

Garland County Community College



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April 8, 1981

Professor Norman Hodges
Department of Political Science
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Dear Norman:

We need to get together by phone very soon to settle on the program committee. I want to give that first priority before finalizing other committees.

Later I'll circulate to the executive committee the results of Cal's questionnaire. The following are some comments which relate to the program.

Panel format and topics

A high degree of satisfaction. Three people recommended more focused panels or greater specificity. That's what you recommended, I believe, and what Kurt suggested; as program chairman last year I worked toward that and hope you will do so as well. Three people asked for more question time. Two people thought that there was too much competition against the teaching panel or that there were too many concurrent panels; another wanted more than two panels at a time. One person suggested fewer papers with more informal discussion, "i.e., a detailed expansion of the panel on teaching political science;" another response also wanted a roundtable within the disciplinary areas.

Greatest weaknesses

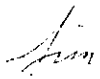
Seven people said the APSA needs more members; to me there are definite implications for the annual meeting, which is a main drawing card for new members. Three said there needed to be more practitioners; others had recommended the same thing on "panel format." (I think the primary interest in this comes from IR and PA.) One person mentioned the "elitist" character of the APSA; under "strengths" someone else said letting "people from the so-called lower institutions to speak out." (That was not mine!) Under the other categories there was some dissatisfaction with politicians not showing up, though one person said political leaders should definitely be a part of the program."

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My own suggestion to the board will be a public policy forum in lieu of one formal speaker. The forum could include one political scientist, one practitioner, and perhaps a politico and a sociologist or psychologist, if relevant (e.g., corrections in Arkansas, human services in Arkansas, etc.).

Please pull together your ideas for the program and your committee. I'll call you at home one evening next week, unless you can reach me on the WATS line (we don't have one).

Best wishes,


Jim Megginson

JM/bb