

RC28 Business Meeting, 23 July 2018, Minutes

Present: AJ Brown, Régis Dandoy, Paolo Dardanelli, Soeren Keil, John Kincaid, Tom Lancaster, Wolfgang Renzsch, Arjan Schakel, Johanna Schnabel, Carol Weissert (members); Elisabeth Alber, Eva Maria Belser, Jacob Deem, Troy Smith, Nico Steytler, Rubén Tamboleo, Satoshi Tanaka (non-members)

RC28 Chair **Paolo Dardanelli** called the meeting to order at 19:32 hrs.

After the formalities, the chair gave his report emphasising the active role of the RC at the IPSA World Congress 2018. With nine single and co-sponsored panels, RC28 was one of the most active RCs at the WC. He also reported about conferences RC28 co-sponsored in the previous year. Thanks were recorded to Tom Lancaster and Paolo Dardanelli for their work organising the RC28 section of the World Congress, and to Carol Weissert and Wolfgang Renzsch for organising co-sponsored panels at the APSA and ECPR 2017 conferences, respectively.

In the next year, RC28 will cooperate with RC13, RC14, RC 44 and RC50 for a conference in Sarajevo on “Diversity and Democratic Governance: Legacies of the Past, Present Challenges, and Future Directions?”, 12-15 June 2019. Proposals for contributions are encouraged.

RC28 will also co-sponsor a section of the 4th International Conference on Public Policy, taking place from 26-28 June 2019 in Montréal. Members are also encouraged to contribute to this conference.

Additionally, RC28 will seek to co-sponsor panels at the 2019 ECPR General Conference and APSA Annual Meeting.

The topic “membership” and “treasury” were discussed jointly. The chair outlined the good financial situation of the RC – income from membership fees has increased, while expenditures are very low. Given this background the question was raised whether or not the membership fee (US\$20/year for standard members) should be lowered. The current level of the membership fee was considered a barrier against attracting additional members, especially from lower-income countries. It was mentioned that the standing group of the ECPR does not charge any membership fees. The meeting decided by majority vote to reduce all fees by 50% as a first step. Thanks were recorded to Soeren Keil, Carol Weissert and Paolo Dardanelli for their efforts in revenue raising and their stewardship of the RC28 treasury.

The chair reported that the travel grant offered to attend the WC had no takers. After discussion, it was decided to make the travel grant cover a percentage of a recipient’s travel costs rather than a fixed amount.

Further discussions addressed the communication of the RC – website and twitter –, the Publius Distinguished Scholar Award which was given this year to **Arthur Benz** who regrettably could not attend himself, relations with the ECPR and other scholarly networks, and the next board elections which will be held in 2020. Several members of the board are due to step down, including the chair, and members are encouraged to put themselves forward to serve on the board. Thanks were

recorded to the Centre for the Study of Federalism (CSF), represented by John Kincaid, for their support of the Publius award.

Participants thanked again the chair and the other members of the board for their endeavours.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:30 hrs.

Submitted by **Wolfgang Renzsch**, RC28 Secretary

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