

## **RC 28 2008 Business Meeting**

RC 28 Business Meeting, to which all those at the Conference were invited, included 8 participants. The items of business were the following:

**Publication of the Berlin Conference Papers:** It was agreed that we should seek a European publisher, and that Sonja Walti should edit the volume. Among possible publishers mentioned were Nomos Publishers (Baden Baden, Germany), Barbara Budrich Publishers (Leverkusen Opladen, Germany), and Oxford University Press (series on Comparative Federalism edited by Michael Burgess).

**Election of a New RC 28 Executive:** The procedure for this electronic election in 2009 was briefly discussed. It is described in the current RC 28 bylaws, supplemented by proposed amendments to these bylaws included in this Newsletter for ratification in early 2009. A Nominating Committee, consisting of Uwe Leonardy (Chair), Bertus De Villiers and Robert Williams, was named by the current RC 28 executive and announced at the Business Meeting. It has since proposed a slate of new candidates, to be listed in the next issue of the Newsletter.

**Fiscal Federal and Constitutional Databank Projects:** A meeting in Berlin of Gisela Farber, Uwe Leonardy and Michael Stein prior to the Berlin Conference was held to discuss these projects. In the agreement, which was announced at the Business Meeting, it was decided that the Fiscal Federal project would be placed on the backburner until the spring of 2009, when Gisela returns from a several months visit to China. At that time, a renewed effort will be made to prepare and coordinate an application to the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) by the Speyer Institute of Federalism in Germany (which she directs) and the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations at Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, represented by one of our members, Christian Leuprecht. The Constitutional Databank project will be administered jointly and pursued immediately by Uwe Leonardy and Bertus De Villiers. They will investigate the possibility of receiving support from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Germany, the Tubingen Federalism Institute in Germany (directed by Tobias Schaechtelin) and the Law School in Perth, Australia.

**Recruitment Committee:** Michael Stein announced plans by RC 28 to establish a Recruitment Committee devoted particularly to increasing recruitment to our Research Committee of younger academics and officials specializing in federalism research or administration. He also communicated the Executive's selection of Rekha Saxena as the first Chair of this Committee. She will invite one representative on the Committee from each country that has a federal, quasi-federal or regionally devolved polity to lead the recruitment effort in that country. Among the countries that we hope to represent on this Committee are Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Nigeria, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the USA.

**Directory of Federalism Experts:** It was proposed that the Directory of Federalism Experts be expanded by asking Sebastian Baglioni, Assistant to the Chair, to contact Tobias Schaechtelin of the Tubingen Institute to enable our RC to have access to the already well-developed European Directory of Federalism Specialists, and from the personal websites of federalism academics and officials.

## **Recruitment Committee**

The Executive of IPSA RC 28 has announced the creation of a Recruitment Committee and the selection of its Chair, Rekha Saxena, Associate Professor at the Centre for Federal Studies, Hamdard University, New Delhi, India. Rekha is a distinguished academic specialist on Indian and Comparative Federalism.

The Recruitment Committee is designed to expand the membership of our RC to include more young specialists on comparative federalism and federations. We hope to persuade them to become dues-paying members of our Committee, and in that way enable them to benefit from and participate in the many activities and sources of information related to federalism that our Committee organizes and provides.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our Recruitment Committee and/or of RC 28, we urge you to send an email reply to either Rekha Saxena or to Sebastian Baglioni, Assistant to the Chair (or both), at their email addresses listed below. The cost of membership is only US \$45 for 3 years, or US \$15 per year. The RC 28 website at <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/ipsarc28> provides detailed information on how to join this organization, and an electronic form enabling you to do so by means of the credit card payment system known as PayPal. Alternatively, you can forward a cheque in the amount of US \$45 made out to "The Comparative Federalism and Federation Research Committee/Michael Stein".

Finally, if you are able to recommend other specialists on federalism for membership on this Recruitment Committee and/or as ordinary members of RC 28 (they need not be members of IPSA itself), please contact Rekha and/or Sebastian.

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