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Ursula Vogel, University of Manchester

## New APSA Officers and Council Elected

During the Association's Annual Business Meeting, held this year during the Annual Meeting in Boston, the slate of officers and Council members put forward by the APSA Nominating Committee was unanimously accepted. The officers for 1998–99 are

**President:** Matthew Holden Jr., University of Virginia

**President-Elect:** Robert O. Keohane, Duke University

**Vice Presidents:** Jean Bethke Elshain, University of Chicago; Germaine A. Hoston, University of California, San Diego; Paul M. Sniderman, Stanford University

**Secretary:** Kay Lehman Schlozman, Boston College

**Treasurer:** Timothy E. Cook, Williams College

The newly elected members of the Council, APSA's governing body, are

Michael C. Dawson, University of Chicago

Luis Ricardo Fraga, Stanford University

Cynthia McClintock, George Washington University

Eileen L. McDonagh, Northeastern University

Nancy E. McGlen, Niagra University

Howard J. Silver, Consortium of Social Science Associations

James A. Stimson, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

J. Ann Tickner, University of Southern California.

## 1998 Annual Meeting Papers Now Available Online

All 1998 Annual Meeting paper authors were invited to submit their papers to PROceedings: Political Research Online, the online collection of APSA Annual Meeting papers and extended abstracts. More than 550 papers were submitted and are now available on the PROceedings web site (<http://PRO.harvard.edu>). The papers, which can be searched by title, author, or keyword, will remain online through August 1999, when the 1999 papers will be made available.

PROceedings, which is supported by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is a collaborative effort of APSA and Harvard University Library under the direction of William J. Ball of The College of New Jersey. The project aims to continue the annual meetings beyond their settings, to disseminate political science research more broadly and directly, to encourage the instructional use of recent research, and to facilitate individual and library access to the Annual Meeting papers.

Take the opportunity to view PROceedings (<http://PRO.harvard.edu>). If you have any questions or comments about the project, please write to [proceedings@apsanet.org](mailto:proceedings@apsanet.org).

The new Council members will serve through 2000.

## APSA Council Actions

The Council of the Association met on September 2, 1998, at the Sheraton Boston Hotel as part of the 1998 Annual Meeting in Boston. Council members

- Asked the Publications Committee to reconsider the issue of levying permission fees for noncommercial classroom use of APSA journal articles.
- Recommended the creation of an ad hoc committee to evaluate the discipline's relationship with the National Science Foundation.
- Approved a statement on confidentiality of sources and freedom to do research on democratic institutions to be distributed at the Hyde Park Session on the "Politics of Government-Funded Research." The statement was drafted by Ethics Committee Chair Matthew Moen, University of Maine, Charles Johnson, Texas A&M University, and Russell Newman, Tufts University, and approved by the Ethics Committee. The Council approved a resolution that treatment of the Candidate Emergence Study had violated current guidelines and extended Council support to the project's principal investigators, Sandy Maisel and Walter Stone. (This issue is dealt with in depth

in "The Profession" section of this issue of *PS*.)

- Approved appointments to the Ad Hoc Committee on Information Technology: Pippa Norris (chair), Harvard University; William Ball, The College of New Jersey; Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Ohio State University; and Stephen Weatherford, University of California, Santa Barbara.
- Approved revised language for *A Guide to Professional Ethics in Political Science* dealing with external reviews for tenure and promotion (see "APSA Guidelines on External Reviews Are Revised" in this issue of *PS*).
- Approved establishing formal liaison relationships with area studies groups for Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East, in addition to the ongoing relationship with the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies.
- Agreed to consider APSA's participation in the American Association for the Advancement of Science's "Science on the Mall" program.
- Endorsed the American Psychological Association's Decade of Behavior (2000–10) and approved APSA's participation in associated activities. The Decade of Behavior is an initiative aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the contributions of behavioral science research to issues of health, safety, and education.

- Paula McClain of the University of Virginia has been appointed to the National Advisory Board for the initiative.
- Approved the proposed budget for FY 98–99.
  - Approved new guidelines for re-

- imbursing travel costs for APSA committees and governance.
- Approved the Departmental Services Committee's plan to fund the production of a video on careers and the undergraduate study of political science.

- Approved a resolution signifying its appreciation of the benefits of the scholarly exchange between APSA and the Japanese Political Science Association and congratulating the JPSA on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

## APSA Guidelines on External Reviews Are Revised

The APSA Council approved major revisions in promotion and tenure guidelines proposed by the Committee on Professional Ethics, Rights and Freedoms. The changes in Section G of the *Guide to Professional Ethics in Political Science* deal with the solicitation and use of external letters in tenure and promotion decisions.

The Council adopted these changes after over four years of deliberation and following two surveys of the profession (see Kay Schlozman, "External Reviews in Tenure and Promotions Decisions: How Does the Process Work? How Should It?" *PS*, September 1998). The revised text is as follows (with new language appearing in italics):

### Section G: Promotion and Tenure

32.0 External reviews are governed by a triad of rights and obligations: those of the department conducting the review; those of the candidate under review; and those of the external reviewer. All three parties share certain values; these include a commitment to fairness, dispatch, and mutual respect. But obligations and rights are not the same for all parties; each may give these values differing weight, even conflicting interpretations.

Guidelines, necessarily, must concern general principles. Guidelines for external review are not intended to be and should not be read as a uniform code to be applied to all universities and colleges alike. Academic departments differ, for example, in educational mission, institutional resources, access to external reviewers and size as well as in the administrative and legal constraints under which they operate. The proper procedure for one department or institution may not be the same for others.

### Rights of the Candidate

32.1 Where external reviews are used in tenure and promotion decisions and if they are used in reappointment decisions, faculty members under review have a right to external reviews that are expert, disinterested, and timely.

### Obligations of the Department

32.2 Departments and universities have an obligation to select reviewers who have appropriate professional competence, and who would provide a fair assessment of the candidate.

32.3 Departments and uni-

versities are encouraged to ask candidates being reviewed to suggest names of external reviewers who know their work well, and to give the candidates under review an opportunity to call to the departments and universities' attention potential reviewers whom the candidate believes should be excluded on the grounds of personal bias.

32.4 Solicitation of outside letters of recommendation for promotion and tenure should always be phrased as an invitation recipients are free to reject. No presumption should be expressed that there is an obligation to perform service, but rather that it is a professional courtesy of assistance to the department making the request. Refusal to perform this service should not be regarded as a negative statement about the candidate.

32.5 Departments and universities should exercise restraint in soliciting external reviews because it imposes an obligation upon other scholars. Ordinarily, no more than six reviews should be solicited for promotion and/or tenure cases or senior appointments. No reviews should be solicited for decisions that do not warrant them (for example, in entry-level and adjunct appointments, renewals of junior appointments, and special increments at the senior level).

32.6 The department conducting an external review is ordinarily obliged: [i] to provide external reviewers a copy of the candidate's curriculum vita and the principal materials on which the assessment is to be based; [ii] to ensure external reviewers sufficient time for a competent and conscientious assessment, as a rule not less than six (6) weeks; [iii] to protect confidentiality to the extent legally possible; [iv] to state whether the assessment is a confidential one, and if not, the terms of departure from confidentiality; [v] to explain to external reviewers the relative importance of external reviews to the overall review process; and [vi] to inform the external reviewers of the final decision without elaborating on the reasons for the decision.

### Obligations of the External Reviewer

32.7 Once they assume responsibility for serving as a reviewer, external reviewers are ordinarily obliged: to make an assessment that is candid and fair, based solely on professionally relevant criteria and first-hand knowledge; [ii] to disclose to the department or institution conducting an external review any personal relationship with the candidate being evaluated; and [iii] to honor any deadline to which they have agreed.