

APT Annual Business Meeting

Minutes (Revised, Approved)

October 24, 2009

Meeting called to order 12:25pm.

1. Election of 1 at-large member of the Governance Committee (Andrew Rehfeld)
3 candidates; nominations from the floor were solicited, no additions to the existing slate of candidates. Andrew explained that we would be using a standard single transferable vote procedure, explained how it would work, and noted that a tie would result in determination of a winner via coin flip.

Lisa Ellis, Texas A&M, was elected.

2. Vote on proposed constitutional amendment (Darren Walhof)
First proposed amending of APT Constitution; requires 2/3 vote of members present at business meeting. This change would go into effect at next year's business meeting.

Motion to amend the APT Constitution (see below)

Proposed Amendments

1. Increase the size of the Governance Committee from seven voting members to nine voting members by splitting the duties of the current Secretary-Treasurer into two officer positions, Treasurer and Secretary, and by adding an additional at-large position.
2. Create two new positions, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, each of whom will be appointed by the Governance Committee for one-year, renewable terms. The Newsletter Editor and the Webmaster shall be *ex officio*, nonvoting members of the Governance Committee.

Motion passed by acclamation.

3. Report from Program Committee (Meilleur and Amy McCready)
 - Meilleur and McCready noted that in addition to building on APT's tradition of strong panels with broadly representative membership and significant time for discussion, the Program Committee's goals included making sure that the plenaries reflected APT's dialogic nature and addressed themes important to both our teaching and research.
 - The Call for Papers was distributed to a lengthy list of academic organizations and blogs. We received 256 total responses and 249 paper proposals. 104 paper proposals were accepted with 91 ultimately appearing the program (including 10-12 drop-outs who were substituted for).
 - Total submissions down a little from last year but in line with past years. Submissions came primarily from political theorists with some philosophers, women's studies, and communication studies people too.
 - Submissions came from across the ranks with the exception of full professors; only a few full professors sought to participate..
 - A signup sheet for volunteers for next year's program committee was circulated with special encouragement for those outside of political theory to serve.
3. Budget Report (Howard Lubert)
 - At the time of the business meeting, all but two attendees had paid. Those two attendees were known to Lubert who promised to track them down.
 - APT will be in the black for the year. This is, in part, a consequence of the generous contributions from the institutions that host our conferences.

- Markovits mentioned the possibility of raising additional money from APT members to hold in reserve as a cushion in case of a rough year or two. This subject was also addressed in the incorporation discussion below.

4. APT Committee Structure (Elizabeth Markovits)

- At last year's business meeting, we discussed outreach and agreed to present a report regarding efforts and strategies at this year's meeting. The report is that we haven't done much in the way of outreach.
- In addition to outreach, discussions of what APT can do to assist in the areas of professional development and pedagogy have repeatedly arisen, as has the possibility of some sort of APT publication(s).
- Solicitation of volunteers and request that those interested in serving as committee members or participating in outreach efforts make their willingness known to Andy Murphy or Liz Markovits.
- General consensus seemed to emerge around trying to have at least one member of the Governance Committee serve as liaison to each of these committees and that committee meetings would occur online (using Basecamp, as the Governance Committee has).
- Specific suggestions for committees to explore included using the APT website as a site for book reviews and/or as a site for commentaries about specific translations of canonical texts and the advantages and disadvantages of each, etc.; having people identify themselves as potential outside reviewers for departments and/or tenure/promotion.
- The Governance Committee noted that it had been discussing the creation of a Nominating Committee to ensure that the Governance Committee doesn't replicate itself when locating candidates to serve on the GC.
- Rather than committees, an array of individual liaisons might prove more effective at outreach. Dennis McEnerney noted that the Founding Committee of APT began with a small group that settled on the basic materials for the organization and then distributed those more broadly. A similar mechanism might be effective here

Motion to authorize the Governance Committee to form Nominating, Outreach, Professional Development, and Pedagogy ad hoc committees or to otherwise configure organizational mechanisms to address these areas.

Motion passed by acclamation

5. Presentation of New APT Logo

- Many kudos and thanks to Maurice Meilleur.

6. Discussion of Incorporation

- Dennis McEnerney described the history of APT's founding as fairly informal. Monies for the first conference went to Calvin College's political science department and then transferred to Colorado College when the conference was held there. When McEnerney moved to Colorado College, he arranged for APT to be under the umbrella of the Colorado College Philosophy Department for financial purposes. That has been the extent of our financial arrangements thus far.
- This approach has the advantage of being fairly easy and free. On the other hand, the current arrangement prohibits our taking donations and the lack of our own accounts means conference attendees can't pay registration fees online with credit cards.
- The interests of the organization might be best served through incorporation. Issues to be aware of concerning incorporation: likely to cost somewhere between \$500-\$1000; requires insurance; will need to hire an accountant to certify books and perform audit to verify that we are operating as a non-profit.

- Andrew Rehfeld observed that the question of incorporation is really a question of where we are as an organization. We're not a Mom & Pop organization any more and we should move to the next step of institutionalizing the association. Incorporation protects both the organization and the people handling the money. Rehfeld also noted that what we ought to do is a separate question from can and how should we do it.
- Liz Markovits noted that incorporation would enable us to solicit donations that would address the previously mentioned concerns about APT lacking a "cushion" in the event of unforeseen events.
- Ann Davies suggested that the GC also explore the possibility of an endowed fund.

Motion to authorize GC to proceed toward incorporation as quickly as is feasible.

Motion passed by acclamation.

7. Announcements (Andy Murphy, Liz Markovits, Darren Walhof)
 - Murphy reported that we have received official notice of the formation of Britain and Ireland Association for Political Thought. They appear to have been inspired by our example in some areas; their constitution and organizing principles were adopted from our own. We've agreed to publicize each other's information to our members.
 - Future sites: Reed in 2010, Notre Dame in 2011.
 - Always looking for future institutional hosts. Hosting entails having an APT member willing and able to be the contact person and host at that institution, willingness of the university to contribute circa \$10-20,000, and a setting that is conducive to people coming and staying with the group. An additional desiderata is the desire of the organization to hold conferences in different regions of the country.

Adjournment 1:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Alisa Rosenthal
Membership Secretary