

# **Minutes of the RCLS Business Meeting on 15 July 2009 at the IPSA World Congress in Santiago de Chile**

## **1. Reports on Past Activities**

Werner J. Patzelt as the acting RCLS Co-Chair regretted that, for the first time in many years, David Olson – former co-chair of RCLS – could not make it to the business meeting. In addition he regretted that during the last two years no contact was possible with Ron Weber, the other co-chair of RCLS, elected in Fukuoka in 2006. Then, Werner reported on the RCLS conference activities since the last official RCLS business meeting in Fukuoka (2006). They included ...

- a conference co-sponsored with the World Bank at Albany on Legislative Oversight and Budgeting (2007)
- active involvement in the IPSA meeting in Montreal on “International Political Science: New Theoretical and Regional Perspectives,” (2008),
- RCLS conference in Dresden (2008; see <http://rc08.ipsa.org/pages/Past-Activities>),
- the panels organized during the IPSA World Congress in Santiago (2009).

The Albany meeting proved to be particularly useful as it brought together scholars and practitioners from various institutions working to foster democratic development around the globe. The Dresden meeting served, inter alia, to take the intense work of RCLS on post-communist parliaments further and to prepare a collective volume to be co-edited by David Olson and Gabriella Ilonszki (first to be published as a Special Issue of JLS).

Werner pointed out that after solving some technical problems the RCLS web site had gone online in June. He appealed to all RCLS members to make extensive use of it as a platform for exchange and for posting relevant information on upcoming conferences, new publications, and research projects related to legislative research – just as papers and pictures from previous RCLS activities (IPSA announced to review RCs’ web sites...). The web site was kindly set up by Erik Fritzsche, a PhD student from Dresden, who also serves as webmaster. All relevant information should be sent directly to him: **erik@fritzsche-net.de**

Ron Hedlund as the acting RCLS Program Chair reported on problems with the Montreal conference when the RC was informed about the deadline for proposals

much too late. The respective paper by Ron, Werner and David is available on the RC's web site: [www.rcls-ipsa.org](http://www.rcls-ipsa.org). At the 21<sup>st</sup> IPSA World Congress in Santiago four RC panels were organized all of which attracted a respectable audience. In addition, three Special Session panels included papers proposed to RCLS. Ron succeeded in getting all RCLS related papers accepted. He referred to technical problems with uploading papers on the Congress web site (faced by many of us) and some last minute changes to the program which gave him a hard job as program chair. He expressed his hope that the next program chair will face less organizational challenges.

Edward Schneier as acting RCLS treasurer reported on the RC's financial situation. After some problems with the funding of the Albany conference there are now 1.060 \$ on the account. This money might be (partly) used for a RCLS conference in Missouri (most probably) in 2011.

## **2. Elections of Co-Chairs, Program Chair, Treasurer and Members of the Executive Committee**

Werner J. Patzelt and Peverill Squire were elected unanimously as Co-Chairs of RCLS for the period 2009 to 2012. Zdenka Mansfeldová was elected as the Program Chair for that period, and Edward Schneier got re-appointed as the RCLS Treasurer. All of the above happily accepted their election. In addition to them, the Executive Committee of the RC was elected. It now consists of the following members, who had agreed to run and to accept possible election before the business meeting:

Louise Davidson-Schmich, University of Miami  
Michael Edinger, University of Jena  
Omer Genckaya, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey  
Keith Hamm, Rice University  
Reuven Hazan, Hebrew University  
Ron Hedlund, Northeastern University, Boston  
Allan Kornberg, Duke University (Founding Member)  
Irina Khmelko, Georgia Southern University  
Cristina Leston-Bandeira, University of Hull  
Irmina Matonyte, Institute for Social Research, Vilnius, Lithuania  
Michael Mezey, Depaul University  
Robert Nakamura, Center for Legislative Development at Albany  
Philip Norton, University of Hull  
David Olson, UNC-Greensboro  
John Owens, University of Westminster  
Hilmar Rommetvedt, International Research Institute, Stavanger, Norway  
Edward Schneier, prof. em.

Barbara Sinclair, UCLA  
Steven Smith, Washington University  
Drago Zajc, University of Ljubljana

### 3. Future RCLS Activities

#### ***Planned / Scheduled Conferences and Workshops***

- 12-13 September 2009 *Workshop on Parliamentary Surveys* in Berlin: RCLS will serve as a co-sponsor of this small-scale workshop along with the Collaborative Research Centre 580 (Jena) and the GESIS (Berlin). For further information contact Michael Edinger (michael.edinger@uni-jena.de).
- 7-9 January 2010 *Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association* in Atlanta: Irina Khmelko organizes a panel on “Legislative Institution Building in Developing Democracies” on behalf of RCLS (see Werner’s previous email). Since so far very few submissions have been delivered, the Co-Chairs strongly encourage RCLS members to consider their participation in this panel.
- 18-20 March 2010 *IPSA Conference “Is there a European Model of Governance? A Comparative Perspective”* in Luxemburg: the RCLS will co-chair a panel on “European, National, and Regional Parliaments and EU Law-Making”.
- 2010 *RCLS Conference on Parliaments and Parliamentarism in the Arab World*, to be organized in co-operation with Alae Eddin Serrar (USAID Program Manager in Morocco). Werner reports that recent attempts to proceed with preparing such a conference have not been particularly successful but that he continues to contact Alae. The German Konrad Adenauer Foundation might be willing to co-sponsor such a conference.
- 2011 *RCLS Conference* in Missouri, to be organized by Peverill Squire.

#### ***Topical Focus***

The following topics were suggested for further RCLS work:

- Parliaments and parliamentarism outside the Western world (see also RCLS conference planned for 2010)
- Comparative research on state and national parliaments

- Parliamentary development across Central and Eastern Europe (continued)
- Parliamentary power in comparative perspective

### ***Further Activities***

- Update of both the mailing list and the list of RCLS members. Note: There is a comprehensive mailing list, used for mutual communication, and a much shorter member list, comprising only those who have paid their membership fees. Those who have not yet paid their fees, are strongly encouraged to get in contact with our treasurer, Ned Schneier [nedmarg@earthlink.net]
- Expansion of RCLS web site: please mail content to our webmaster Erik Fritzsche [erik@fritzsche-net.de]
- Closer co-operation with APSA Standing Committees and the respective ECPR Standing Groups, e.g Standing Group on Central and East European Politics through Petra Guasti
- Initiating stronger cooperation of US legislative specialists and scholars from outside the States
- Expanding co-operation with practitioners

*Michael Edinger (Jena)*