



Minutes from Latino Caucus meeting on August 31, 2018 at the American Political Science Associate annual meeting in Boston, MA

(Minutes taken by: Ivy AM Cargile – Latino Caucus Secretary)

Valerie Martinez-Ebers, President of the Latino Caucus introduces herself and calls the meeting to order at 6pm.

- I. Recap of the Latino Caucus' 20th Anniversary Celebration Conference and dinner
 - A. Celebration Conference – Valerie Martinez-Ebers
 - i. Was well attended the entire day
 - ii. Thank you to the various individuals who ran sessions, and who helped plan the event
 - B. Celebration Dinner
 - i. Various Latino Caucus awards were given out
 - ii. Lifetime Achievement was handed to Angelo Falcon's brother
 - iii. Overall, dinner like the conference was a success
- II. Discussion regarding various awards for Latino Caucus
 - A. Winners of various Latino Caucus Awards:
 - i. Latino Book Award – Heather Silber Mohammed
 - ii. Mentoring Award – Mark Ramirez
 - iii. Adaljiza Sosa Award – Christine Marie Sierra
 - iv. Graduate Mentoring Award – Francisco Pedraza
 - v. Lifetime Achievement Award – Angelo Falcon
 - B. Best Book/Article Award for Latino Caucus will be done via Qualtrics
 - i. Committee chaired by Eric G. Juenke
 - C. Lifetime Achievement Award – plaque purchased with various name slots
 - i. Committee chaired by Ricardo Ramirez
 - D. Trailblazer Award
 - i. Question came up if this should be awarded every 5 years...or longer
 1. Anna Sampaio suggested that it be done every 5 years vs. every year
 2. Julia Hellwege moved to approve
 - E. Emerging Scholar – so far, the idea is that it is an award that is issued to a scholar who is no more than 6 years from PhD, who has made significant contribution to Latina/o/x community, and awaiting tenure
 - i. Anna Sampaio initiated discussion about what actual criteria for award are going to be.
 - ii. Val Martinez-Ebers (Caucus President) stated it was inspired from the Law & Politics Section and thought the Latino Caucus should adopt this award for an untenured person who has informed the study of Latina/o Politics through

innovative scholarship with strong publication trajectory and conferencing power

1. Anna Sampaio went on record to state that publication requirement would hurt those at teaching institutions so there should be consideration to add language acknowledging that not everyone comes from an R1 school
2. In response it was suggested by Manuel Avalos that the committee choosing award recipient should consist of people from various types of institutions.
3. Alvaro Huerta suggested that there should be language in award criteria about Master Teachers as well

iii. Betina Cutaia mentioned that the Latina/o Caucus at the MPSA has an emerging scholar award

iv. Motion passed to create award

III. Logo for Latino Caucus

A. Julia Hellwege is recognized for creation of new logo

IV. Motions

A. Palgrave Publishers – approached Valerie Martinez -Ebers because they are interested in doing a series on Latina/o/x Politics that would be sponsored by the Latino Caucus

- i. Val indicated she would edit series since she is already editing other series
- ii. If approved by Latino Caucus Val will put in formal proposal to Palgrave
- iii. Questions surfaced regarding how authors will be treated

1. How authors will be paid?

2. What will be the pricing of books?

iv. Tony Affigne suggested that a formal proposal be written so that caucus can consider it

v. Motion – attendees directed to pursue Palgrave endeavor

B. Caucus Name Change/Update

- i. Discussion regarding idea of being more inclusive by updating caucus name to Latinx
- ii. Objections – Anna Sampaio, Manuel Avalos, Sergio Rios among others have objections to change

1. It was argued by Anna Sampaio that there is definitely an interest in being more inclusive but the “x” is not comfortable idea for some due to it not being a natural extension of the Spanish language. Also, there is the fact that it took the Latina women a long time to get the “a” added and this cannot be erased

2. Due to ongoing discussion regarding the Anglicizing of the label by adding an “x” it was asked by David Cortez if the used of the term Latino isn’t already Anglo?

a. As a part of this discussion Jessica Lavariega Monforti pointed out the fact that most Latina/o parents are not familiar with the term Latinx, which points to how this new term does not resonate with the community – thus she asked if the caucus/academia is more out of touch with the community?

- b. Question about why the English language should be the default language that label is founded on? How is “x” reflective of community?
- 3. Committee to facilitate with decision making – suggested by Tony Affigne because not only are there a lot of different perspectives in room he wonders if the group isn’t perhaps ahead of the curve. He recalls this same kind of vigorous debate when shifting from Hispanic to Latino – thinking maybe do more research, form committee and see what happens in meantime (i.e. will change just eventually happen)
 - a. Supported by Jaime Dominguez who noted that this same debate is happening at Northwestern University
 - i. The Latino Studies Department is fighting this but right now label is still a/o. Definitely a good idea to form a committee to further explore issue
- 4. Sergio Rios points out that as an immigrant the term Latino does not fully reflect identity of community – this is a vital issue for the group to figure out
- 5. Questions surfaced regarding what the effects would be of renaming the Caucus particularly because of the idea that the label used determines how we talk about the community
- 6. Suggested that we just use Latino/Latinx but this was objected to because it erases “a”
- 7. Pointed out that the “x” tends to be used more by those with higher education – need to be aware of how using the “x” will reflect with larger community
 - a. Sergio Rios brought up point that term used matters because we need to think about when undergrads read the research we produce – will it resonate with them? Will they be able to see themselves in the readings?
- 8. This same discussion has been ongoing at MPSA and it was acknowledged that Val consulted Betina about bringing this topic up at the Latino Caucus Business meeting
 - a. Both Betina and Val acknowledged that this is important debate to have because it is happening everywhere and we need to think about how we talk about the community in our writing and other scholarship
 - b. Folks should not be afraid of using term in their scholarship as they go up for tenure and promotion
- 9. Clarity is requested by John Garcia – throughout conversation there was been lots of reference to fluidity in identity, which reminds him of the LGBTQ+ community
 - a. This is why whatever labeled is chosen it needs to be clear why this was chosen and we need to be able to explain it succinctly

10. Val Martinez-Ebers motions to create a committee while Tony Affigne and Anna Sampaio state that this will have to be dealt with by the next president

V. Officer Reports

A. Val Martinez-Ebers – slate of new officers for upcoming year 2019-2020

- i. Not very many nominations came up so need to discuss who new officers will be and who wants to self-nominate (Caveat: nominations will also be taken on the spot during meetings)
 1. New 2019-2020 Slate – Melissa Michelson (President), and Francisco Pedraza (VP) – new officers
 - a. Julia Hellwege (WebMaster), Jason Casellas (Treasurer), and Ivy AM Cargile (Secretary) will stay on for upcoming term.
 - ii. Can VP become president in new year? – not in bylaws that this transition can occur but caucus should consider it
 1. Suggested by Alvaro Huerta that someone from previous year stay on in new year in order to provide the new group with guidance – institutional memory so to speak
 - iii. Folks do not completely recall how to transition from one administration to the next but it was brought up that when the by-laws for the Race & Ethnic Politics section were written up they went through many revisions due to the number of concerns that arose
 - iv. Caucus needs to consider alternating from male to female every year, in terms of the Caucus President – but bylaws need to be consulted
- B. Julia Hellwege – provides Val with small appreciation token for all of her hard work putting on the 20th Anniversary pre-conference, dinner, and business meeting
- i. Julia suggests that new logo be used for t-shirts, and canvas bags that can be sold as fundraiser for caucus

VI. Meeting Attendance

- A. Some years are very well attended, while other years are not
- B. Discussed that at current business meeting many were missing due to REP meeting happening at the same time so other went there
- C. Need to discuss with APSA how not to schedule all these meetings at the same time because many belong to various sections

VII. Miscellaneous

- A. Section Dues – reminder to all to please pay online
- B. Various jobs announced by several caucus members

VIII. Adjournment – 7:30pm.