

RC28 Business Meeting

MINUTES of the BUSINESS MEETING

RC 28: The Research Committee on Comparative Federalism and Federations, International Political Science Association

Date: September 17, 2010

Location: Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center
The State University of New Jersey, Rutgers, Camden Campus

Conference Context: "Federalism and the Global Financial Crisis: Impacts and Responses." A Joint Conference of RC-28 and the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies. Hosted by The Center for State Constitutional Studies of Rutgers University-Camden and the Center for Study of Federalism at the Robert B. and Helen S. Meyner Center for the Study of State and Local Government at Lafayette College.

Members Present:

Sonja Walti, American University, US, walti@american.edu
Wolfgang Renzsch, University of Magdeburg, Germany, renzsch@ovgu.de
Bob Williams, Rutgers Law School, US, rhw@camden.rutgers.edu
Tom Lancaster, Emory University, US, polstdl@emory.edu
John Kincaid, Lafayette College, US, meynerc@lafayette.edu
Gisela Faerber, DHV Speyer, Germany, faerber@dhv-speyer.de
Ronald Watts, Queen's University, Canada, rlw@queensu.ca
Doug Brown, St. Francis Xavier University, dbrown@stfx.ca
Elizabeth Alber, ealber@eurac.edu
Alice Valdesalici, alice.valdesalici@eurac.edu
J. Isawa Elaigwu, elaigwu2033@yahoo.com

Agenda Items

1. Opening: Sonja Walti, serving as substitute chair for Michael Stein, called the meeting to order at 1:13 P.M.
2. Financial Report given by Wolfgang Renzsch.
Total Expenditures: July 7, 2009-September 1, 2010: CDN \$833.40
Revenues: July 2009-September 2010: CDN \$841.60
Current Balance: CDN \$1021.85
Discussion: RC-28's account is low, doesn't receive money from IPSA, low membership, and need to have members pay.
Decision Taken: RC 28 members voted in favour of adopting a more pro-active policy that will remind members that their dues have lapsed (e.g. by sending them personalized individualized letters). They also voted in favour of creating a reasonable "life-time membership" fee, based on "best practices" experiences in other academic associations such as the American Political Science Association.
RC-28's Executive Committee was charged with fine tuning and implementing this new policy. Approved by a unanimous vote.
3. Recruitment of New Members: Discussion
 - a. Don't need to be an IPSA member to join RC 28.
 - b. Discussion and approval of "Student Memberships" at \$30 for three years rather than the regular membership of \$45 for three years.
4. Discussion: Conferences (RC 28 Participation and Business Meetings)
 - a. Past Conferences: Berlin, Germany (2008), Santiago, Chile (2009).
 - b. Proposed Schedule, Future Conferences: RC-28 Business Meetings to be held

August, 2011: Reykjavik, Iceland, ECPR.

July 2012: Madrid, Spain, IPSA World Congress

2013: New Delhi, India

2014: Joint Conference with IACFS (in 2013 if New Delhi can't be realized.)

General discussion about format of conferences, specifically those with IACFS. In terms of timing, ideally to be held once every three years. Regarding format, current joint conference in Philadelphia considered a good model.

c. Other conferences announced, in which RC-28 members encouraged to participate:

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 5th triennial international conference on federalism, December 16-18, 2010; Sao Paulo, Brazil IPSA Conference with the ECPR, February 16-19, 2011.

5. Discussion: Publications and Publication Outlets

a. Plan for past and future conferences? General consensus to approach case-by-case, with encouragement for the local organizer.

b. Discussion of "working paper model" for RC-28 website.

6. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Thomas D. Lancaster

Emory University

October 7, 2010