



International Association for Political Science Students
Radboud University Nijmegen
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20th IAPSS General Assembly

April 18, 2015

Birkbeck (Malet St), University of London (UK) - London, United Kingdom

- MINUTES -

Opening of the 20th General Assembly

Present member associations at 10.30:

ASP Roma LUISS, IAPSS Forli, IAPSS Roma Tre, IPSJU, ismus, Machiavelli, Politistes, SPIL, StugA Politik, Peace Studies Department at Bedford University, P-klubi (11)

Total number of individual members present at 10:30:

61

Vote is passed by normal majority, unless noted otherwise:

associations 6/11; individuals 31/61

GA board:

Thomas Linders, Andrea Kovářová, Catherine Mackay – elected by clear majority

Start time: 10.30

Meeting adjourned: 16.10

TOPIC 0: Registration (08.00 – 10.30)

0.1 Late-registration for GA, IAPSS World Congress 2015 & IAPSS membership

0.2 IAPSS Secretary-General Thomas Linders & IAPSS Treasurer Reint-Jan Groot Nuelend available for Q&A

TOPIC 1: Opening of the 20th IAPSS General Assembly (10.30 – 11.30)

1.1 Welcome speech and schedule overview by IAPSS President Philipp Aepler

The President welcomes all present members. He apologizes for delayed beginning of the General Assembly caused by the unexpected low number of participants and the belated arrival of a range of both association and individual members. The President provides a comprehensive overview on the proposed schedule of the day.

The President proposes numeric vote count only in case of uncertain tight vote. For roll call results and passage requirements, please consult the overview on top of page one.



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1.2 Proposal and vote on the acceptance of the Rules of Procedure of the GA

GA unanimously accepts the proposal.

1.3 Amendments to and vote on the final agenda of the 20th IAPSS General Assembly

Item 2.3 was added: Report of Supervisory Committee (originally to be presented only at the 21st IAPSS General Assembly).

Item 3.3 was added: to discuss changes to board structure and role of Supervisory Committee.

GA clearly votes in majority in favour of the changes to the proposed agenda.

1.4 Nominations for and election of the board of the GA

GA unanimously votes in favour of the proposal.

Elected board of the 20th IAPSS General Assembly in charge: Thomas Linders, Andrea Kovářová, Catherine Mackay.

Point of Information from the GA [not part of the initial agenda]

A query was raised about the entrance of additional members who had not paid the participation fee for the GA. The President noted that this fee is made to fund high costs of holding the meeting and the Chair clarified the pecuniary responsibilities of members as stated in the statutes Article 3, 2b. The Chair proposed to move on until a request was received from any other members wishing to attend.

TOPIC 2: Reporting by IAPSS President, IAPSS Treasurer and IAPSS Supervisory Committee; with Q&A after each report (11.30 – 13.00)

2.1 Report by IAPSS President Philipp Aepler on the legislative mandate 2014-15, during which IAPSS has seen: continuous quality management of vast portfolio; increasing impact in North and Latin America, Asia; growing collaborations with the MPSA, e-IR (regarding new journal: JPTA) as well as IPSA and ECPR (permanent institutional partnership); increasing global membership; modernization of financial and membership administration, IAPSS branding, corporate design and of legal framework; changes to board composition. He also gave a forecast for the legislative mandate 2015-16. Please refer to the full report, available in the GA reader, for more information on the details given.

Possibility raised of webcasting the General Assembly, plus plenary sessions and expert sessions of IAPSS conferences, in order to allow other members and interested non-members to take part in the conference, as well as to allow participants to look back at missed lectures and/or panels (due to parallel sessions). Technological implications are to be investigated for the next conference, the Executive Committee expresses its intent to investigate technical and financial implications, feasibility.



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Formal Request [not part of the initial agenda]
Move to request the attendance of two additional members:

BEGINNING OF THE PROPOSAL

FORMAL REQUEST FOR THE 20TH IAPSS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This is to formally request the cost-free entrance of Dragana Čomagić and Wanda Tiefenbacher to the 20th IAPSS General Assembly.

The reasons for this proposal are the following:

The two are paying regular members of IAPSS and thereby, according to the statutes, have unrestricted access and voting rights to the GA. Financial responsibility to the Congress and financial responsibility towards IAPSS as an organization are two completely different things.

Secondly, both members are former members of the Executive Committee and extended board and thereby have valuable contributions and comments to make at the General Assembly.

Thirdly, the entitlement to vote is a benefit listed for individual members and thereby, according to the statute, cannot be refused. The two will not use any facilities including food or drinks, they did not attend the congress and thus should not be required to pay entrance fee. Additionally, out of 180 expected guests attending the GA only a third has come, so the financial argument from IAPSS' side does not hold.

Best wishes [sic],

Dragana Čomagić and Wanda Tiefenbacher

END OF THE PROPOSAL

*Three individual members have joined the GA, bringing the total from 58 to 61.
Two associations have joined the GA since the last roll call (Peace Studies Department at Bedford University, P-klubi), bringing the total from 9 to 11.*

*Proposal to allow the access of these members to the GA meeting
Individual votes in favour 33/61
Individual votes against 15/61
Individual abstentions 13/61*

*Association votes in favour 6/11
Association votes against 2/11
Association abstentions 3/11*



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The proposal was passed

One individual member has left the GA since the last vote, bringing the total from 61 to 60.

Proposal to allow these members voting rights

Individual votes in favour 34/60

Individual votes against 15/60

Individual abstentions 11/60

Association votes in favour 6/11

Association votes against 2/11

Association abstentions 3/11

The proposal was passed

2.2 Preview of financial report by IAPSS Treasurer Reint-Jan Groot Nuelend on the financial administration since the beginning of the financial year 2015 (a final version of the report is pending and will be presented at the 21st IAPSS General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic, on September 25th, 2015)

The Treasurer reported on IAPSS' long term financial policy including professionalisation, digitalisation, internalisation, financial independence and shift of incomes. He gave an overview of incomes and expenses. Please refer to the provided documents of the financial administration for a complete overview.

Two individuals have left the GA since the last vote, bringing the total from 60 to 58.

Proposal to accept each of the President's and Treasurer's reports

Individual votes in favour 23/58

Individual votes against 0/58

Individual abstentions 36/58

Association votes in favour 1/11

Association votes against 0/11

Association abstentions 10/11

The proposal was passed.

2.3 Report by IAPSS Supervisory Committee on the financial administration of the Association since the beginning of the financial year 2015

The Chair reminded the General Assembly that the responsibility to print materials to be distributed lies with the submitting body.

The Chair delivered the report on behalf of the Supervisory Committee who were absent. The report reads as follows:



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BEGINNING OF THE REPORT

SUPCOM REPORT

2014-2015

Last year has been full of important changes within the structure of our association. Unfortunately, due to those changes, we are not able to provide to the members a proper report on the financial administration. Some numbers still need to be calculated and we have not been able to read and check the finalised budget. So, the real report on financial administration by SupCom is postponed at [sic] the next GA in Prague.

Anyway, we are able to comment some of the changes we mentioned before: our Treasurer, Reint-Jan Groot Nuelend, paid much effort on develop the new financial structure of IAPSS. It has not been simple to manage the creation and the use of four different bank accounts, one for operational means, one for the events, one for the savings and a temporary one for the WC in London. For sure this type of division between different bank accounts has been a bit chaotic in a first moment, but in the vision of SupCom it has been a great choice. It will be much easier for the next Treasurers to manage IAPSS' finances in the future. Also, the system of MyIAPSS provides to the members the control of their IAPSS account, and it helps also with the aim of the ExCom to stop cash payments (with some exceptions allowed just on the days of the events, as Reint-Jan mentioned in his report). So, just taking into account the work of the Treasurer, we can state that the SupCom is satisfied with that. As said before, we still need to check the detailed balance, but we are pretty sure there will not be problems: if, on the contrary, we will find mistakes or inappropriate expenses, the GA will be informed.

Also, the rebranding of IAPSS allowed the association to grow and to be more functional and transparent. However, we cannot pay the same feelings for the working environment in the ExCom. Since last year, a strange and huge number of the component of the ExCom did resign from their position: some of them for "personal" reasons and some because of unexpected and problematic contrasts with some other members of the ExCom. We received complaints about that, so it was clear that it has not been an isolated problem as it has not been just one person but a very scaring number of people resigning (or forced to resign by the situations) from the position they have been voted for.

We would like to remind all the component [sic] of the ExCom that IAPSS is the International Association for Political Science Students, so it is not a dictatorship but an Association where every student who want [sic] to be involved (and has been voted) deserves to have the right to freely express his/her thoughts. Every single member of IAPSS is a skilled political science student, who is perfectly able to recognize the difference between the different forms of government. No one must feel hurt by the behaviour of other members of the Association and this turns unacceptable when the concerned person/people is/are members of the ExCom.



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So, our concern is divided into two main worlds: on one hand we have the individual working sphere of each member, and on the other hand we have the global accountability and credibility of our Association.

The SupCom wishes this is going to end and we are sure that every single member of the present and future ExCom will think about our words and reflect about his/her behavior and pride. We are also sure that the situation will be better as everyone of the people involved is gifted with a great sense of commitment and analysis.

As of Supervisory Committee, we feel like not having the tools to intervene in situations like this one. Our main task is to check the financial administration, so mainly to have relations with the Treasurer. We cannot take a serious action in the matter in question, as we would like to. In our opinion, some rules should be renovated by the Assembly, which is the very deepest core of our Association.

So, we bid there will be a bottoming out and something new and healthy to born [sic] from the ashes some members left in the past few months.

END OF THE REPORT

The President and the Treasurer raised concern about the lack of engagement from the Supervisory Committee throughout the year. SupCom has been granted access to the internal digital work platform and archive of ExCom, as well as all minutes taken by the Secretary-General during the bi-weekly Skype meetings of the board. Despite their previous lack of involvement, a member of the GA suggested that structural changes could enable further interaction. The Chair moved to postpone the discussion on the Supervisory Committee to the next agenda item, which was agreed upon by the General Assembly.

TOPIC 3: Plenary Discussion on Selected Issues (13.00 – 14.20)

3.1 Recent and proposed reforms of the legal framework of the Association, the board structure and the IAPSS Congress Management

Presentation of the London Manifesto

*The Executive Committee and members of the IAPSS Board presented the London Manifesto, a proposal which aims at **sustaining IAPSS achievements** in broadening the international character of the Association, creating and maintaining a specialized portfolio, professionalizing work procedures and retaining budgetary independence.*

*Through changes to IAPSS' legal framework, the London Manifesto proposes to strengthen the Association's **commitment to universal and equal suffrage**, dispersing exclusiveness and supporting local or regional balance in the voting procedures, using eVoting for all major decisions and elections.*



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*In order actively to promote gender equality within IAPSS, the Board proposes introducing measures to ensure gender diversity within the Executive Committee and the creation of a Gender and LGBT Council to focus on understanding and supporting further developments in **promoting gender and LGBT** equality.*

*IAPSS **conference portfolio would be strengthened and broadened in scope**. Venues for upcoming conferences would be also be subject to eVoting. The organisation of these events would be realized by departments within the Board. The local expertise of members in the chosen cities would also be proactively sought. A programme of worldwide regional conferences would enable IAPSS to empower and engage its members on a global level, and these efforts would be informed by the expertise of IAPSS and its Board in delivering high-quality and professional academic events.*

3.1.1 Discussion on the London Manifesto – LGBT and Gender

Some members of the GA expressed concern that the measures to encourage gender and LGBT equality were not necessary in a body such as IAPSS and that they would in fact lead to less diversity, not more. There was also concern that such policies would reflect on those women selected for positions, forcing the equality agenda.

The Board explained that the gender measures were raised due to obvious differences in the representation of different genders within different levels of IAPSS, and therefore within decision making at those levels. The measures are proposed in order to address this issue and to initiate positive cultural change. The Board also clarified its view (point 2A of the Manifesto) that IAPSS currently suffers from a regional bias towards Europeans, and away from a broader membership, encompassing, for example members in Latin America or Asia. These are valued members of the Association, and they too value their membership. Income levels and visa restrictions currently, however, often prevent fuller participation in IAPSS events and decision making, which is largely based within Europe.

One member of the GA suggested that the Gender and LGBT Council be replaced by a committee focusing more broadly on countering discrimination, and that this would therefore be able to deal also with matters of geographical discrimination, as raised in the internationalization section of the Manifesto.

3.1.2 Discussion on the London Manifesto – General Assembly Timing and Voting Procedures

Some members expressed the view that a one day GA, as proposed in the Manifesto, would not be sufficient, and asked for clarification on the voting rights of member associations through eVoting procedures. It was expressed that not all members were able to dedicate sufficient time to IAPSS to be fully familiar with each issue, and therefore would not be able to vote in an informed way on IAPSS matters. It was expressed that the GA is an opportunity for members to debate and discuss issues, not just to vote on them.

The Board stressed the cost that meetings of the GA entail, hence the proposal to limit them to one day. They also underlined the underrepresentation felt by individual members,



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particularly those based outside Europe, who are suffering from unfair visa regimes and a disadvantaged socioeconomic position. The Board highlighted the fact that member associations do not contribute more highly than others, either financially (even taking association and individual memberships into account) or practically, but still seemed to receive disproportional advantages granted by the current membership and voting structure. The Board underlined their desire to use eVoting procedures not only to widen European suffrage, but also worldwide suffrage, and to incorporate a global expertise within IAPSS' decision making process.

3.1.3 Discussion on the London Manifesto – Internationalization

In response to the Manifesto, some members stated that the internationalization agenda risked putting unsupportable financial strain on European members, who would not be able to attend IAPSS events if held further afield.

Members of the Board noted that IAPSS was not living up to its name as an international association if it was not able to further an internationalization agenda. All members must be welcome and all members must be equal. The limitation that a Eurocentric focus imposes on the discipline of Political Science is one that IAPSS feels duty bound to redress.

Examples from the floor illustrated the unseen disadvantages which our members from outside Europe are faced with. One member noted that all students need the opportunity to contribute and gain experience in a global discipline, and that requires not just financial support but a change of attitude. Another member cited the keynote speech of the IAPSS World Congress 2015 from Professor Klaus Schlichte of the University of Bremen, who described the current state of Political Science, a discipline focused within middle class, European political scientists, as alienating.

The Chair proposed to break the meeting for lunch. This proposal was greeted with approval.

- Lunch (14.10 – 16.00) -

- Temporary Adjournment of the 20th General Assembly (16.15) -

The Board of the 20th General Assembly announced a temporary adjournment of the 20th IAPSS General Assembly until a later moment to be decided upon by Board. Their decision was based on the following:

As already noted by the Board of the 20th GA at the beginning of the meeting, the number of members was less than satisfactory in terms of their representativeness of IAPSS membership, standing at around 60 (compared with 181 registered to take part in the GA) of a total membership of more than 1250 individuals and 20 associations. Following the departure of a number of association and individual members from the GA, the Board of the GA noted that the meeting was becoming less and less representative of IAPSS' membership as a whole, with attendance falling to under 40. Considering the important decisions remaining to be taken, the board of the GA wished to re-establish the



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representative nature of those voting on decisions, in order to fully reflect the views and needs of over 1250 members, stemming from 97 countries worldwide.

The GA was therefore adjourned to be continued online, enabling all members of the Association to participate in the making of comprehensive, substantial, long-term decisions regarding the executive and supervisory organs and the conceptual direction of the Association.

The Board of the GA wishes it to be noted that it is not possible to re-convene a General Assembly without either the presence of the Supervisory Committee, the Executive Committee or following a vote of at least fifteen (15 percent) of the total number of members of the Association (Article 9.2 of the statutes). The Supervisory Committee was absent from the entire meeting and the Executive Committee and the Board of the GA were at this point no longer present at the meeting venue.

More details of the decision to adjourn the meeting can be found in the statement to members on 21 April:

...

BEGINNING OF THE STATEMENT

Dear members of IAPSS,
dear colleagues and friends,

On Saturday, April 18th, 2015 the 20th General Assembly of IAPSS took place at Birkbeck University in London. After the initial hours of discussion, the board of the Assembly decided - after consultation with the IAPSS Executive Committee - to adjourn the meeting. As a result, there was no final decision taken on two proposals and the composition of the Executive Committee as well as the Supervisory Committee for the upcoming legislative mandate starting on June 1st, 2015. This statement serves to clarify such decisions taken by the relevant bodies of the Association and provide guidance on how to proceed forward.

About 50 of our members participated in this General Assembly. While we valued their attendance and commitment to the common cause, the quorum represented a mere fragment of the entire body of IAPSS members, in both numerical and geographical terms: more than 1,250 individuals and almost two dozens associations, from a collective of 97 countries on all continents. Both the board of the Assembly and the IAPSS Executive Committee strongly believe that the Association cannot be represented anymore by a few dozens of our members, of which many are from the same countries, located exclusively in Europe. A bias that is consistently sustained due to socio-economic inequality and often unfair, restrictive visa regimes.

Even though IAPSS was founded by a handful of European political science students, IAPSS' membership composition has transformed and grown in its spatial dimension as well as numbers over the course of the last years. With the approval of previous General



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Assemblies, a system of individual membership was introduced in 2013 and extensively developed, next to the existing association membership. IAPSS has never had more members than as of today, from a more diverse background and on a more global level, and we – the board of the Association – have been directing all our work and the association's events towards an international perspective and global representation. The very name of our association in fact obliges us to do so. That is why we have been trying giving students a voice in the political science arena, regardless of their socio-economic background and whatever their religious or cultural beliefs. Whether that is by presenting a paper at one of our conferences with the support of an IAPSS travel grant, or by expressing one's opinion on the association's internal and external policies in one of the General Assemblies.

For a good while, the Executive Committee has become aware of the critique by many individual members and board members alike who have pointed out that the Association is too strongly focused on Europe and can therefore not genuinely be called an international association. The most recent General Assembly was, in geographical presentation, reflective of this bias. Many members will, be it for socioeconomic reasons, unfair and restrictive visa regimes or the suppression of political science as a discipline by a country's elite, never be able to attend any General Assembly held in Europe, and thus their voice, critical reflection and valuable contribution will be left unheard. We have taken this fundamental shortcoming in both legitimacy and inclusiveness of *all* members, not just those privileged, very serious. The board has been working hard on compiling a comprehensive reform proposal. One that also embraces responses to the expressed needs of increased transparency, the equal representation of gender and sexuality, measures and mechanisms against discrimination, the professionalization of our events as well as - and before all - the democratic and participatory empowerment of all members of IAPSS. This proposal is the *London Manifesto* and it was presented during the most recent General Assembly.

During the General Assembly it soon became clear that some members present did not feel much for this proposal which aims at reducing regional bias and making IAPSS more inclusive, transparent and integrative, but before all democratically and globally representative. Of the members present, a large group was from a small number of member associations of a few countries. The IAPSS Executive Committee believes that decisions taken in such an exclusive and geographically privileged Assembly would neither be legitimate, nor representative for the whole Association. For that reason, the board of the Assembly decided to adjourn the General Assembly.

As students of political science we tremendously care about democratic, participatory and legitimate decision-making procedures. We therefore will resume the General Assembly in a way that provides all our members with the opportunity to cast their – and in fact *your* vote – on the London Manifesto, and on the candidates for the IAPSS Executive Committee and the IAPSS Supervisory Committee for the legislative mandate 2015-16. The voting procedure and elections will be based on eVoting, with a secured and personalized vote provided to every single member of the Association, for the very first time since the foundation of IAPSS in 1998. The proposals will be officially



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presented in the upcoming days and weeks. We will duly inform you on further developments in this regard.

We kindly ask for your support for this important move towards a democratic, inclusive and integrative Association. One that is based on decisions taken and representatives elected legitimately. We look forward to your feedback, opinions, suggestions and remarks.

Yours sincerely,

the Chairs of the 20th IAPSS General Assembly & the IAPSS Executive Committee

END OF THE STATEMENT

...

- Note on the Structure for Continuation of the 20th IAPSS General Assembly -

The GA Board gave the Executive Committee the opportunity to draft plans for a continuation of the 20th IAPSS General Assembly (no new GA is to be convened, but rather the 20th edition is to be continued). The following steps have been agreed:

- The remaining issues of the agenda of the 20th IAPSS General Assembly will be split in two constituent parts;
- Agenda point 6, on the Executive Committee and Supervisory Committee Elections, will be considered from May 18, 2015, 00.01h (GMT) until May 24, 2015, 23:59h (GMT), through an online electronic vote. All candidates who have submitted their application for either the Executive Committee or Supervisory Committee until April 15, 2015, 21.00h (GMT) will be considered;
- Agenda point 3, the various discussion topics, such as the London Manifesto, will be discussed and voted upon during a period in June 2015 (to be announced), with the decisions on the proposal to be taken by all members of the Association and by electronic vote;
- Agenda points 4 (Workshops), 5 (Workshop Results) and 7 (Closing Ceremony) will not be discussed. 4 and 5 will not be replaced, but integrated in the agenda of the 21st IAPSS General Assembly, taking place on September 25, in Prague, Czech Republic. As with regards to 7, once both 3 and 6 have been voted upon, the GA board will formally close the 20th IAPSS General Assembly.

The reason why the position of points 6 and 3 has been swapped is due to the fact that the end of the legislative mandate is approaching (May 31 2015). The Executive Committee expresses its desire to elect both a new ExCom and SupCom for the mandate 2015-2016 in a timely fashion, now that discharge has been granted by the General Assembly following the approval of the Final Report of the IAPSS Executive Committee for the legislative mandate of 2014-2015.

- Continuation of the 20th IAPSS General Assembly -



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6 Elections of the Executive Committee and Supervisory Committee for the
Legislative Mandate 2015-16

6.1 Election of the Executive Committee

Results (total number of votes cast is 137)

<i>Position</i>	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Number of votes in favour</i>	<i>Number of abstentions</i>
President	Jannick Burggraaff	103	34
Secretary-General	Andrea Kovarova	98	39
Treasurer	Catherine Mackay	104	33
Academic Department	Vit Simral	98	39
Events Department	Florian Zabel	94	43
International Cooperation & Public Relations Department	Riina Bhatia	92	45
World Congress:	Philipp Aepler	94	43
Autumn Convention	Filipa Brandao	97	40

Each of the candidates listed above is therefore duly elected to serve on the Executive Committee for the Legislative Mandate 2015-16.



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6.2 Election of the Supervisory Committee

Results (Three candidates [out of five] to be elected. Total number of votes cast is 129.)

<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Number of votes</i>
Thomas Linders	48
Reint-Jan Groot Nuelend	38
Clara Brandstätter	18
Peymon Vitone	16
Giovanni Starita	2

There were 7 abstentions.

Thomas Linders, Reint-Jan Groot Nuelend and Clara Brandstätter are therefore duly elected to serve on the Supervisory Committee for the Legislative Mandate 2015-16.

The 20th IAPSS General Assembly Board would like to thank all those who have been participating in the elections.

As noted above, agenda point 3 on the London Manifesto will be discussed and voted on during June 2015. Agenda points 4 (Workshops) and 5 (Workshop Results) will be integrated in the agenda of the 21st IAPSS General Assembly, taking place on September 25, in Prague, Czech Republic.

CLOSING STATEMENT

These minutes and accompanying documents are issued by the Board of the 20th General Assembly:

Thomas Linders
Chair

Andrea Kovářová
Member

Catherine Mackay
Member

Nijmegen, The Netherlands
May 25, 2015