Report: APLS Council Meeting, 1987

The following are the minutes of the Council Meeting of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences and the APSA Organized Section on Politics and the Life Sciences, September 3, 1987, Chicago.

Agenda Items

1. The minutes of the Council meeting of August 28, 1986 were approved.

2. Robert Blank reported on the first graduate student paper competition. The winner was Arthur Joyce of Rutgers University for his paper entitled: "The Nuclear Arms Race: An Evolutionary Perspective." The second annual competition was announced and plans for publicizing the award in various professional publications were discussed.

Glendon Schubert was nominated to join the evaluation committee for the graduate student paper competition. The nomination was seconded and unanimously approved by the Council.

3. Thomas Wiegele, Executive Director, reported on the December 1986 meeting of the International Social Science Council at which the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences was unanimously approved as an associate member.

4. Denise Baer was nominated as vice-chair for the 1988 APLS program at the American Political Science Association meetings. The nomination was seconded and unanimously approved. The vice-chair becomes the program chair in the following year to manage the 1989 APLS program.

5. James Schubert presented a progress report on the proposal for summer workshops/seminars in biopolitics. Tentative dates were discussed; J. Schubert will continue discussions with Wiegele and others to determine whether the project is feasible for summer, 1988.

6. Roger Masters reported that plans for a Dartmouth conference on ethology and politics were currently "on hold."

7. Wiegele provided the Association financial report. The Lilly grant has expired, and the promotional activities it supported will cease.

8. The desirability of maintaining a balance between biobehavioral and biopolicy orientations on the APLS program was discussed.

9. Elliott White reported on APLS representatives in state/regional associations. Fred Kort serves in the Northeast, Jack O'Neill at the Western, and Kent Oots for the Midwest. An individual is being sought for the Southern Political Science Association.

10. A request by Hiram Caton that APLS publish his bibliography was declined.

11. Election of officers for 1987-89 was discussed. The bylaws of the Association do not specify Council election procedures. It was agreed to conduct elections by nomination within the Council for 1987-89, and that the new officers would constitute a subcommittee to draft procedures for the Council to consider at its next meeting.

Glendon Schubert urged rotation of officers among Council members.

Nomination for officers were taken and paper balloting held. James Schubert was elected chair, Carol Barner-Barry was elected vice-chair, and Odelia Funke was elected as recording secretary.

New Business

12. Vincent Falger's letter expressing regrets about not being able to attend the 1987 meetings was conveyed to the Council.

13. It was proposed that APLS investigate the possibility of having a table/display for the Association at the 1988 APSA meeting in Washington, D. C. Odelia Funke will investigate.

M. Watts
Recording Secretary
Report: APLS Business Meeting, 1987

The following are the minutes of the Business Meeting of the
Association for Politics and the Life Sciences and the
APLS Organized Section on
Politics and the Life Sciences, September 4, 1987, Chicago.

1. The minutes of August 28, 1986 were approved.

2. Chair Albert Somit reported on the election of Council offi-
cers from the September 3, 1986 meetings. Serving for
two-year terms 1987-89 will be: James Schubert, chair;
Carol Barner-Barry, vice-chair; Odelia Funke, recording sec-

The new officers will ap-
point a subcommittee to study procedures for subsequent elections.

3. Thomas Wiegele provided the Association’s financial re-
port.

4. The balance between bi-
behavior and biopolicy ori-
tinations on APLS programs was discussed.

5. It was announced that
APLS panel members are eli-
gible to make submissions for
the Pi Sigma Alpha award for best convention paper.

Under 1988 APSA rules the
total number of panels offered
will be reduced about one-fifth
from the approximately 600 of-
fered in 1987. This suggests
six or seven panels for APLS.
APLS program participants
are restricted to two panel ap-
pearances and the program and panel chairs are asked to
observe this policy.

6. The APLS award for the
best graduate student paper
in biopolitics was presented
to Arthur Joyce of Rutgers
University.

New Business
7. Somit discussed the IPSA
Congress which will overlap
next year with the APLS meet-
ings in Washington, D.C.

The Research Committee
on Biology and Politics will
present panels on biopolitics
and gender (M. Watts, chair),
AIDS (R. Blank, chair), and
research in progress (A.
Somit, chair).

8. Roger Masters reported on
the work of the Gruter Insti-
tute and suggested that inter-
ested members contact him
for further information.

9. Somit reported on the IPSA
Biopolitics meeting in Warsaw
in June 1987, sponsored in
Poland by Jerzy Wiatr. There
was a subsequent meeting on
“Legitimizing Democracy”
hosted by Rudolf Wildem-
mann in Germany (attended
by Funke, LaPonce, Masters,
Peterson, Schubert, and
Somit, among others from Eu-

10. The Association ex-
pressed its appreciation to
John Wahlke for his role in the
development of biopolitics,
and wished him well in his
coming retirement.

M. Watts
Recording Secretary

Research in Biopolitics

JAI Press has begun a new
annual publication series, Re-
search in Biopolitics. The se-
ries will publish both short
and book-length manuscripts
on the relationship between
biology and politics. Editors
for the series are Albert Somit
and Steven A. Peterson.

Subjects that are eligible for
this series include (but are not
limited to) biobehavioral ap-

taches to the study of polit-
ics, biotechnology, biology
and public policy, and biologi-
cally derived research tech-
iques. Empirical studies are
especially welcome.

Manuscripts or prospectives
should be sent to either
Albert Somit, Distinguished
Service Professor, Southern Il-
ninois University, Carbondale,
Illinois 62901, or; Steven A.
Petersen, Division of Social
Sciences, Alfred University,
Alfred, New York 14802.

Biotechnologies
Project

The Biotechnologies Project
sponsored by the Centre for
Applied Studies in Interna-
tional Negotiations (CASIN) is
composed of three major sec-
tions.

The first section is a review
of biotechnology programs
sponsored by international
organizations. Along with a his-
tory of these programs, this
section identifies contact per-
sons and provides a list of
publications and meetings.

The second section reviews
major non-governmental or-
ganizations (NGOs) and lists
staff, contact persons, and se-
lected networks of organiza-
tions.

The final section offers an
annotated bibliography of the
biotechnology literature pub-
lished by NGOs and individu-
als. Major university programs
are also listed.

For further information,
write to the Centre for Applied
Studies in International Negoi-
tiations, 11a, avenue de la
Paix, 1202 Geneva, Switzer-
land.

Conference on Politics
and Human Nature

The Tutzin Academy for Po-
itical Education, located near
Munich, Federal Republic of
Germany, will hold a confer-
ence on “Politics and Human
Nature: Biocultural Ap-
The conference will be conducted in German. Further information can be obtained by writing to Prof. Dr. Heiner Flohr, Universität Düsseldorf, Sozialwissenschaftliches Institut, Politikwissenschaft 1, Universitätsstrasse 1, 4000 Düsseldorf 1, FRG.