

APT Annual Business Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2007

I. Call to Order

II. Assessment of Conference

A. Program Committee Report

1. The committee developed a new decision process to build the program. All abstracts were divided amongst the committee and ranked 1-4. After the abstracts were ranked the committee built panels. The committee attempted to design panels that reflected APT values, including diversity of method and approach, multiple academic ranks, different types on institutions, and the availability of other conferences. The panels were then discussed on a blog set up for that purpose.
2. About 50% of proposals were rejected.
3. Recommendations for next year included: listen to the previous program committee, stick to 4 papers per session, expect drop-outs, and do not create majority graduate student panels.
4. We need to think about how we treat panel proposals. In the question session it was suggested that panels are not a problem *per se*, as long as the proposal already fits APT values.

B. The Chair and Discussant Committee did not work as well as anticipated. Some suggestions were to explore alternative panel options, perhaps designating up to 1/3 of the panels as “self-discussed” or audience discussed. Perhaps offering preferential treatment for the following program for people who are willing to serve as discussants?

C. Attendance was 128, with 130 on the program and 1 late registration.

III. Election

A. Elizabeth Markovits was elected Co-Executive Director. The vote was Markovitz 20, Other 0.

B. Amy McCready was elected to the Governance Committee. The vote was McCready 10, Mark Rigstad 9, all others 0.

IV. Future Conference Options

A. Wesleyan in 2008; Texas A&M a possibility for 2009; and Notre Dame and Columbia may be available in future years.

D. Some issues discussed included the attractiveness of locations, the need for affordable flights (preferably direct), and the costs to the association. As usual people were concerned about how to balance attractive locations with maintaining the intimacy of the conference.

V. Budget

A. For the 2007 conference the association might break even, but probably will lose what we hope will be a small amount.

B. Current reserves are around \$12,000.

VI. Other Business

A. The Pennsylvania State University letter concerning the removal of political theory from its graduate program was discussed.

1. Motion made by David Thunder to “add APT’s signature to the letter, if allowed by the authors.” Seconded by Elizabeth Ellis. Motion passed.

2. Motion made for APT to write a separate letter; motion withdrawn without a second.

3. Motion made by Elizabeth Ellis “to make space on the APT website to post the recent letters about the Penn State controversy and invite discussion of the place of political philosophy and political theory in the discipline of political science.” Seconded by Darren Walhof. Motion passed.

B. Thanks were offered to the Program Committee Chair.

C. Dennis will be stepping down next year as Co-Executive Director, and the APT will need to distribute some of his current work to new positions. We need to consider creating the following positions:

1. A membership secretary to vet applications and maintain the database.

2. A webmaster to mind the site.

3. An officer charged with long-term conference planning and liaison work with hosts.

VII. Adjournment.

Reporting: Ed Wingenbach, with corrections from the Governance Committee.