



**Australian Political Studies Association  
Executive Meeting**

**AGENDA**

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**Annual General Meeting  
9am Tuesday, 27 September 2016  
Matthews Theatre C  
University of NSW, Sydney**

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please email  
Lisa MacKinney  
[\*\*Arts-SSPS-APSA@unimelb.edu.au\*\*](mailto:Arts-SSPS-APSA@unimelb.edu.au)

## **INTRODUCTION AND FORMAL BUSINESS**

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### **1. WELCOME**

- 1.1 Professor Adrian Kay welcomed members to the 2016 APSA AGM. Encouraged members to keep comments brief and to point due to very tight time schedule.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

- 2.1 No apologies recorded.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF LAST AGM**

- 3.1 Members confirmed as accurate Minutes of last AGM, held 25 September 2015 at University of Canberra. Nominated by Jason Sharman; seconded by Luke Mansillo.

### **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- 4.1 No further business arising from the 2015 minutes.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

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### **5. OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- 5.1 Report from outgoing President, Professor Adrian Kay, is reproduced verbatim in Appendix One.
- 5.2 Adrian welcomed new APSA Executive Assistant Lisa MacKinney.
- 5.3 Adrian thanked Chris Walker and team at UNSW for all their work hosting the conference.
- 5.4 Membership is falling, encouraged members to renew, Executive looking into ways of streamlining membership renewal and emphasising benefits of membership.

### **6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

- 6.1 Report from APSA Treasurer/Secretary, Professor Jason Sharman.
- 6.2 ASPA is in good financial health; operating surplus of around \$30,000 for this year. Constitutional requirement to retain 3 years of annual revenue in our trust funds (c. \$400,000); as of audit, \$649,202 in all the accounts.
- 6.3 Aim is *not* to have operating surplus, but to spend all each year; in practice this is difficult due to (sometime surprise) fluctuations in income and expenditure.
- 6.4 Membership is down; typically this was largest source of revenue, but now the income from *AJPS* royalty payments has overtaken that.
- 6.5 Aim to return all revenue in form of services to members – APSA Executive membership is voluntary; members all pay their own flights, registration etc.

- 6.6 Audit documents will go on web; legal duty to be audited every year. Opened to questions from floor; there were no questions.

## **7. EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS**

- 7.1 Adrian – the membership is to elect a new Vice President/President Elect, a new Treasurer (Jason Sharman is moving to the UK), and new Ordinary EC member. Postgraduate Caucus Representative has already been elected.
- 7.2 Vice President/President Elect: nomination from the Executive is Professor AJ Brown from Griffith University. Nominated by Adrian; seconded by Prof Linda Botterill. No other nominations; Prof Brown hereby elected.
- 7.3 Treasurer: Executive has nominated Dr Tim Legrand from National Security College at ANU. Nominated by Adrian, seconded by Prof Jenny Lewis. No other nominations; Dr Legrand hereby elected (*in absentia* – teaching today).
- 7.4 Ordinary member: contested election. Two nominations, Carolien van Ham (UNSW) & Dr Maria Rae (Deakin University). Each to send short statements about what they might bring to the Executive, email them to Lisa at the APSA National Office, and voting will take place online in the next few days.
- 7.5 Postgraduate Representative: Sophie Yates, congratulations; Sophie present and accepted nomination.

## **8. AJPS REPORT**

- 8.1 Report on the *Australian Journal of Political Science* from Prof. Marian Simms as Professor Geoff Stokes was unable to be here.
- 8.2 Full report was included with attachments. Special issue in December 2015; impact factor suppression due to perceived over-referencing of other *AJPS* articles. Taylor and Francis' explanation was that this was based on data and did not account for editorial motivations. Appealing not possible.
- 8.3 Most read/downloaded articles: Luke Mansillo and Chris Neff – citations and social media. Marian congratulated them.
- 8.4 Gender disparity; women not submitting as many articles to *AJPS* as men.
- 8.5 Discussion about content management - *AJPS* relatively efficient in turn around, reviewing, decision-making. Thanks to all reviewers who took part in this process, board, committee, also social media managers at Deakin, 700 Twitter followers. Been a wonderful 6 years, thrilled to be handing over to great team at Griffith.
- 8.6 External citations and international citations have increased.
- 8.7 Round of applause and thanks to *AJPS* editorial team at Deakin.

## **9. WOMEN'S CAUCUS REPORT**

- 9.1 Report from Women's Caucus Executive Committee representative, Professor Louise Chappell.
- 9.2 Well-attended meeting yesterday. Will be announcing winner of the Women and Politics prize at the dinner tonight. Discussion about this prize; been

decided that it will be converted into a PhD prize that will run along similar lines to the current PhD Prize, but will be biennial. Caucus has had bequest from pioneering political scientist Thelma Hunter's estate that will be used to fund this prize; inaugural prize in 2018.

- 9.3 Discussion about expanding diversity of curriculum; Chris Neff has agreed to develop a workshop proposal to submit when APSA Workshop Proposal call goes out which will bring together a group of people concerned about extending diversity and hopefully generate some action on this as a result of this workshop. Terrific to have Chris on board; please contact Chris if you'd like to be involved.
- 9.4 Thanked outgoing editors of *AJPS* for providing disaggregated gender information; hope new editors are able to continue that. We note drop in number of women submitting to journal, and being published in it. Discussion: sense that *AJPS* not particularly welcoming of gender discussions and female scholars, will discuss this with new editors and see how that might be improved.
- 9.5 Drew also on Marian's disaggregated data from ARC, noted that women are submitting far fewer applications across all schemes; this is a real problem. Caucus keen to take this up, perhaps workshop? Discussion of issues that might be preventing women from submitting.
- 9.6 Carole Pateman Prize will be award in 2018 – Lisa Hill from University of Adelaide has agreed to convene panel for that prize.
- 9.7 Marian Simms commented that for Social Sciences DECRA's success rate higher for women than men. Humanities: more female applicants than men, and higher success rate.

## **10. STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

- 10.1 Report from the Standing Committee on International Relations from Renee Jeffery.
- 10.2 Significant changes to composition of Standing Committee; several long-standing foundational members have stood down: Tim Dunn, Robyn Eckersley, Katrina Lee-Koo. Making way for new members; this time next year committee will look substantially different. Renee thanked these founding members for their service to the committee. Renee has taken over from Sarah Percy as chair.
- 10.3 Joint IPSA/APSA/OCIS Congress in 2018; IR Committee is looking forward to being involved.

## **11. POSTGRADUATE CAUCUS REPORT**

- 11.1 Report from the Executive Committee representative, Luke Mansillo.
- 11.2 Welcomed Sophie Yates as new Postgraduate Representative. At workshop our speakers included Professor Marian Simms and Professor Jackman, thanked them and others for their leadership in mentoring Postgraduates.
- 11.3 We have for the last year had tendered process for Postgrad methods workshop, multiple unsuccessful submissions. Conversations with committee from 2017 have floated the possibility of including a methods workshop with the Postgraduate Day on the Sunday before the conference.

Adrian thanked Luke for his services as Postgrad representative. Marian commented that the Postgrad workshops have been excellent, impressive and very enjoyable; Adrian seconded this.

## 12. IPSA WORLD CONGRESS

- 12.1 Report on planning for the 2018 ISPA World Congress from Professor Kath Gelber
- 12.2 2018 APSA & OCIS will be incorporated into the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual IPSA World Congress, to be held in Brisbane, first time this has been held in Australia. A flyer will be circulated at and after our current APSA conference; APSA members will receive a 50% discount off their registration. Attendance at an IPSA Congress requires IPSA membership; negotiated a financial arrangement which will make APSA & IPSA membership and registration approximately the same price as attending this current conference.
- 12.3 Very excited about network and outreach possibilities in our region, putting together an exciting, interesting program. IPSA Congress Biennial, longer lead time, held in July, call for papers will go out in May 2017. Closing date for submissions not yet determined, but we are trying to negotiate this for after the 2017 APSA Conference; panel submissions will likely close *before*. Will be sending Australian/APSA version of leaflet round in next few weeks; there will also be international version. Time imperative so need to do all this will in advance.
- 12.4 Thanked the Australian Universities whose logos appear on the leaflet for the significant support provided for this venture. Look forward to your submissions and to seeing you all there.

Adrian confirmed that Kath Gelber would remain as a co-opted member of the APSA Executive to ensure seamless APSA/IPSA liaison.

## 13. JOURNAL RANKINGS

- 13.1 Jason Sharman led discussion on APSA Journal Rankings. APSA Executive decided to review and refresh the APSA Journal Ranking list, and put out a call for submissions. Jason thanked membership for putting so much work into the submissions, of which there were 19, very thoughtful and of high quality. These were considered by working group of four: Anika Guija (UoS) Kath Gelber (UQ), Adrian Kay (ANU) & Jason Sharman (Griffith), and after lengthy deliberations proposed a revised ranking which has been on website for consideration for the last few weeks. At the end of this discussion Adrian will call a vote for whether to update to the new revised version, or to keep the current version. Covered whole field of Political Science, in ABS terms 1606 & 1605. Submissions were made relating to 76 journals; working group made 57 changes: additions, subtractions, promotions, demotions. 2016 list is about 90% the same as 2013; changes although small are significant and we felt made for a better and more accurate list. Methodological explanation is on the website but in summary we asked:

Is it referred? Is it Political Science, broadly defined? We then considered the evidence provided in the submissions. Jason then opened the discussion to questions from the floor.

**Ariadne Vromen (UoS)**, blog post about journal rankings; thanked Jason and committee for all their work, but broader discussion required about purpose of journal rankings, in APSA context and about whether ranking reflects pluralism in Australia. Biased for quantitative methods and against qualitative. Why do we not rank more highly the journals that Australian political scientists are more likely to publish in, and why aren't we more inclusive of our active sub-fields within the discipline? Also no other social science discipline in the country is persisting with ERA journal rankings.

**Jason** commended Ariadne's blog, and responded that background for the last ten years has been that the rankings should be internationally credible, and the original impetus was this was an order from the Australian Government as part of the RQF & then the ERA. ARC has since abolished this; may want to revisit this at some point. There is in fact a deliberate, explicit bias toward Australian journals reflecting the same logic Ariadne suggested. Not broken up into subfields at present, although we may want to revisit this also at a later date. Different approaches according to university and discipline; some prefer impact factor. We do put this list out, but no one is under any compunction to use it.

**Chris Neff (UoS)**, thanked Jason and the working group for all their work. Last list ended up as part of his contract, that he publish x number of articles in A star journals as ranked by APSA. So this list actually *does* matter. Also Chris disagrees with international standards consensus which he feels is very skewed to quantitative journals, and why should we perpetuate this?

**Jason** everyone working on this list has qualitative background; no quantitative. Reflects discipline as it *is*, not necessarily how we'd like it to be. But very much takes Chris's point, political science in the US is different, huge range of methodological approaches.

**Peter Balint (UNSW)** sub-disciplinary biases, he is a political theorist – only one A star journal compared to 13 for comparative politics and 11 for International Relations. Purpose of list; APSA is here to serve its members interests, doesn't think list serves member interests; need list that makes us look balanced and pluralistic when we're talking to people outside our discipline. Also goes out of date very quickly; may well be better to have no list at all.

**Marian Simms** ARC asks assessors and applicants to not place weight on impact factors or other elements identifying journal quality; NHMRC prohibits reference to anything about journal quality. Problem for non-citation disciplines, and how that is managed.

**Jason Sharman** people may like to think about alternatives; impact factors, for instance, impact factor of the top political science journal compared with other

disciplines produces a very unflattering comparison. Before lists: any publication in any journal counted the same, one point: no system disadvantaged political science more than the system that preceded journal rankings.

13.2 Adrian called for straightforward YES/NO vote on whether to replace 2013 Journal ranking list with 2016 list.

13.3 Voting by show of hands, motion carried **YES** to replace list with new updated 2016 list.

#### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

14.1 Adrian thanked Jason Sharman for his services as Treasurer, far beyond call of duty: round of applause.

14.2 Adrian thanked Linda Botterill, who is stepping down from the APSA Executive Committee, for her service and particularly support as Immediate Past President: round of applause.

14.3 Adrian handed over the APSA Stick to Jenny Lewis as next APSA President.

**AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

**President’s Report prepared for the Annual General Meeting on  
Tuesday 27 September 2016, UNSW**

1. New APSA Executive Assistant
  2. New editorial team *Australian Journal of Political Science*
  3. Membership drive
  4. ASPA Annual Conference 2017 and IPSA World Congress 2018
  5. MoU with the International Public Policy Association
  6. APSA Research Groups
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1. A key personnel change at the APSA National Office at the University of Melbourne has been the appointment of Dr Lisa MacKinney to replace Shari Blank as the Association’s Executive Assistant. On behalf of the APSA Executive, I would like to thank Shari for all her valuable work and welcome warmly Lisa, who has already done an excellent job in getting up to speed on the intricacies of our Association.
  2. APSA is very pleased to announce that a new editorial team from Griffith University, led by Professor Renée Jeffery and Professor John Parkinson, has recently over at the Australian Journal of Political Science. This is an exciting time for the journal and the Association looks forward to working with the new editors to build on the excellent efforts of the outgoing Deakin team of Professor Geoff Stokes and Professor Marian Simms in raising the journal’s profile and impact over the past few years.
  3. APSA’s membership has continued to fall in 2015-16. There are 337 current APSA members, compared to 370 members reported at the AGM last year and 405 reported two years ago. This is an important issue for the future financial health of APSA. As a starting point for action, it is worth noting that there are well over 500 expired memberships in our database as well as how few senior colleagues are members. Often dropping membership is an oversight rather than a conscious decision. Please encourage your colleagues to join or rejoin the Association. The incoming Executive will continue to develop ideas to ensure that the benefits of membership are attractive and that the process of membership renewal is as straightforward and minimal fuss as possible.
  4. The 2017 APSA conference is being organised by the Department of Politics and International Relations at Monash University, our thanks to Benjamin MacQueen and everybody involved in the local organising committee for taking on this job. The major event in 2018 will be the International Political Science Association World

Congress in Brisbane in July. The APSA Executive is grateful that Kath Gelber continues to lead the local organising committee in this substantial and important endeavour for political studies in Australia. APSA looks forward to working closely and productively with IPSA in the run up to the 2018 World Congress.

5. Subject to final Executive approval, APSA has negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with the recently created International Public Policy Association (IPPA). Australian political scientists have been prominent in the success of the initial International Conferences on Public Policy held in Grenoble and Milan and this MoU represents the chance for mutually beneficial cooperation during the next few years.
6. APSA Research Groups continue to be one of the main vehicles within the Association to support networks and cooperation between colleagues in different fields of political science. These groups also contribute to the appropriate recognition of these fields and to enable the coordination of their representation within the association. The APSA Executive always welcomes new proposals for such groups, and information about how to form them is on the website <http://www.auspsa.org.au/groups/standing-research-groups>.

Adrian Kay  
Australian National University  
APSA President 2015-2016