

President's Report – Andrea Rounce

CAPPA/ACPAP Board and AGM

May 22, 2019

INTRODUCTION

This meeting marks the end of my first year of a two-year term as President of CAPPA/ACPAP. It has been an eventful year, providing opportunities to engage with colleagues and students of public administration and public policy in activities, programs, and partnerships that build on the foundation established by previous executive committees. Board members' commitment to the association – and the willingness to take on various responsibilities – is critical in supporting the activities of this volunteer-run organization. I'm thankful to the other members of the CAPPA/ACPAP executive – Luc Juillet, Isabelle Fortier, Naomi Couto, and Rob Shepherd – for their willingness to do what needed to be done. I couldn't ask for better colleagues. Special thanks go out to Luc Juillet, who is leaving the executive this year.

Thank you, too, to all of you and to your Schools, programs, and departments for ongoing support of the association's activities. And special thanks to Francesca Scala and Stephanie Paterson, who have done a fantastic job in organizing this year's research conference. The conference provides an important opportunity to engage in conversations about research, as well as the links between research and practice. Thank you for making that happen this year!

2018-2019 ACTIVITIES

Membership

Isabelle Fortier will give the report on CAPPA/ACPAP membership for this year. Membership has remained consistent with the previous year and includes nearly all of the graduate programs in public administration and public policy as well as some of the undergraduate programs.

Accreditation

Accreditation is an important part of CAPPA/ACPAP's work, which enables programs to have independent recognition of their program quality and contributions. Two programs went through the accreditation process in 2017-18 using the new process and criteria. Two programs have indicated that they wish to be considered for accreditation in 2019-2020. Any program which wishes to apply for accreditation should contact Kathy Brock, incoming Chair of the Accreditation Committee. Accreditation is not an onerous process, and if your program is currently (or has recently) gone through an external review, it is likely that you'll have done much of the work needed to prepare for accreditation as well.

With any new process like the one established for accreditation, there were some challenges. A process review to identify where these challenges are and how to address them will take place this year, led by the Accreditation Committee.

This committee does important work for programs of public administration and public policy. Thank you to Ken Rasmussen, outgoing Chair of the Accreditation Committee, Ian Clark, Nancy Oleweiler, Luc Bernier, and Kathy Brock for their service over the past year!

Case Study Competition

Rob Shepherd has provided a fulsome report on the Case Study Competition but let me add my voice to the praise for this year's very successful competition! Twelve teams of students from across the country were welcomed at Carleton University, having the opportunity to present their research and recommendations on a complex case study to a very distinguished team of judges from the public service, private sector, and academia. Jennifer Ditchburn (from IRPP) provided a great opportunity for the student teams to debrief and discuss the case and the different approaches to problem solving. IRPP and ManuLife Financial provided important sponsorships, and we thank them for their contributions to student travel and to the student awards. Sponsorship from IPAC, E & Y, Deloitte, Canada School of Public Service, and Carleton University all helped to make this event happen. Thanks especially to Rob Shepherd and Mary Giles for their outstanding organizational skills, and to the great team of volunteers at Carleton who kept the competition running smoothly. It was my first case study competition, and I was so impressed with the caliber of the student presentations and with the fantastic experience that it was overall!

The 2020 Case Study Competition will be held at Laval University: details will be out this Fall, but we look forward to meeting in February 2020!

Annual Conference

This year's conference at Concordia University, organized by Francesca Scala and Stephanie Paterson, will certainly be another successful opportunity to bring members of the public administration and policy research community together to discuss key issues for the study and practice of public administration and policy. While a bit smaller than previous years, the conference panels and keynote speakers will certainly prove engaging. Francesca and Stephanie and their team of volunteers have put together a great conference, and we thank them for all of the work that goes into planning and hosting such an event!

Next year's conference location is anticipated to be confirmed in the next few days. As a community, we'll need to decide whether to have this next conference (and the ones after) as part of Congress and what format(s) we want to have open to us.

Communications

CAPPA/ACPAP participated in an exciting project this year, hiring a graduate student to work on a communications assessment and sustainability plan for us as part of a group of non-profit organizations. The report is now in (and will be presented to the Board at our meeting today) and will provide the foundation for a plan to move forward in improving and extending the organization's communications with key groups. While CAPPA/ACPAP's members are programs, schools, and departments, it is clear that we have important relationships with individual researchers, institutional partners, media, and other communities that must be nurtured through clear communications. We've seen an increasing demand for CAPPA to act as a distributor of information (ie job postings, event announcements, etc) which are currently shared on our website. However, a regularized communication (like newsletter)

would allow us to reach more audiences with specific types of information, and would supplement other approaches, like the use of social media. Thank you to Kofi Yeboah and Jared Wesley for this work, and we look forward to discussing the report! Another big thank you to Naomi Couto, who managed CAPPAs Twitter account this year, tweeting and retweeting all things public administration!

PARTNERSHIPS

NASPAA

CAPPA/ACPAP signed a new three-year MOU with NASPAA (Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration) in October 2018, committing us to work together in areas of common interest. These areas include annual conferences, identifying possible research synergies (and ways to facilitate these), student case study competitions, and sharing case studies used in education and training. Rob Shepherd (Past President) and I attended NASPAA's annual conference, negotiating the final terms of the MOU and signing it. I also was able to attend NASPAA's Accreditation Institute, which provided a thorough introduction into how an organization that size (with about 300 members) manages the accreditation process both within the US and internationally.

IPAC

IPAC is a valued institutional partner for CAPPA/ACPAP. Although CAPPA originated as a committee of IPAC, we operate as independent organizations. Through our partnership, we work together to ensure that CAPPA has a strong voice for public administration/policy research and education in the practitioner community. As President, I represent CAPPA on the national board of directors, on the Research and Professional Practice committee, and as co-organizer with Andrea Migone (IPAC's Research Director) of the "academic stream" of presenters for the IPAC National Conference. IPAC National has been going through a significant transition this year, with a changeover of CEO and many of its senior staff and new budget models. An important goal for the next month is to finalize the proposed MOU with IPAC, so that we have a formal set of arrangements in place for the next three years.

Last year's annual conference in Quebec City saw great representation from CAPPA: thanks go especially to Luc Juillet, who worked extensively with the organizing committee, and to Rob Shepherd, who was an important part of the conference program as well as attending board meetings. Thank you to you both!

IPAC National has proposed providing member schools/programs/departments with free one-year memberships for all registered students. This allows our students to have access to regional events, information on jobs/events/conferences, reduced registration rates for conferences and events, and to the Canadian Public Administration (CPA) journal – a great benefit while introducing potential IPAC members to the range of services provided by IPAC. We will be providing program directors with the link to provide to their students to take advantage of this benefit.

Canada School of Public Service (CSPS)

The Canada School of Public Service, under its new President Taki Sarantakis, has indicated its interest in working with CAPPA/ACPAP and strengthening links between academia and government to facilitate curriculum development for the Canada School (particularly around public policy development), create a better understanding of the research and practice around innovation, and to create a new program

(similar in purpose to the Study Teams under CCMD) that would bring together academics, practitioners, and other researchers/thinkers to address key challenges facing federal public administration. I have participated in conversations with federal officials working on these issues and am very pleased to welcome Aleeya Velji (from CSPS) to join us at the conference. Evert Lindquist has agreed to act as CAPPAs liaison for this endeavor as well. (Thanks, Evert!) We will keep program directors in the loop as well, as we know more about where this is all going.

African Leaders of Tomorrow Program (ALT)

This program, established in honour of Nelson Mandela, sponsors African public servants in order to attend Canadian public administration/management/policy programs. CAPPAs sits on the Steering Committee and the Adjudication Committee, along with IPAC, CBIE, GAC, and APPAM. This year was the last covered under the initial funding, and an evaluation of the program is underway and will determine (in part) a second round of funding. Thank you to Luc Juillet and Rob Shepherd for being involved in both the introductory sessions for the new students, and for the debriefing/presentations at the end of the year.

Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA)

CAPPAs has an MOU with CPSA designed to facilitate greater participation of public administration scholars at the annual meetings of CPSA. Last year's session, organized by Luc Juillet, was a great success at the University of Regina. This year (2019), Jean-François Savard has organized the public administration stream of presentations on behalf of CAPPAs/ACPAP. Over 30 proposals were received, and almost all will be presenting at this year's CPSA meetings during the Congress at UBC – another great success. Thank you to Jean-François for his work on this!

Canadian Study of Parliament Group (CSPG)

CAPPAs has been approached by the CSPG to create a partnership that would allow CAPPAs members to access a reduced registration cost for CSPG events. In exchange, CAPPAs would promote CSPG events to its members and networks. The CSPG hosts events that often bring scholars and practitioners together to address technical issues relating to Canadian governance. While these are often held in Ottawa (and usually on Parliament Hill), they are sometimes streamed and/or available as a recording. This seems like a natural synergy and provides an opportunity for CAPPAs/ACPAP members and their students to take part in these events at a reduced cost.

AWARDS

National Student Thought Leadership Award

CAPPAs/ACPAP works with IPAC to award the National Student Thought Leadership Award. It provides a great opportunity to recognize students who have made important contributions to research and scholarship and community leadership. The top three student submissions are highlighted at the IPAC National conference, held August 18-21 in Winnipeg Manitoba.

This year's competition will be announced shortly (watch for it in your email), and I'd encourage everyone to participate in the nomination process! Thank you to Isabelle Caron who will be working with Belle Young at SFU on this!

DeCelles Award

A joint initiative with IPAC, the Pierre DeCelles Award recognizes the outstanding skill, accomplishment and commitment of an exceptionally dedicated, creative, versatile and effective university teacher. Nominations are open until June 15, 2019, and I'd encourage you to nominate a talented and dedicated university teacher for this year's award. The award itself is given at IPAC National's annual conference, and the winner is invited to participate in CAPPAs annual research conference. Last year we had eleven outstanding nominations, and the winner, Dr. Jenny Baechler of Dalhousie University, has been invited to participate in the 2020 annual research conference. CAPPAs contributes \$2,000 annually to support the award, and it's vital that members nominate their outstanding colleagues!

National Student Paper Competition

The paper competition is organized by the Canada School of Public Service, in association with CAPPAs and the Canadian Association of Business School Deans. CAPPAs was represented on the organizing this year by Isabelle Fortier. We would encourage your programs/schools/departments to take part in this worthwhile competition: the winners are now receiving paid term placements in the federal public service as well as high-level focus on the work that they've undertaken. The call for the next year's competition will be out in the summer or early fall. Thanks for your work on this, Isabelle!

GOVERNANCE

CAPPAs/ACPAP's activities, programs, and partnerships have grown and developed over the past decade. Last year, the Board of Directors voted to pursue incorporation for the organization, recognizing that incorporation as a non-profit organization (with charitable status) would allow us to manage our revenues independently and provide more flexibility in planning for the organization's future. In thinking strategically about the great successes of CAPPAs/ACPAP's work over the past decade, opportunities that are arising, and key partnerships, it has become clear that it's time for us as an association to take a step back and examine how we want to organize CAPPAs/ACPAP in order to fulfill our collective goals. This will help to establish the foundation for incorporation and also for a strategic discussion about the organization's work (and how best to achieve it) in the next five years. This focused work will also tie in nicely with the communications planning and with the process assessment for Accreditation and help us to ask and answer key questions about the organization moving forward!

CONCLUSION

It seems that every President's report ends with a reference to a busy year, and mine is no exception! It was a very busy year, and this report provides a bit of insight into the types of programs, activities, and commitments that CAPPAs/ACPAP undertakes each year.

These activities all rely on volunteer effort to make them a success. If you have an interest in getting involved, either on the board, in an executive position, or on a committee (student essay contest, DeCelles, etc) don't hesitate to let me know. There are lots of opportunities!

I look forward to another busy – and productive – year. Thank you for all of your support and goodwill in CAPP/ACPAP's endeavours!

Andrea Rounce

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