daniel Nielson, *University of Texas at Austin*; Melissa Rogers, *Claremont Graduate University*; Sara Rushing, *Montana State University*; Cherie Strachan, *University of Akron*; Betina Wilkinson, *Wake Forest University*; Deborah Yashar, *Princeton University*.

APSA Staff

Kimberly A. Mealy, Michelle Allendoerfer, Benjamin R. Fiore-Walker, Dan Gibson, Jon Gurstelle, Casey Harrigan, Kristin Kessler, Alejandra Sampson, Karima D. Scott, Andrew Stinson, and Stephen Stoupa.

INTRODUCTION

President Stokes welcomes council and calls the 2026 Spring Council meeting to order.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Ankur Ponda and Chris Koehler, McKinley Advisors consultants, joined the Council for a strategic planning discussion focused on shaping APSA's 2027-2029 strategic plan. The session began with a PESTEL analysis, through which Council members examined the external policy, economic, social, technological, environmental, and legal factors likely to influence APSA over the 2027-2029 period. This exercise provided a shared framework for understanding the broader context in which the asso-

ciation will operate and the challenges and opportunities that may affect its future direction.

Building on that discussion, Council members reviewed APSA's current overarching goals from the 2024-2026 strategic plan and engaged in a resource prioritization exercise to consider how the association should focus its attention and capacity in the years ahead. In breakout discussions, members further explored what success would look like across each goal area three years into the next plan, helping to translate broad priorities into a clearer vision of desired outcomes.

The discussion concluded with agreement on the governance structure for the planning process. Establishing the Executive Committee as the steering committee for development of the 2027-2029 Strategic Plan. In this role, the Executive Committee will work closely with McKinley Advisors and APSA staff to guide drafting of the plan, which will then be presented to the full Council for detailed review at the 2026 Fall Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Stokes reflected on the environment facing APSA, the discipline, and higher education more broadly. She expressed appreciation for Executive Director Kimberly Mealy and APSA staff for their responsiveness and leadership in addressing rapidly changing circumstances, particularly in the association's ongoing work to advocate for academic freedom and support funding for political science research. She noted that the pressures facing higher education are multifaceted, underscoring the need for APSA to consider what resources and capacities may be necessary to meet these challenges effectively. Stokes also reported that her presidential task force had presented preliminary findings at the WPSA conference and expressed optimism that a draft report would be ready for the APSA Annual Meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Mealy reflected on 2025 as a successful year for APSA. She highlighted APSA's continued advocacy on behalf of political science and political science research, noting the association's ongoing participation in regular meetings with peer associations and other joint efforts. Mealy also noted steps taken during the year to strengthen the visibility of APSA's advocacy work, including the launch of a new advocacy newsletter. In reviewing organizational initiatives, Mealy highlighted the progress on the APSA staff compensation philosophy project and ongoing committee work on several policies. She specifically addressed the Document Retention Policy, noting that it remains under review by the Rules and Elections Committee, and

stated that staff will not destroy or discard Association materials until an updated policy has been approved by the Council. She concluded by expressing appreciation for APSA staff, emphasizing their commitment and dedication.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Goodman reported that APSA remains in a strong financial position, with total assets of approximately \$65 million as of April 30, while noting that the figure may fluctuate in response to ongoing market and geopolitical conditions. She emphasized that the association remains debt-free and continues to generate revenue from rental income, and that APSA's investment portfolio remains aligned with its investment policy statement. Goodman also noted an upcoming transition in investment advising, as the association's current advisor is retiring and responsibility will transfer to a new advisor within the same firm following a forthcoming meeting. In addition, Goodman noted that annual meeting registration is currently on pace, APSA has secured additional insurance coverage and that there is continuing uncertainty regarding NSF funds.

CONSENT AGENDA

Stokes introduced the consent agenda items for Council approval. The consent agenda includes the December 2025 Council meeting minutes; APSR Editor Search Committee Formation; and *Perspective on Politics* associate editors' appointment. Motion to approve the consent agenda items moved by Alison McCartney and seconded by Thomas Dolan. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

Kessler provided an update on preparations for the APSA 2026 Annual Meeting in Boston, reporting that registration levels are trending positively and that participation appears to be on course for a strong meeting. Program planning is in its final stages, with the preliminary program scheduled for release shortly. Kessler noted that submission numbers have returned to pre-pandemic levels, reflecting strong engagement, and that although the meeting will be primarily in person, a limited virtual option will remain available for participants unable to attend on site.

Beltran inquired about the possibility of offering a paper program and mentioned that some members have expressed an interest in a printed program. Kessler provided context for the association's move away from printed programs, citing production costs, limited demand, sustainability concerns, and the practical challenge that a printed program cannot reflect the updates to the program that continue up to the meeting itself. Scott agreed and cited shipping costs and the challenges that an inaccurate printed program could represent, she further emphasized that attendees already have access to a PDF version, the online program, and the mobile app, with the online version serving as the most current and accurate source of information.

Stokes raised the possibility of identifying interim alternatives, such as making a PDF version of the program more accessible or evident on the APSA website. Goodhart echoed the idea and suggested that APSA gather more systematic feedback from attendees through a survey.

CAREERS PATHWAYS COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Allendoerfer provided background information on the history of the committee, noting that it was originally created in 2020 as an ad hoc body and was first conceived under the name Careers Committee, Academia, Government, Industry, and Nonprofit. Before the committee was formally constituted, its name was changed to the Careers Diversity Committee, which has remained its title while continuing to operate as an ad hoc committee. She explained that the current proposal would make two changes: first, to establish the committee as a membership committee rather than an ad hoc committee, and second, to rename it the Committee for Applied Career Pathways in order to clarify its purpose and scope.

Motion to rename and establish the Committee for Applied Career Pathways as a Membership Committee moved by Thomas Dolan and seconded by Julie Mueller. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLICATIONS UPDATES

Gurstelle reported on APSA's publications portfolio and the renewal of its agreement with Cambridge University Press for publication of the association's three flagship journals and six APSA-owned organized section journals. He underscored the renewal as an important step in ensuring APSA's fiscal stability over the next seven years. Gurstelle also noted that the Publications Policy Committee has been discussing artificial intelligence and has received initial guidance from Cambridge on an updated AI policy. He then presented for Council consideration the appointment of three new APSR associate editors.

Motion to approve the changes to the APSR editorial team to incorporate Robert Gulotty, Xiaobo Lü, and James Lindley Wilson moved by Thomas Dolan and seconded by James Mahoney. The motion passes with 19 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was introduced.

ADJOURN

Stokes adjourns the meeting.