

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Political Communication Section of the American Political Science Association held September 4, 2009, Toronto, Ontario

1) Opening remarks by Chair Richard Davis:

Richard Davis explained details of the sections' relationship with APSA and issues involving file and document sharing. Davis also noted that the section has a joint web site with ISA and that thought needs to be given to how the web site can be made more effective.

2) Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer noted that the balance at the end of July 2009 was \$ 19,632.31. David Taras was only able to give rough figures since bills were still coming in. Revenue was based on memberships and mailing lists sold by APSA, and expenses mainly consisted of awards (\$ 1,262.14), pre-conference (roughly \$ 4000), the conference reception (approximately \$1500) and the newsletter (\$ 500). In 2009, expenses exceeded revenues by approximately \$ 2500. The main reasons for this were that Toronto was a relatively expensive city and the pre-conference did not have a co-sponsor, as was the case in recent years, and the conference reception was hosted alone rather than with other sections as had been tried in the past.

Discussion centred on whether we should ask attendees to pay for lunch at the pre-conference given that there were roughly 20 no shows in 2009 – and these costs had to be absorbed by the section. There was also discussion about approaching potential sponsors for the Washington pre-conference and conference in 2010. One questioner noted that at the current rate of spending we would have little left in 5 or 6 years.

3) By-laws:

Richard Davis noted that the original by-laws were created in 1989. A draft of proposed changes had been placed on the web site and comments had been invited. 18 were in favour of the changes while one member was opposed. Davis then asked for a motion to approve the changes and this was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

4) The meeting then received the report of the nominating committee. Recommendations were approved – again by voice vote.

5) Steve Farnsworth, the 2009 Program Chair, reported briefly on the program. He noted that there were 19 panels and that there was much to be gained (timing, space, etc) from having early responses to the call of papers.

6) Jonathan Ladd, the 2010 Program Chair, noted that planning was already underway for 2010. Section members were encouraged both to submit papers and to attend the conference.

7) As Mike Xenos, the 2009 Pre-conference chair, was not available, Vice-Chair and Chair-Elect Regina Lawrence reported on the pre-conference. Lawrence described the pre-conference as a great success and thanked David Cameron, Chair of the Political Science Department at the University of Toronto, for his support and generosity. The University of Toronto was seen as an excellent setting. She described the nature of some of the papers and discussions and suggested that the pre-conference offered a unique opportunity for contacts and exchange. Richard Davis acknowledged the contribution made by Pippa Norris in establishing the pre-conference many years before.

8) Laura Roselle, the Chair of the 2010 pre-conference, encouraged people to submit papers for and attend the next pre-conference.

9) Diana Owen described the mentorship program. She had identified 11 young scholars and an additional 4 came to the meeting. She asked senior scholars whether they would be in a position to help out in what was seen as a potentially vital and innovative program.

10) Shanto Iyengar reported on the journal. He had a detailed handout that covered volume of submissions and acceptances etc.

11) Richard Davis turned the time over to awards committee chairs to present the awards for 2009.

The awards given were as follows:

Murray Edelman Lifetime Distinguished Service Award - Dan Hallin

Graber Book Award - Roderick Hart

Paul Lazarsfeld Best Paper Award - Scott Althaus, Nathaniel Swigger, Christopher Tiwald, Svitlana Chernykh, David Hendry, and Sergio Wals.

Tim Cook Best Graduate Paper Award - Blake Andrew

12) New Business:

Gadi Wolfsfeld suggested that members receive automatic subscriptions to the Journal. At the very least, members should receive emails containing a Table of Contents that then link to articles.

13) Richard Davis called for an adjournment.