APT Business Meeting  
Sunday, 31 October 2004, 8:30 – 10:15 a.m.  
Le Baron Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado

AGENDA

1. Presentation and discussion of the draft constitution (see appendix), including:
   a. A motion and vote for adoption, if and when appropriate.
   b. (Re)appointment of any willing members of the present Governance Committee
      until the procedures of the Constitution, if adopted, can be brought into effect.

2. Discussion of future conference sites.

3. Nominations for the Program Committee.

4. Review of the 2004 Conference, and recommendations for managing future
   conferences, including:
   a. The pre-circulation/on-line archive requirement, and recommendations for similar
      future requirements, if any.
   b. Consideration of whether to work with the APSA's conference paper archive, Prol.

5. Consideration of whether there is sufficient interest to appoint a committee to
   investigate whether APT should explore the possibility of publishing a journal; and, if so, taking
   nominations for a committee.

6. Other business

APPENDIX

Draft Constitution for the Association for Political Theory

Article I: Name and Purpose

1. The name of this society shall be the Association for Political Theory.

2. The purpose of this association shall be to promote the study of political theory and
   political philosophy in North America. Toward that end, the Association seeks to engage
   all the various traditions and approaches to political thought and philosophy. More
   specifically, the Association seeks to advance scholarly interaction, collaboration, and
   debate among political theorists; to support teaching, research, and publishing in political
   theory, political philosophy, and related forms of interdisciplinary studies; to organize
   conferences devoted to political thought; and to promote political theory in the academy.

3. The Association is formed exclusively for educational and scientific purposes as
   described under the appropriate sections of the Internal Revenue Code of the United
   States of America and shall meet the requirements for such organizations set forth by that
   Code.

Article II: Membership

1. Membership shall be open to persons interested in furthering the purposes of the
   Association and in participating in its activities, including college and university faculty,
   graduate students, and independent scholars and researchers with an interest in political
   thought from all disciplines.

Article III: Officers and Committees

1. The Association shall have the following officers: a Governance Committee Chair, two
   Executive Co-Directors, and a Secretary-Treasurer.
   a. The Governance Committee Chair shall be responsible for convending and
      directing meetings of the Governance Committee, for communicating
      decisions of the Governance Committee to the membership, and for
      presiding over the business meeting.
   b. The Executive Directors shall be responsible for implementing the
      decisions of the Governance Committee; and corresponding with scholarly
      societies, associations, and related groups on behalf of the Association.
      The terms of the Executive Directors shall normally be staggered.
   c. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping minutes of all
      meetings, for recording decisions of the membership and Governance
      Committee regarding association policies, and for the collection and
      disbursement of all monies, at the direction of the governance committee.
      Each officer shall be limited to no more than two (2) consecutive terms.

2. The Governance Committee shall consist of the four officers and three at-large
   members, all of whose terms shall typically be staggered. Upon formation, the
   Governance Committee shall select a Chair from among its at-large membership. The
   terms of all members shall be three years, and no member shall serve more than two (2)
   consecutive terms as an at-large member of the Governance Committee. A majority of
   the Governance Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and
   decisions shall be made by majority vote of said quorum.

3. Officers and Committee Members may be removed from office at any time for failure
   to carry out their responsibilities or for disrupting or otherwise impeding the work of the
   Association. Removal from office shall follow only upon a unanimous vote of all
   members of the Governance Committee (excluding the person being removed, if a
   member of that Committee).
4. Association officers and at-large members of the Governance Committee (with the exception of the representative elected by the previous year’s Program Committee, whose election is described in Section III, no. 5, below) shall be elected by the membership at the business meetings. The Governance Committee shall have the responsibility of nominating at least one candidate for each officer position and for each at-large position that must be filled in a given election. The process shall be as follows:

a. By April 1, for positions to be elected at the following fall’s business meeting, the Governance Committee shall inform all Association members of which positions need to be filled and invite members to nominate themselves or others.

b. From those nominations the Governance Committee shall propose a slate of candidates to the Association membership by May 1; in finalizing such a slate, the committee shall attempt to ensure that nominations represent the diversity of the association and the academy more generally.

c. In addition, candidates may be nominated, either by a petition signed by 25 members at least one month prior to the business meeting, or by nomination and seconding from the floor at the business meeting itself. At all stages of the nomination process, members may nominate themselves.

5. A seventh member of the Governance Committee shall be elected by a majority of the previous year’s Program Committee to serve a one-year term on the Governance Committee. No continuing member of the Program Committee may serve in this capacity as a member of the Governance Committee for more than three consecutive one-year terms.

6. In the event that any office or Governance Committee position becomes vacant for any reason, the Governance Committee shall appoint a temporary replacement from among the general membership of the Association. In the event that the office of Governance Committee Chair becomes vacant for any reason, the Governance Committee shall select a temporary Chair from among its membership. All such temporary appointments shall serve until the next election.

7. The Governance Committee shall have the authority and responsibility to oversee the administration of all aspects of the Association, including:

   a) administering policies concerning the Association’s publications and other association business
   b) fostering affiliations with other learned societies
   c) collecting and disbursing funds acquired from dues, publications, etc.
   d) nominating candidates for the Governance Committee
   e) creating other ad hoc or standing committees as necessary
   f) communicating with members through newsletters, etc.
   g) developing guidelines and requirements for membership in the Association

8. The Governance Committee may make decisions on behalf of the Association regarding issues requiring resolution that arise between business meetings. The Executive Directors shall communicate any such decisions to the Association’s membership within one month.

9. A Program Committee shall oversee all aspects of the Association’s conference: location selection, planning, advertising, solicitation of proposals, and decisions regarding inclusion and participation. Nominations for the following year’s Program Committee shall be solicited at each business meeting and from the membership of the Association at large; members may self-nominate. The Executive Directors shall appoint the Program Committee within one month after the conclusion of the business meeting. The Committee shall normally include, but not be limited to, at least one graduate student, at least two senior scholars (Associate or Full Professor or equivalent), and at least one junior scholar (Assistant Professor or equivalent). No one shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms on the Program Committee.

Article IV: Amendments

1. Recommendations for amendments to this constitution may be submitted by any member of the Association at any time to the Governance Committee Chair, who may or may not submit the matter at any time to the whole Committee for consideration. Recommendations for amendments may also be submitted by petition of 25 or more members to the Committee as a whole. In order to be considered at that year’s business meeting, such petitions must be submitted to one of the Executive Directors no later than April 1st, whereupon such petitions shall be forwarded immediately to all members of the Governance Committee for consideration as a potential ballot issue.

2. The Governance Committee shall decide whether to propose any amendments it receives to the Association. The Committee shall report its decision (to recommend or reject) on all proposed amendments to the membership no later than May 1st (along with its list of nominations of Officers and Governance Committee members). Any recommended amendment by petition that the Governance Committee decides not to propose to the membership may be added to the ballot at the business meeting by petition if that petition is signed by at least 10% of the total Association membership. Such petitions must be presented to the Governance Committee Chair no later than one month prior to the business meeting.

3. In order for the Constitution to be amended, the proposed amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the members attending the business meeting of the Association at which the amendment appears on the ballot.

Article V: Ratification

1. This Constitution shall take effect upon ratification by a two-thirds majority vote of the members attending the next business meeting of the Association.