
NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Selection of New Executive Director of APLS and Editor of *Politics and the Life Sciences*

At its Chicago fly-in meeting of November 17, 1990, the Council of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences selected James N. Schubert of Alfred University for a five-year term as executive director of the Association. Gary R. Johnson, of Lake Superior State University was named as the editor of *Politics and the Life Sciences* for a three-year term. The Council extends its congratulations to both individuals and wishes them well in their new responsibilities which will commence on July 1, 1991.

Thomas C. Wiegele, who has held both of these positions since their inception, will be retiring from these posts and from his university appointment during the summer of 1991.

APLS Council Meeting, 1989

Minutes of the August 31, 1989 Council Meeting of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences and the APSA Organized Section on Politics and the Life Sciences

1. The chairperson, James Schubert, called the meeting to order.
2. The minutes of the September 1, 1988 meeting were approved.
3. The chairperson announced the results of the officers' election: Odelia Funke, chair; Steven Peterson, vice chair;

Joseph Losco, secretary. He noted the low participation—only 25 ballots out of a membership of 124. In comparison, 80+ members voted in the council election. The Council noted a couple of issues: the proximity of Council and Council officers elections makes the eligible pool for officers very limited under our constitution (since officers should be members of the Council); second, the officers election was in the summer, when many were out of town. The Council suggested putting more emphasis on selecting from the general membership for nominees to the Council; conducting the Council election earlier, and reminding members then that a second election will soon follow. The Council discussed whether only those with experience on the Council should be eligible for election as officers, and whether an experienced ex-Council member should be eligible. This would require amending the constitution. Another suggestion was to have a single ballot for the Council and its officers. The ballot would have to be complex, with preference selections to assure that all officers are part of the Council. The decision was to hold the next elections earlier in the year, but also to re-examine the constitution regarding the requirements for Association officers, to consider how to increase the pool of eligible nominees, and to put the issue on the business meeting agenda for the 1990 meeting, with any votes amending the constitution to come in 1991.

4. As of June 1989, APSA section membership stood at 110. This puts the Section over last year's crisis of having under 100 members (100 are required to maintain status as an organized section). However, this is still a low number.

5. The Council discussed how the new APSA program policy will affect the 1990 program. APSA's policy of using 1988 attendance at panels and section membership to determine the 1990 panel allocation cuts APLS' panel allocation in half—to four or five. If we have low membership, and lower visibility as a result of fewer panels, we cannot survive as a Section.

The current Council chair and the 1990 program chair are pursuing the issue of panel allocation, and will continue discussing it with APSA. They will press for at least one additional panel, though some suggested that they should ask for three, even if getting all three is unlikely.

Co-sponsorship of panels was offered as a partial solution. Every APLS panel co-sponsored with another group only counts as one-half panel against our quota, and should also increase attendance at the panels. The Council endorsed co-sponsorship as a strategy. We might suggest to APSA that they could promote their own goal of better integration of subgroups by not counting co-sponsored panels against anyone's quota. Some felt that as a matter of equity, relying only on membership numbers puts a big burden on small organized sections, and even encourages them to return to unaffiliated status. It appears that unaffiliated groups have no limit on their panels. Nor does there appear to be any total limit on panels for large sections; perhaps there should be. It was noted that, with expanding panel requests and insufficient space, APSA is bound to consider how well the various kinds of panels are attended.

Members should be encouraged to contact program section chairs to get panels onto the regular program.

The Council discussed a Baer/Losco proposal (in absentia) to consider sponsoring both affiliated and unaffiliated panels at the 1990 meeting, to increase the total number of panels. The Council thought we should avoid this if there are other alternatives, but authorized the chairperson to consider this as an option in negotiating the issue with APSA.

The Council concluded that we must encourage greater attendance, and that we should keep our own tallies of panel attendance, so that the APSA count is not based on a count at the end of the sessions (as some thought happened in 1988). The Council encouraged Jim Schubert, as chairperson, to write a news note for the journal on this issue and send a letter to APSA for their consideration. The Council decided to raise the issue at the general business meeting on the next day.

6. Individual Association membership has fallen dramatically this year, including those who rejoined at least once in the past. The procedure on non-renewals is to send a series of four letters. Suggestions to expand membership were to: get the list of section members from APSA to help target people to contact; consider expanding the journal to other, related associations; send out a special issue of the journal to market APLS; and send courtesy copies to university libraries and associations. The Council decided

by acclamation to propose at the business meeting that APLS set up a small committee to address ideas for expanding membership.

7. In connection with membership concerns, the Council discussed how to attract women to APLS. One suggestion was that members screen dissertations for topics of interest to APLS, and specifically invite women through that screening. A second idea was to co-sponsor a panel with the Women's Caucus—reproductive technology being one obvious topic.

8. According to APLS procedures, the 1989 program vice chair becomes the 1990 program chair. The Council unanimously agreed to ask Kent Oots, who organized a set of panels for the Midwest meeting, to take this responsibility.

9. Re-siting the journal is unfinished business. In the last round, four possibilities emerged, but none worked out. The Council agreed that the executive director should reopen the search.

10. The Council discussed at length the graduate student paper competition. Glendon Schubert put forward a proposal to redefine the current procedures. He offered an eight-part proposal which the Council discussed and voted on part by part. Clause "F" of his proposal raised the most concerns, particularly whether it would force the committee to award the prize to a paper automatically, if it were the only entry. After some modifications, the Council approved the following:

a. The three elected members of the awards committee will be elected at the annual meeting of the Council, and henceforth they will serve only one-year terms, with no elected member eligible to succeed him/herself.

b. Each year, the three elected members will select one of themselves to serve as chair of the committee for that year and the new chair will notify the executive director of his or her selection.

c. The committee chair must include both *ex officio* members in all correspondence, deliberations, and decision-making of the committee.

d. The Council explicitly instructs the executive director to assure that a copy of this resolution is sent promptly to the newly elected chair of the award committee.

e. Each graduate paper must be submitted with a cover letter from a member of APLS or the teacher of the course (even if the teacher is not an APLS member).

f. All committee members (elected and ex officio alike) must accept and follow the Council's policy, in constituting the committee, that its charge is to select the best paper submitted each year; and it is not the committee's function to posit (individually or collectively) absolute standards of merit, scholarship, or moral rectitude, as criteria to be invoked for appraising submitted graduate papers. The expectation is to award the prize each year, to the end that graduate students (in political science as well as those in other disciplines) will become more aware of the competition, enter it, and thereby bring APLS to the favorable attention of a broader professional audience. To be acceptable, a "good" graduate paper does not have to be prima facie of publishable quality. However, awarding the prize is not obligatory. There must be some room for judgment by the committee, and even a single entry might be turned down if it is not deemed worthy.

g. In the event of self-disqualification by one member of the committee, the other four will make the decision. If more than one member disqualifies her/himself in any one case, the Council chair will name substitutes.

h. In three years, at the 1992 Council meeting, the Council will review the entire question of whether to continue this award program. Unless the program has accomplished considerably more during its second triennium than it did during its first, it will then and there be terminated forthwith.

11. The Council considered the proposal that APLS initiate a stipend for journal editors, as follows: \$500/year for book review editor; \$500/year for assistant editor; \$1,000/year for editor. Council members questioned what the practice is for other journals. They also wondered how these additional costs might affect the need for money to expand membership, or the goal of moving the journal. A third issue was whether this question should go before the business meeting before any final approval. The Council decided to revisit the question next year.

12. Frank Salter presented a proposal from Hiram Caton, requesting APLS endorsement of a bibliography project. Endorsement would include several things, outlined in a letter from Hiram Caton: (1) providing space in the journal to announce the project and ask that readers send candidate titles of their own work; (2) identifying people who might be willing to review the candidate titles; (3) naming possible funding sources; and (4) providing a membership list. The Council thought that the costs to the Association appear to be worth it. Benefits include the creation of such a bibliography, perhaps having members' work included, and being affiliated with the effort. The Council agreed to

support the effort, and to bring the issue to the business meeting for approval.

New Business

13. The chairperson proposed to increase section dues through APSA from \$3 to \$5. The money would be used to pay for a newsletter, published on an ad hoc or semi-annual basis. The chair and vice chair will be responsible. The Council accepted this proposal as a recommendation to the business meeting.

14. The Council considered a proposal that the journal should identify the chair and vice chair and the program chair and vice chair by name. A question was whether the journal should list all chairs and vice chairs of the Association, past as well as present. The Council decided that chairs and vice chairs, but not program chairs, should be named.

15. The Council agreed to support the idea of pressing APSA to alter its current "field of interest" list to agree with the list of sectional interests. The Council, through its chairperson, will write to APSA and ask that they list organized sections as fields of interest. The Council also agreed that the issue should be discussed at the business meeting, and individual members be encouraged to write APSA with the same suggestion.

16. Nominations for the graduate student paper committee: the chairperson will call members until finding three who agree to serve. The Council instructed the chairperson to give preference to younger and retired members.

17. The Council adjourned.

Joseph Losco
Ball State University

APLS Business Meeting, 1989

Minutes of the September 1, 1989 Business Meeting of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences and the APSA Organized Section on Politics and the Life Sciences

1. James Schubert, chairperson, opened the meeting at 12:30 p.m. He asked members to approve the minutes of the previous business meeting of September 2, 1988. Minutes were approved.
2. The chairperson reported on the officers' election to the Council: Odelia Funke, chairperson; Steve Peterson, vice chairperson; Joseph Losco, secretary.
3. The chairperson also reported on the decisions from the Council meeting of Thursday, August 31, 1989. The Council decided that:

Procedural changes for electing council members and officers are needed to expand the number of eligible candidates. The Council decided to move the timing of both elections forward by some months.

The chairperson invited Kent Oots to be the 1990 APLS program vice-chairperson (Joe Losco is program chairperson); Dr. Oots accepted.

APLS' process for handling the graduate student paper award will now include the following: (a) members named to the committee for evaluating the papers will serve for one year; (b) they will elect their own chair; (c) ex-officio members are full participants; (d) APLS' executive director will inform the committee chair of agreed-upon procedures; (e) criteria for eligibility to the competition are that the paper be nominated by a teacher or APLS member, and that the paper be deemed "good and competent"; (f) the best paper fitting these criteria wins; and (g) the Council will review the entire process in three years.

Members discussed the small number of papers competing for the award in the past two years, and the need to encourage greater participation.

The graduate student paper award will be presented at the APSA awards ceremony.

4. The chairperson outlined Hiram Caton's request for APLS' endorsement of a bibliography project on human behavior that would cover approximately 5000 titles. Endorsement would mean (a) providing space in APLS' journal to announce the project and ask that readers send

candidate titles of their own work; (b) identifying people who might be willing to review the candidate titles; (c) naming possible funding sources; and (d) providing a membership list. The Council considered the proposal at its meeting and suggested that APLS support it. Membership briefly discussed Caton's proposal. The bibliography would be in machine readable form. APLS agreed to endorse the effort.

5. The executive director, Thomas C. Wiegeler, gave the financial report, and a report on the re-siting of the journal. He noted a sharp decline in APLS membership; reported hiring a new managing editor for the journal; and announced that APLS is reopening the search for a new site.

General discussion about declining membership:

- a. The executive director explained efforts to encourage renewals through several mailings. The Association is going back through files to find former members, send them a recent copy of the journal, and ask them to consider rejoining. The importance of designating APLS on the APSA membership form was also noted. The number of people designating interest in APLS has improved considerably over the past year, but we need to make sure that those belonging to the Association check that box on the APSA membership card. APSA promised a section list (those claiming interest) starting this year.

- b. The cost structure for membership in APLS is: \$10 for students; \$20 for individuals; \$40 for institutions. Asked whether the Association should offer three- or five-year rates to libraries, the executive director noted that the institutional rate already compares very well to other journals, and that the renewal rate among libraries is excellent. Further, libraries usually budget year by year, and therefore cannot take advantage of multiple-year rates.

- c. Members should ask their own libraries to subscribe to the journal, if they do not already. University libraries usually make an effort to delete journals from their lists, and they do not add titles unless someone requests it.

Comments by Wiegeler on re-siting the journal and the costs of running it:

- a. The first attempt to re-site the journal brought several promising candidates, but none had worked out. The fact that the journal is not self-supporting is a major obstacle in re-siting it.

- b. The costs are \$40,000-45,000/year. Journal work does not demand a full-time secretary.

c. The journal is now asking that all accepted manuscripts be presented on diskette. The last edition of the journal was produced in-house on computer, and this eliminated considerable troubles in dealing with a typesetter, in addition to the cost savings.

6. The 1990 APLS program chair, Joseph Losco, gave a brief report. He noted that APLS has been allotted four and one-half to five panels next year—a 50 percent cut from the 1989 program allocation. He explained that, according to APSA, the cut was based on attendance at last year's (1988) panels as well as membership. APSA is willing to adjust that number based on this year's attendance, if it is considerably better. APSA cites an explosion in the number of panels requested and the lack of space to accommodate them all. Losco suggested:

a. Encouraging members to co-sponsor panels with another organization, as co-sponsored panels only count one-half against our allotment.

b. Attending panels this year, so that we can negotiate an increase in the allotment.

c. That APLS consider applying for some additional panels as an unaffiliated group.

d. Sending in ideas for full panels early, since we will have fewer panels in any case.

The chairperson likewise urged members to seek co-sponsorship of panels, and to attend APLS panels at the 1989 convention. Members noted that decreasing APLS panels at the convention would only add to the diminishing membership problem. They also questioned whether APSA was not over-reacting to complaints about their 1989 panel allocation policy. Members noted that they had not seen anyone take a count at some panels they attended; in other cases, the person counting came in at the very beginning or end, when only a small percentage of attendees were in the room. Losco suggested that panel chairs keep their own tallies of panel attendance. He will offer those to the APSA in connection with the attempt to increase APLS' 1990 allocation.

New Business

7. Glendon Schubert noted that the APSA list of "interests" for members to designate is outdated and confusing. It does not at all correspond to the organized sections (including APLS) one might designate. He suggested that APLS members write or call APSA to note this discrepancy, and ask that they revise the list of interests to track

with the sections. He noted that the Council had already endorsed this idea at its meeting, and he agreed to write APSA in the name of the Association.

8. The Council discussed the idea of selecting a committee to address the issue of declining membership. The incoming chairperson would be charged with naming the members. Suggestions for increasing membership included making a greater effort in contacting other organizations with related interdisciplinary interests; expanding the journal to include articles from some other organizations; using APLS book reviews to identify other sources and individuals that might be interested in APLS activities; and attending meetings of other, related organizations where members should set up a display with copies of the journal and some information about APLS.

9. Another new initiative suggested was to get indexed as a topic in Social Science Abstracts. The executive director commented that this is an important goal, and he offered to follow up on it.

10. The idea of issuing a newsletter, discussed briefly last year, came up again. The proposal was to try issuing a newsletter, on a trial basis, twice each year, i.e., between journal publications. The chairperson and vice chairperson agreed to collaborate on this effort; the vice chairperson will be responsible for publication, through his Department's facilities. To finance it, the Council suggested that APLS raise section dues with the APSA from \$3 (which is the minimum amount APSA demands) to \$5, which would give APLS \$2/person. The membership voted to both increase the dues and to start a newsletter.

11. Members voted to adjourn at 1:30 p.m.

Joseph Losco
Ball State University

Thanks to Our Reviewers for 1989-90

Politics and the Life Sciences is a peer-reviewed journal. As such it requires the cooperation and voluntary efforts of many scholars. This list of *PLS* reviewers is published with our thanks for their contributions.

Hiram Caton
Griffith University

Jacqueline Cramer
TNO Centre for Technology and Policy Studies

Kenneth A. Dahlberg
Western Michigan University

Mark D. Dibner
North Carolina Biotechnological Center

V.S.E. Falger
University of Utrecht

Patrick Hamlett
Cornell University

Sheila Jasanoff
Cornell University

Martin Kenney
University of California, Davis

Fred Kort
University of Connecticut

Sheldon Krinsky
Tufts University

Chunglin Kwa
University of Amsterdam

Robert P. McIntosh
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Lester Milbrath
State University of New York

Dorothy Nelkin
New York University

Mark Rushefsky
Southwest Missouri State University

Glendon Schubert
University of Hawaii

James N. Schubert
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Ullica Segerstrale
Illinois Institute of Technology

William Tolhurst
Northern Illinois University

Norman Vig
Carleton College

Meredith W. Watts
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Susan Welch
University of Nebraska

Mikel Wyckoff
Northern Illinois University

Steven Zehr
Union College

Graduate Student Paper Awards for 1989 and 1990

The Graduate Student Paper Award for the Outstanding Paper in *Politics and the Life Sciences* was presented at the APSA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The award carries with it a \$500 stipend and consideration for publication in *Politics and the Life Sciences*. This year's selection committee consisted of Raymond Zilinskas (Chair), James Davies, and John Wahlke. The recipient of the 1990 award was Peter Barss of Johns Hopkins University for the paper entitled, "Epidemic Field Investigation as Applied to Allegations of Chemical, Biological, and Toxin Warfare."

The recipient of the 1989 award was Chong Phil Ra of Seoul, Korea. His winning entry was entitled "Individual Development, Political Socialization, Biopolitics: A Punctuated Equilibrium Model of Political Socialization." APLS is very proud of these two papers and pleased to be able to consider them for the award.

In addition to Peter Barss, the following individuals submitted papers for the 1990 award and are thanked for

making this year's competition a success.

Michael T. Adams, Northern Illinois University, "Abortion Politics and Public Health Policy: The Case of Abortifacient RU486"

Catherine A. Claxton, Cornell University, "RU486: Strategies in the Politics of Abortion"

Kim Kissinger, Northern Illinois University, "Intellectual Property Rights in Biotechnology: Will Third World Dependency Increase?"

Regina Olshan, Dartmouth College, "Good Samaritan Law — An Ethological Perspective"

Timothy J. Ressemeyer, Northern Illinois University, "Regulation Policy and Consumer Protection for Users of *In Vitro* Fertilization"

tions and responses of Roger Masters. The Committee wishes to thank Odelia Funke for setting up the Committee; Tom Wiegele for sending material, allocating money for the Committee's work, and offering encouragement; Bill Brandon for his statistical analysis and report of membership patterns; and Bob Blank, Ira Carmen, Richard Hartigan, and Claude Phillips for their suggestions.

The Committee's goals were to (1) discuss the nature of the membership issue, (2) review steps already taken to increase membership, (3) suggest ways of gathering information about membership patterns, and (4) develop a list of ideas to be discussed by the APLS Council at its annual meeting in 1990. The following summarizes the Committee's discussions. The Committee members are aware of the difficulty of undertaking new recruitment strategies. Later in the report we address the problem of who might undertake these responsibilities. The report includes two appendices: Appendix I ("An Analysis of APLS Membership Retention," compiled and written by Bill Brandon) and Appendix II ("Summary of Survey Results of Members Who Dropped, 1988-89").

REPORT TO APLS COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

TO: APLS Council

FROM: Ad Hoc APLS Membership Committee

DATE: May 24, 1990

RE: Committee Report

APLS Membership: A Committee Report

An Ad Hoc Membership Committee was set up after the 1989 annual Council meeting in Atlanta. Serving on the Committee were Andrea Bonnicksen (chair), William Brandon, Roger Masters, and Albert Somit. Three members of the Committee (Brandon, Somit, and Bonnicksen) met in Chicago on December 16-17, 1989. The same three met for a second time and were joined by Odelia Funke while attending the MWPSA in Chicago on April 6, 1990. They also met with Tom Wiegele and other APLS members (Bob Blank, Richard Hartigan, Claude Phillips) attending the MWPSA on April 6. Other business was conducted by telephone and mail and included the sugges-

Nature of the Issue

The Committee concludes that APLS is a healthy organization with a strong core membership (see Appendix I). Membership has declined since 1987, but this was the year the Lilly Foundation grant expired and less money was available for continued aggressive recruiting. The membership is higher than it was during the Association's first three years. This is a potential growth period, and new markets, including the international market, remain largely untapped. The percentage of international members has remained stable over time: 17% (1985), 17% (1986), 15% (1987), 15% (1988), 15% (1989). The recent participation of the managing editor of *Politics and the Life Sciences (PLS)* in a meeting about marketing journals overseas is a positive sign that the Association is committed to tapping this market. Several specific suggestions were included in the report, "International Marketing Plan for Politics and the Life Sciences."

The Association has maintained an active core of members while keeping membership costs low. The effort to keep down membership fees is to be commended. Even if the membership or fees are doubled, the journal will still not be self-sustaining. The Committee believes that the membership issue is not serious enough to warrant a significant increase in membership fees. The issue is two-pronged: recruiting new members and retaining existing