

2002 Business Meeting Minutes

The RC28 Business Meeting opened at 18:00 on Friday, November 15 at the Institut für Öffentliches Recht, Finanzrecht und Politikwissenschaft at Innsbruck University, Innsbruck, Austria.

The minutes of the 2001 Meeting in Javea, Spain, as published in the newsletter (Vol. 16(2)) were read and approved. The Treasury report for 2001, as circulated to the executive committee, was distributed, reviewed and approved. The 2002 estimated Treasury report was revealed, along with 2002 meeting expenses. Nine members paid dues in 2002.

Reports on the four study committees and the State of the Discipline Project were solicited. The study committees were reported as inactive. The State of the Discipline Project was represented by four of the five members of its Steering Committee: Bob Agranoff, Franz Gress, John Kincaid, and Ron Watts. It was agreed that the highlight panel in Durban will not be possible due to scheduling conflicts on behalf of most panelists. Its rescheduling was delayed until further notice. A few more papers in addition to the current topics (development over time, theory, methodology, a critique of the subfield) will be solicited, e.g. intergovernmental relations, fiscal federalism, public policy, public/constitutional law. Finally, Bob Agranoff and Franz Gress agreed to seek additional foundation funding for this project.

Updating the Directory of Federalism Experts was next discussed. Several members suggested that this project is worthy but no one volunteered to organize it. It was then suggested that the Forum of Federations might want to take on this project. Ron Watts agreed to approach them.

The new IACFS every third year format, where RC28 offers some of its own panels while the IACFS directors are meeting, was discussed. Agreement was reached that providing an opportunity for non-theme panels for non IACFS directors is a good idea. Because of overlapping membership, simultaneous meetings excluded about one-third of the RC28 membership in attendance in Innsbruck from panel participation. The proposed solution for 2005 (next joint meeting in cycle) is that IPSA panel track continue but be held at another time. For example, perhaps the Directors meeting could be Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, the Joint Conference from mid-day Thursday to all day Friday and the RC28 panels on Saturday morning and afternoon. IACFS president John Kincaid agreed that this sequence might make the joint format work better. Finally, IACFS President and RC28 Executive Committee member John Kincaid was recognized for his diligent efforts in making the initial two track program work in Innsbruck.

The chair's report was announced as filed in newsletter Vol. 17 (1). Special recognition was given to Uwe Leonardy for his efforts in providing liaison with practitioner organizations, particularly the Forum of Federations (see his report in this issue on the St. Gallen Conference). Also saluted was the work of Franz Gress in organizing the Javea and Innsbruck IPSA programs.

It was also announced that Dirk Brand of South Africa will co-chair the 2003 World Congress program in Durban with Bob Agranoff. They will jointly organize the panels, recruit chairs and discussants.

The 2003 nominating committee was announced as comprising Lloyd Brown-John of Canada, Michael Burgess of U.K., and Uwe Leonardy of Germany. They will slate a new chair for 2003-2006, as well as formulate the other officers and executive committee. The state will be announced at the next business meeting in Durban.

The chair suggested that RC28 consider an awards program, to be offered at each World Congress business meeting. After some discussion, the members present agreed to move forward with a single award, either for career scholarship in comparative federalism or a venerable "landmark" book. A plaque will symbolize the award. The chair will appoint a three person selection committee from among the current Executive Committee for the first award. The final agenda item was a proposal to join the Federalism Report, a printed newsletter that is mailed to over 1800 patrons from the various organizations: ASPA Federalism Section, IACFS, libraries and many others. The cost is \$500.00 per year for two issues, four pages total. It was discussed as a vehicle for upcoming RC28 meeting announcements and to recruit new members. It would cross reference with the more extensive web-based newsletter. The members present thought this to be a good use of part of our IPSA operating grant. A motion made by Brown-John and seconded by Leslie was unanimous. The chair will supply initial copy by mid-December 2002.

With no more business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 19:05.