

**PROPOSED MOTIONS FOR THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
ATLANTIC PROVINCES POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (APPSA)
UNIVERSITÉ MONCTON
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017**

BACKGROUND

Preliminary discussion about the following matters occurred at a roundtable titled “The Future of Canadian Political Science Journals and Associations” held June 1, 2017 at the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) meetings at Ryerson University. A follow-up roundtable will be held at the 2017 APPSA conference. Considerable consultation has occurred in preparing the following information.

Context: Canadian Political Science Associations

- The Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) is a national association with an administrative office in Ottawa. The Société québécoise de science politique (SQSP) is also national. Regional associations now include the British Columbia Political Science Association (BCPSA), Prairies Political Science Association (PPSA), and APPSA. The CPSA conducts joint activities with the SQSP, but not with the others. There is no Ontario political science association.

Context: Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association

- APPSA holds its annual conference each Fall, normally in October. The host institution rotates throughout the Atlantic region. The incoming conference coordinator notionally becomes the president of the association for a year. It is a caretaker position because no constitution is observed, and thus there is no association executive or institutional infrastructure.
- The best and worst aspects of APPSA are related to its informal nature. It has a friendly welcoming culture, there is a town-hall democratic style, and conference organizers have considerable autonomy. Organizing a conference is the exclusive function, a task that is unnecessarily complicated for the convenor. There is no secretariat; no centralized financial structure or common bank account; no membership fees (e.g., for conference coordination, website development, graduate student support); no membership list (e.g., for communications); no mandated financial transparency; limited institutional memory; no historical document centre (notwithstanding <https://atlanticprovspolsciassociation.com> which is maintained by Memorial University); no AGM minutes; and no list of past presidents, conference organizers or book prize winners. The host venue tends to not be publicly known until less than 6 months beforehand, which inhibits planning when academics/students prepare grant proposals, schedule research papers, develop travel itineraries and allocate their limited conference budget funds.
- Many Atlantic region universities are small. The ability and interest of faculty members to operate a formalized organization is unclear. It may not be viable to do so in a sustained manner.
- It is generally understood that anyone present at the APPSA AGM is eligible to vote.

Context: Canadian Political Science Journals

- The *Canadian Journal of Political Science* (CJPS)* is a national journal that is produced jointly by the CPSA and the SQSP. The SQSP has since created *Politique et Sociétés*. The three regional associations (BCPSA, PPSA, APPSA) have created the *Canadian Political Science Review* (CPSR).
- The *CPSR* fills an important gap in Canadian political science research and teaching that is not filled by the CJPS or other journals. The *CPSR*'s stated focus is as “an electronic review of political science research undertaken by Canadians or about Canada. It invites manuscripts that address any issue of interest to political scientists and especially to its membership in the British Columbia and Prairie Provinces' Political Studies Associations and the Atlantic Provinces Political Science Association.” By comparison the *CJPS* is not concerned exclusively with Canadian politics or governance.
- Both the *CJPS* and *CPSR* are confronted with serious challenges in a digital space; on this, see “Journal Publishing and Marketing in an Age of Digital Media, Open Access and Impact Factors” in *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 50(1): 77-95. Among the challenges faced by the *CPSR* is that its online interface is outdated, it is not ranked in impact factor calculations, it is taken less seriously by promotion and tenure committees, and it is significantly under-resourced. The *CPSR* is mostly operated through the University of Northern British Columbia. There have been problems with the intended rotation of management. In the past, APPSA was unable to manage the journal, and for a brief period submissions were being submitted but not reviewed or published. The work reverted back to personnel at UNBC, who are overstretched in their current capacity to manage the journal.
- The BCPSA, PPSA and APPSA have no formal role with the *CJPS*; the CPSA has no formal role with the *CPSR*. Sharing labour and infrastructure should be explored while maintaining separate purposes.
- The next competition for SSHRC journal funding will be held in 2018.
- Funding to facilitate a special discussion about the journals could be sought by applying for a SSHRC Connection Grant by February 1, May 1, August 1 or November 1 – but this should not be rushed. See http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/connection_grants-subventions_connexion-eng.aspx

*officially known as the *Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue canadienne de science politique*

Issue	Proposed Motions for the 2017 APPSA Annual Meeting
<p>APPSA lacks a clear governance structure and permanent executive</p>	<p>Motion #1: Be it resolved that an APPSA constitutional committee be formed with the authority to create an association constitution that shall be in effect after broad consultation with Atlantic provinces’ political science departments and which shall report no later than December 2017. This should include exploring whether a host institution in an Atlantic province should be responsible for general administration of APPSA and exploring the viability of a permanent financial structure.</p> <p>Motion #2: Be it resolved that the APPSA constitutional committee shall cease to exist as of January 1, 2018 and its members shall fill executive positions on an interim basis until October 2018.</p> <p>Motion #3: Be it resolved that the APPSA constitution shall be subject to ratification at the October 2018 meeting of APPSA at which time a permanent executive shall be elected.</p>
<p>APPSA lacks connectivity with other regional associations and the CPSA</p>	<p>Motion #4: Be it resolved that the APPSA interim executive should initiate conversation with other regional associations about approaching the CPSA to create <i>ex officio</i> positions on the CPSA board of directors for elected presidents of the four regional associations. (note: to offset this a lower number of general directors on the CPSA board could be considered)</p> <p>Motion #5: Be it resolved that the APPSA interim executive should ask the CPSA to immediately, meaningfully and permanently profile the regional associations on the CPSA website.</p>
<p>The <i>CPSR</i> lacks infrastructure and institutional support; there is no involvement of the CPSA in the <i>CPSR</i>; only the Quebec association has a role in the <i>CJPS</i></p>	<p>Motion #6: Be it resolved that the APPSA interim executive should initiate conversation with the editorial team of the <i>CPSR</i>, and then the regional associations, to explore the viability of a formal connection between the <i>CPSR</i> and the CPSA in order to improve institutional supports while preserving the <i>CPSR</i>’s purpose. This might result in a joint application for a SSHRC Connection Grant being submitted.</p> <p>Motion #7: Be it resolved that at the 2018 APPSA meeting, and provided that institutional supports are in place including support from the CPSA, the APPSA executive should formally address the viability of the Atlantic region taking its turn managing the <i>CPSR</i>.</p>
<p>Items emerging from APPSA + reconciling matters in “Journal Publishing and Marketing in an Age of Digital Media, Open Access and Impact Factors”</p>	<p>Motion #8: Be it resolved that a CPSA director from the Atlantic region should, at the earliest opportunity, move at a meeting of the CPSA board that a task force be created to look into problems confronting journals in Canadian political science (see <i>Canadian Journal of Political Science</i> 50,1: 77-95)</p>