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The APT Newsletter

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CO-FOUNDERS AND INTERESTED COLLEAGUES MEET AT THE MPSA

Emily Hauptmann and Dennis McEnerney, the co-founders of the Association, convened a small, informal meeting at Midwest Political Science Association Meeting in Chicago on Friday, 26 April 2002. Several colleagues attended, including Amy McCreedy of Bucknell University and Rob Martin of Hamilton College, both of whom serve on the APT Founding Committee. In addition, Andrew Seligsohn of Hartwick College and Simona Goi of Calvin College attended.

Emily and Dennis convened this meeting in order to plan the next stage in the Association's development. They asked members of the Founding Committee who were at the MPSA to attend, and they also asked a few other colleagues who had expressed interest in building a new political theory organization to come to the meeting.

Discussion focused on planning the next steps in the Association's development. The group agreed that APT should conduct a small-scale membership drive over the summer and fall; begin work on a first national conference to be held in the Fall of 2003; and prepare for a larger and more open informational meeting at the APSA convention in Boston this Fall.

SUMMER 2002 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The MPSA planning group decided to begin a small-scale membership drive over the summer. The aim of this drive is to contact a limited yet diverse group of political theorists who might be interested in the Association. Each person attending the MPSA planning meeting agreed to send e-mail messages to several political theorists who might be willing to help build an organization. The group agreed that, at this initial stage, it would be best to contact a limited number of political theory faculty, in part because of the group's lack of resources and in part because it was thought that engaging a small core of members might lead to more dedicated participation in building the Association.

The group also decided that, at this early stage in APT's development, it would be best to focus primarily on political science faculty in the United States who are at the early to middle points in their careers. The idea again was that limiting our focus to political scientists in the U.S. might allow us to develop a more cohesive core membership - though the longer-term aim would be to build an inclusive organization. At the same, the group also decided to make a concerted attempt to contact theorists who may represent some of the diversity of field. In particular, the group committed itself to attempting to attract participants who attended a wide array of graduate programs and whose teaching and research interests are similarly diverse.

Dennis McEnnerney and Emily Hauptmann agreed to draft a message briefly explaining APT's history and goals and inviting recipients to join. That message is currently being circulated among the colleagues who attended the MPSA planning meeting. Those colleagues, in turn, have agreed to send a version of that message to five to ten people who might have an interest in the organization, and to invite them to forward the message again to other interested parties.

Our hope to enroll at least 50 new members by the fall!

PLANNING FOR THE FIRST APT CONFERENCE

The MPSA planning group also discussed how and when to stage a first national conference. The group agreed that we should work toward a small first conference in the Fall of 2003. The group tentatively decided to plan the conference for early to mid October, in order to come after the APSA but before the NPSA and other meetings in early November.

The group also agreed, tentatively, that it would be best to hold a two-day Friday and Saturday conference, if possible at a college or university that would be willing to help sponsor the meetings. Emily Hauptmann presented two tentative budgets for a conference, and the group discussed the logistics of staging a national meeting.

No final decisions were made, but two participants said that they believed they might be able to gain support from their schools and that their schools may have appropriate facilities, as well as access to airports and hotels. It was agreed that they would explore these possibilities more over the summer, with the aim of having more definitive plans to announce at the APSA meeting in Boston, or soon thereafter.

Please stay tuned for further developments!

APSA INFORMATIONAL MEETING

The MPSA planning group also agreed that a follow-up meeting or meetings should be held at the APSA convention in Boston this fall. Emily Hauptmann and Dennis McEnnerney agreed to begin exploring the possibility of holding one or two meetings: another small planning meeting open to individuals who have joined APT or expressed interest in its formation, and a larger open meeting/reception to encourage others to join.

More information on the meeting or meetings will be forthcoming as the Fall approaches.

WEBSITE INFORMATION

Dennis McEnnerney reports that he has done little to develop the APT Gateway website since the Fall of 2001. The APT Gateway now contains pages presenting the APT Manifesto, the Association's history, membership information, and the on-line membership application form.

He hopes to begin developing the Member Resources section this coming fall, after returning from a research trip to France. That section will eventually contain copies of this Newsletter, as well as any

future editions of it; a password-protected membership list; and research and teaching resources, including on-line links to information about political theory on the worldwide web. How soon he will be able to get to these tasks is unclear.

Members should also feel free to report problems with the website or make suggestions by writing to the Association at:

apt@coloradocollege.edu

Over the course of the last year, a few problems have cropped up with the website -- mainly as a result of incomplete updates to the SUNY Oneonta server software. Also, one member reported that applications will not be processed without a middle initial, which causes a problem for individuals who have no middle name or don't use their middle name.

While it will not always be possible to correct such problems immediately (the middle name remains a problem, for instance), please do report any problems or suggestions. Eventually, we hope to be able to make the website easy to use and problem free, or at as easy to use and problem free as possible!

-Dennis McEnnerney & Emily Hauptmann, Co-Founders

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