

2001 Business Meeting Minutes

Minutes of 2001 Business Meeting

The RC28 Business Meeting commenced at 18:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 6 in the Costa Azahar room of the Parador Nacional de Jávea, Alicante Province, Spain. The minutes of the 2000 meeting had been published in the previous RC28 Newsletter. Corrections were solicited and duly made. No additional comments were made.

The treasury report was made by Chair Robert Agranoff. The committee's current dues payment steadily come in from members. A total of 37 of the 80+ members are currently paid. Total dues 1038 USD. The chair submitted a grant application to IPSA to support its activities and \$550 per year for two years was awarded, to offset conference costs and to pay for web development. In addition, Luis Moreno received an award of 150,000 ptas (approx \$900 US) from CSIC to pay for the Jávea Conference Costs. After all conference costs are paid the treasury is estimated to be at \$1700. A full report will be circulated to the officers and board in the next few months.

Maureen Covell, Simon Fraser University, Canada reported on IPSA Executive Committee activities, including their meeting in the Canaries the previous week. Of greatest importance is that Michael Stein, McMaster University, Canada, has been appointed Committee Liason with research committees. Michael is a member of RC28.

Uve Leonardy presented a report on his liason with practitioner organizations, particularly the Forum of Federations. He mentioned that all RC28 members should be receiving a complimentary copy of their periodical, Federations, and their upcoming conferences and handbook series. He also reported on the U.S. Council of State Governments, activities in federalism.

Next year's joint meeting with the IACFS in Innsbruck, Austria, November of 2002 was next discussed. It was a very lively discussion. The conference theme: "When is it appropriate for a federal/national government to intervene in the affairs of constituent governments to remedy human rights issues?" The suggestion was made by Larry Graham that the words "or accountable" be added after "appropriate." The group agreed. Next, the members convened suggested that RC28 members have a time set aside for its members to present papers on panels not on the theme, particularly related to its four working groups (see last newsletter). It was proposed that these panels could be during the day-long IACFS business meeting. Then the members reinforced the long-standing concern that joint meetings have not always been planned as equal partnerships. Feelings were expressed that without equity RC28 should not enter into such joint arrangements. Finally, it was decided that RC28 Chair Robert Agranoff and Program Chair Franz Gress explore these issues with IACFS President John Kincaid and host director Peter Bussjäger.

The newsletter was discussed and future features were announced. A plea was made for more news about members and volunteers were sought for future review essays.

Discussion ensued regarding publication of the Jávea conference papers. Luis Moreno will pursue a Spanish version, which will require seeking funding for a translation. Franz Gress will explore the English version, initially with publications chair Rudolph Hrbek.

The four study groups – supranational federalism, federalism and regionalism, intergovernmental and fiscal relations, and federal theory were discussed. It was agreed that these themes should be encouraged for the RC28 separate track at Innsbruck and should form the 2003 panels at Durban, South Africa. Another electronic "sign up" solicitation will go out and they will be activated in early 2002.

Finally, the possibility of RC28 participation in the RC34 "State of the Discipline" project was announced. This would involve a long term look at the status of federal studies. RC28 Chair Robert Agranoff has been asked to chair this effort, and if activated would be expected to continue beyond his term (2003). If there is "substantial interest by leading federalism scholars," Agranoff expressed willingness to carry this beyond the Durban World Congress, when a new chair is elected. More details later if the project goes forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.