



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

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Department of Political Science
and Criminal Justice

TO: Robert L. Savage, President Arkansas Political Science
Association

FROM: Glen Sparrow, Chair Membership Committee APSA

DATE: February 22, 1979

RE: Report of the Membership Committee

As president of APSA you appointed and the Executive Committee approved the Membership Committee of APSA composed of the following members:

Glen Sparrow, Chair
Gene Goss
Stanford S. McConkie
Conrad Waligorski
James Willis
Walter Nunn ex officio

Rather than calling a meeting or series of meetings, I corresponded with the members of the committee and requested their input in defining the scope of the committee and suggestions for expanding the membership of the Association.

The return comments were expansive and useful but from only two members of the committee. This report then becomes primarily my review and synthesis of the responses including my opinions.

An important consideration that needs to be dealt with initially is whether there is a need for expansion of the membership and what the consequences of more and diverse members would be. There is probably no reason not to expand membership to include all academic political scientists in the state. The issue that raised some concern, however, was the inclusion of any one interested in political science in Arkansas. There are many potential members in the state, and two questions arise: 1) should the organization be expanded to include non-academic members

and 2) will this change the basic goals and directions of the APSA? I feel these questions are beyond the scope of this committee to answer and would recommend them for a future agenda of the executive committee.

If it is decided to expand the membership, the following comments are submitted for consideration:

1. All academic political scientists in the state should be encouraged to become members and attend the yearly meetings. Peer contacts from colleagues is the most advantageous way of seeing the participation of these current non-members.
2. The APSA appears to be an organization of four-year college faculty. We need to attract members from two-year institutions and high schools. This could be accomplished by contacting these people and inviting them to the annual meeting. Perhaps these feel that they are not part of the organization as it may appear too "academic" for them. Inviting papers and scheduling panels that are more in line with their interests might help.
3. Students are a source of membership that has as yet not been explored completely. The request for student papers, the encouragement of faculty/student presentations, and the use of students as discussants or chairpersons are some methods that might include them more. Perhaps student run panels of inclusion of students on the panel on the teaching of political science would help.

In order to interest new members in the organization, we much show these potential members it is in their interest to participate. Since the annual meeting is the focal point of the organization, consideration should be given by the program committee to ways of including, in an active way, those we wish to attract. The publication proposed by the organization is a way of advertising APSA. Thought should be given to expanding the mailing list, on a one time basis, to include those potential members we wish to recruit.

The appointment of a membership coordinator at each campus with the tasks of: 1) getting all faculty to join, 2) recruiting new members from community colleges and high schools, 3) developing an active student membership (perhaps through *Pi Sigma Alpha*), and 4) collecting dues would be a significant step forward.

It is my feeling that the organization can be expanded to a larger, perhaps less committee, group with some effort. There are a large number of potential members in Arkansas. But I have no doubt that increasing the membership and expanding the scope of the organization (which will occur with a larger membership) will significantly affect the organization. The question of membership leads to the much larger issue of the scope and goals of the organization and this I feel is an issue that should be discussed by the executive committee.

GS: glh