

**A Mere Deception—
a Mere *Ignus Fatus* on the American People:
Criticisms of the Electoral College during the
Ratification of the Constitution**

Professional Development Grant Final Report

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B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

I used the funds from the Summer 2010 professional development grant for a professional enhancement activity. I attended *the* national conference for the discipline of political science over the Labor Day weekend (September 2-5, 2010). At the American Political Science Association's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. I presented my recently published work, "A Mere Deception—a Mere *Ignus Fatus* on the American People: Criticisms of the Electoral College during the Ratification of the Constitution."

C. Brief review of the Professional Enhancement Opportunity

In June 2010 my article examining Anti-Federalist critiques of the Electoral College was published as Chapter 2 of the edited volume *Electoral College Reform: Challenges and Possibilities* through Ashgate Publishing. The national political science conference of the American Political Science Association (APSA) was the perfect venue to showcase my work and the book. This is the single largest political science conference as it routinely attracts a few thousand political scientists from across the country. Thus, I was able to promote my work, the book and the image of Arkansas Tech University to the largest audience of political scientists possible.

D. Summary of Experiences

Attendance of the conference truly was a rewarding experience. My article was part of the "Federalists and Its Critics" (see online program link: http://www.apsanet.org/mtgs/program_2010/program.cfm?event=1522428) panel. My presentation received positive critical acclaim, as I received an overwhelming majority of the questions asked of the panelists by the audience. I even had 3-4 audience members approach me after the presentation asking for a copy of my paper and inquiring about the book. In addition, I

was able to network and develop professional connections with other Founding scholars. While I had already published my work, there has been some discussion of using the panel as a basis for developing a collective volume of new research on the Founding. Given that my work only has data from 8 of the 13 ratification debates, there is the possibility that I could contribute a follow up article that integrates the last 5 state ratification debates in the future.

Finally, since all the conference papers are housed electronically online through the Social Science Research Network (SSRN), the paper continues to be accessible to political science scholars beyond those who simply attended the conference. My paper can be accessed through the following link: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1644671. This also tracks downloads and my paper has garnered some interest beyond its presentation at the conference as it has had 11 downloads.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

Given the interest my presentation received, the possibility for future publication through the networking at the conference, and the continued dissemination of the work through the SSRN, this professional enhancement activity was truly invaluable in enhancing my career and the scholarly reputation of Arkansas Tech University. Given the relatively small professional development grant required to fund the activity, ATU received a lot of return for its dollars invested!