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# The APT Newsletter

No. 2, September 2002

## THE APT BUSINESS MEETING, 31 AUGUST 2002

Report from the Association for Political Theory Business Meeting  
Held on August 31, 2002 at the APSA Annual Meeting  
Boston, Massachusetts

In attendance:

Emily Hauptmann, Western Michigan University, co-chair  
Dennis McEnerney, SUNY Oneonta, co-chair  
Simona Goi, Calvin College  
Steve Leonard, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
Rob Martin, Hamilton College  
Andrew Murphy, Christ College, Valparaiso University  
John Pottenger, University of Alabama in Huntsville  
Greg Streich, Central Michigan State University  
John Tambornino, Johns Hopkins University  
Ed Wingenbach, University of the Redlands  
Darren Walhof, Gustavus Adolphus College

Our meeting focused on planning our first conference, tentatively scheduled for October of 2003. We discussed three topics in particular:

1. The venue and schedule of a conference;
2. The call for papers;
3. The conference committee.

### THE VENUE AND SCHEDULE OF THE APT CONFERENCE

We discussed two possible sites for the conference:

1. Western Michigan University's Fetzer Center conference facilities in Kalamazo, MI
2. Calvin College's Prince Conference Center in Grand Rapids, MI

Given that the costs at these locations are roughly equal, we agreed that Calvin's conference center seemed the better option, principally because the center includes affordable accommodations for over 60 people. Many of those at the meeting thought having everyone stay at the same location close to where our sessions would be held would improve the quality of the conference. Simona Goi, who is a member of the Political Science department at Calvin, provided information about the new conference center and agreed to work with the center to reserve a weekend for our conference next fall. [Friday through Sunday, October 17-19, 2003, have now been reserved. You may learn

more about the conference center by visiting their website at <http://www.princecc.com>.]

Before voting to hold the conference at Calvin College, the group addressed one significant disadvantage, namely, that Calvin is a "dry" campus and that, consequently, no alcohol could be served during the conference. After some discussion, it was agreed that, although it was a disadvantage to be unable to serve alcohol during meals or at an evening reception, the Calvin alternative was an attractive one. It was agreed that the conference could arrange to hold a no-host reception at one of the brew pubs or restaurants in town.

The group also discussed and tentatively agreed upon a daily schedule for conference. Dennis McEnerney and Emily Hauptmann presented some alternative possibilities. It was agreed that the conference would take place on a Friday and Saturday. Assuming we have sufficient interest, approximately 10 paper sessions will be scheduled, with two sessions running concurrently throughout the days. In addition, there will be likely be some roundtable discussions, pedagogy workshops, and the like, which may not run concurrently with the paper sessions.

The program will begin with a lunch or coffee, probably early Friday afternoon. After perhaps two sessions, there will be a reception and dinner Friday night. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to encourage attendees to eat together the first night. Saturday, there would likely also be a simple breakfast and coffee in the morning, and perhaps a luncheon and a business meeting at the end of the day to assess the success of the conference and to see whether there is sentiment for a follow-up conference. We agreed that it would be a good idea to allow attendees to explore the restaurants of Grand Rapids on their own Saturday night. Some suggested, in addition, that a meeting - perhaps a business meeting - be scheduled on Sunday morning, in part to encourage participants to spend night and in part to justify staying Saturday night to college and university accounting offices.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

We then spent some time discussing how to structure our call for papers. We began by considering two options: an open call, inviting individual paper proposals; or a call that would invite the proposal of panels.

There was a lively discussion of the call for papers, with some arguing for an open call for papers on any topic in political theory and others favoring proposals for complete or partial panels on specific topics. It was agreed that the call should be open to individual papers, in part because we want APT to remain open to theorists embracing a variety of perspectives. However, the group also agreed that the conference committee should be allowed to encourage some proposals for papers reflecting on the current state of political theory, if the committee also made it clear that all topics in political theory would be considered for inclusion in the conference. It was further agreed that, given the limited size of the conference, complete panels should either be discouraged or limited to no more than 3 of ten possible panels.

We also discussed the possibility of inviting someone to serve as a keynote speaker, as well as whether we ought to depart from the way panels are structured at the APSA. We didn't reach a consensus on the keynote speaker issue. Some argued that a well-known keynote speaker would draw in participants, while others thought that keynote speakers both could prove divisive and could undermine one goal of the organization, namely creating space for less well-known scholars and teachers to participate. However, we agreed that we should proceed with other aspects of planning the conference and leave the debate over keynote speakers to a conference committee to decide.

Suggestions for departing from APSA panel structure discussed included:

1. Holding roundtables;
2. Having no more than two panels scheduled concurrently;
3. Requiring paper givers to submit their papers well before the conference;
4. Modifying or eliminating the role of discussant.

We agreed that it would be a good idea to hold roundtables and limit concurrent panels to two. We decided to leave the questions of requiring early submission of papers and eliminating discussants to the conference committee.

We then listed a number of journals in which we might place our call for papers.

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

We closed by discussing the responsibilities of the conference committee and asking for volunteers to serve on it.

The members of the committee will be primarily responsible for:

1. Producing or editing the call for papers in the next two months;
2. Distributing the call for papers by November 15;
3. Reading the proposals submitted [deadline for these: February 15];
4. Accepting or rejecting proposals, and forming panels by April 1st.

Because many of our members, as well as others who have expressed interest in APT, were not able to attend our meeting, we decided to limit ourselves to taking volunteers, some of whom agreed that they might step aside if others had a strong wish to join the committee. We don't want to leave out anyone who wants to help!

So far, the following group has volunteered to join the conference committee:

Simona Goi, Calvin College (on-site conference planning)  
 Emily Hauptmann, Western Michigan University  
 Stephen Leonard, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
 Dennis McEnnerney, SUNY Oneonta  
 Ed Wingenbach, University of the Redlands (Spring 2003 only)

Ideally, we still need two to three more people to volunteer to help with the work of this committee. If more than three wish to join, one or two of the volunteers above have agreed to step aside.

Please contact Dennis McEnnerney at [apt@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:apt@coloradocollege.edu) if you would like to join the conference committee!

## **UPDATE ON SUMMER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

The summer membership drive brought new members to APT from all across the country and from all ranks. We'd like to thank the members of our Founding Committee, as well the members who attained the meeting at MPSA convention last spring, for their help in recruiting new members.

A listing of the members who have agreed to allow their names to be released follows. Several other members have asked that their names be kept private and some members have not yet found their way into the database that produced this list, so this list is not complete.

Yet, it is clear word is getting out - encourage your friends and colleagues in political theory and related fields to consider joining us!

Elisabeth R. Anker, Graduate Student, UC Berkeley  
Ms. Patricia A. Boling, Associate Professor, Purdue University  
Wendy L. Brown, Professor, UC Berkeley  
William J. Chaloupka, Professor, Colorado State University  
Ms. Naomi Elin Choi, Graduate Student, UC Berkeley  
Dr. Tim J. Duvall, Assistant Professor, St. John's University  
Dan A. Engster, Assistant Professor, University of Texas at San Antonio  
Kennan Ferguson, Assistant Professor, University of South Florida  
Dr. Kathy E. Ferguson Professor, University of Hawaii  
Mr. Jesse R. Goldhammer, Lecturer/Instructor, Institute of Government Studies, U.C. Berkeley  
Ms. Emily Hauptmann, Associate Professor, Western Michigan University  
John R. LeBlanc, Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Tyler  
Elizabeth K. Markovits, Graduate Student, University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill  
Mr. Robert W.T. Martin, Assistant Professor, Hamilton College  
Dean P. Mathiowetz, Graduate Student, UC Berkeley  
Dennis McEnerney, Assistant Professor, State University of New York, Oneonta  
Andrew Rehfeld, Assistant Professor, Washington University in St. Louis  
Dan R. Sabia, Associate Professor, University of South Carolina  
Andrew Sabl, Assistant Professor, UCLA  
Andrew Seligsohn, Assistant Professor, Hartwick College  
Professor Simon A. Stow, Assistant Professor, The College of William & Mary  
Mr. Lon A. Troyer, Graduate Student, University of California at Berkeley  
Professor Darren R. Walhof, Assistant Professor, Gustavus Adolphus College  
Brian A. Weiner, Assistant Professor, University of San Francisco

**-Dennis McEnerney & Emily Hauptmann, Co-Founders**

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