



**The 34th General Assembly of the  
International Association for  
Political Science Students (IAPSS),  
May 2021**

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*Note: The May 2020 General Assembly took place from May 15, 2021 at 15:00 CEST to May 25, 2021 at approximately 19:50 CEST. Due to the procedural demands, instead of one General Assembly, IAPSS hosted two General Assemblies scheduled a week apart. When non-procedural votes in these minutes are indicated to have passed, this means that they passed only after the voting period had elapsed in accordance with the requirements of the IAPSS Legal Framework.*

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## **General Assembly Part 1**

### **Location**

The meeting was held online via Zoom from Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

### **Attendance**

#### **Individual Members**

1. Justin Patrick
2. Giulia Zampedri
3. Omogbolahan Bello
4. Raquel Valentim
5. Ali Abbas Abdeldjalil
6. Muhammad Rashid
7. Reon van der Merwe
8. Meenakshi Bansal
9. Anastasia Shtemashenko
10. Daria Naumova
11. Rutaba Tariq
12. Feliks Shepel
13. Ashfaq U. Rehman
14. Ahmet Kaan Ketboga
15. Tessah Keza
16. BOUALAM MOHAMED
17. HILDA MARIBEL HUAYHUA MAMANI
18. Norka Sánchez Aedo
19. Moilana Chirema
20. Sheryl Bellagamba
21. Manuel Tomas Adriano
22. Oleksii Tkachenko
23. Doaa Ezz Elarab
24. Artem Oliinyk
25. Max Steuer
26. Jesslene Lee
27. Melis Kirtilli
28. Ioana Pantilimon
29. Veronica Svitach
30. Frank Stengs
31. Boluwatife Ajibola
32. Kateryna Dyshkantyuk
33. Rafael Plancarte
34. Oleksii Vasylevskyi
35. Karyna Boiko
36. Mykola Bondarenko
37. Victoria Ovcharuk
38. Natalia Fomina



39. Beshentseva Kseniia
40. J. Marcos Peña
41. Minh Nguyen
42. Funmilola Olorunfemi
43. Mihai Chihai
44. Shobhendra Srivastava
45. Jan Behrens
46. Anthony Medina Rivas Plata
47. Sivuyisiwe Kuse
48. Ginisha Dewani
49. Nzube Chukwuma
50. Lesedi Senamele Matlala
51. Yehor Hunia
52. Nathan Edward Swartz
53. Clara Caspar
54. Oleksii Zahreba
55. Rory Mondshein
56. Thomas N. Singbeh
57. Franco Pimentel Quispe
58. Andrew Kurzweil
59. C. Lalremsiami
60. Rose Smith
61. Edmundo Sandoval
62. Biligtsaikhan Uuganbayar
63. Paola Navarro Villa
64. Jakub Zientala
65. Tobias Scholz
66. Julia Jakus
67. Aiden Mocicka
68. Patricia Kumbakisaka
69. Connor Clarke
70. Tobi Adewunmi
71. Mitchell McIntosh
72. Maheen Shafeeq
73. Kingsley Ogunne
74. Oscar Andrés Nazario Rocca

**Association Members as Defined in the 2013 IAPSS Statutes**

None were present.

**Guests**

1. Makoto Okubo
2. Seifeddine Hajji

**Agenda**

1. Call to order

2. Approval of the Agenda and General Assembly Committee
3. Approval to seat visitors and grant them speaking rights
4. Approval of the minutes of the December 12, 2020 Online General Assembly
5. Report of the IAPSS President
6. Report of the IAPSS Treasurer
  - a. Financial Statement 2020-2021
  - b. Draft Budget 2021-2022
7. Report of the IAPSS Advisory Board
8. Regional Reports
9. Legal Framework Amendments and Motions
  - a. Motion 1: Liquidation of the Dutch Association and Transferring Resources to the New Canadian Not-for-profit Corporation.
  - b. Motion 2: Amendment of regulations regarding discrimination
  - c. Motion 3: Reimbursement for legal expenditures
  - d. Motion 4: Expulsion of Mr. Patrick as member of the Board/ExCom
  - e. Motion 5: Dischargement of Mr. Patrick as member of the Board/ExCom
  - f. Motion 6: Dischargement of Paola Navarro Villa as member of the Board/ExCom

**Livestream link**

<https://youtu.be/qodtfiF0lh8>

## **Minutes**

### **1. Call to order**

Tobias gives brief instructions on some aspects of the General Assembly. He calls the meeting to order.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda and General Assembly Committee**

Tobias explains that the General Assembly is a place for IAPSS members to exercise their democratic rights. Tobias informs participants that Robert's Rules of Order will be used as a framework for governing this General Assembly meeting. He explains how Robert's Rules of Order work, describing various motions available to participants. Tobias then proposes himself as the Chair, Biligtsaikhan as minute taker.

Rory asks for clarification on whether the motion is to approve Biligtsaikhan as a note taker or to approve the agenda.

Tobias replies that he started a point on the General Assembly Committee, and agenda will be afterwards. First, before the assembly will start discussing the agenda, the General Assembly Committee will be approved, even though they are in the other direction in the name of motion. Tobias notices that Marcos raised his hand.

Marcos replies that he has a request of inquiry on the approval of the agenda, but he suggests to approve the General Assembly Committee first.

The motion to approve the General Assembly Committee is moved by Jakub and seconded by Paola.

Tobias says that the vote will be available on the website.

Rory says she has a request of inquiry before approval of the agenda. She would like to ask the sponsor of the motion 2 to speak to the intentions of the motions, so that way the general membership can understand the motion before the vote to approve the agenda.

Tobias says the vote to approve the General Assembly Committee is now available on the website, and after obtaining the vote results he will move to Rory's request.

*The motion to approve the General Assembly Committee passes.*

Tobias returns to Rory's request directed to the motion 2, to which he refers as the amendment of regulations regarding discrimination. Tobias asks Rory if he is correct.

Rory replies that this is correct.

Tobias states that the mover of this motion is Jan Behrens, and that he was requested to explain the intent of his motion. Tobias asks if Jan Behrens is present.

Jan replies that he is here, and he thinks that needs about 3 minutes to speak, and that he would like to talk about the recording of the General Assembly, and he would like to ask for evidence that IAPSS is allowed to record a meeting without his consent according to Dutch law.

Tobias replies that this is not a part of this discussion, as there is a mover who asks to explain the intent of this motion, and if there is a seconder, then Jan will be requested and he can decide whether he wants to answer exactly to this passage or not. Tobias makes a point that everything in regards to recording has been stated at the beginning of this meeting. Tobias then asks if there is a seconder for Rory's request.

The request to Jan to explain the motion 2 is moved by Rory, and seconded by Marcos.

Tobias asks whether Jan wants to respond directly to this question or not.

Jan asks what exactly is the question.

Tobias responds that the question is to state the intent of motion 2 in the motions package which was brought forward by Jan.

Jan begins his explanation of the motion. He says that on the first page of the motion he wrote that he would like to kindly ask for the members to decide in favor for the association to reimburse the legal expenditures which he unfortunately had due to the misconduct by the board and their unfair expulsion decision against him that the competent Dutch court declared unlawful and thus invalid.

Tobias clarifies that the request was geared towards motion 2, which, if he is not mistaken, is on regulations regarding discrimination, and that is not the motion Jan is referring to.

Jan asks for an opportunity to open a file on his side. Then he proposes not to waste any further time, and says that Tobias can read it out from his side.

Tobias replies that he sees it as a finalization of the response, and he considers Rory's and Marcos' request to be answered.

Marcos raises a point of order. He asks whether Jan finished answering the request of inquiry.

Tobias replies that as he understood it, the question was answered.

Marcos moves a motion to strike the motion 2 from the agenda, the motion is seconded by Giulia.

Rory raises a point of information. She asks whether it is possible under Robert's Rules of Order to have speakers for and against removing the motion from the agenda.



Tobias replies that it would be possible, but considering the last few minutes, it became clear that the person who raised this motion, which was Jan, has made his point to defend his motion. If Jan or anyone else wants to further defend the motion, then he, or she, or they would have the opportunity to do that.

Rory asks whether she can move a motion anyway to have 4 speakers for and 4 speakers against removing the motion from agenda, in the event anybody would like to either speak for or against the removal of the motion.

Tobias replies that Rory may make a motion to have a further conversation about the motion. But as a Chair he would limit to two contributions, one in favour, and one against, to move forward with the debate on all other items.

The motion to have a debate on removal of the motion 2 is moved by Rory, and seconded by Jacub.

Tobias asks if there is anyone who wants to speak in favor of the motion; he then asks Rory whether she wants to make one of these statements, given that she raised a motion to have a debate.

Rory replies that she would like to speak in favour of removing it from the agenda, but not in favour of the motion itself.

Tobias states that Rory has 1 minute to speak.

Rory argues in favour of removing motion 2 from the agenda for a number of reasons. Firstly, the intentions and motivations for this motion are unclear, and the sponsor did not really speak to that. Secondly, considering the fact that European Court of Human Rights prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, and IAPSS is incorporated in the Netherlands, which is subject to the European Court of Human Rights, then it does not really make sense as to why we would specifically remove protections on the basis of race. In the light of this, and the current events, including the Black Lives Matter movement, which is active in almost all of the G20 countries, and IAPSS' commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and compounded by the fact that we have a racial justice Student Research Committee that was recently created that highlights the legitimacy of racial relations and the extent to which it has informed political science, it is incredibly important to disqualify the motion from the agenda.

Jan speaks in favor of motion 2. He states if he did not misunderstand Rory's intervention, then he has got the idea that she thinks that he is doing that amendment to be against the fight against racism, but this is not the case. He is in favor of fighting against any kind of racism, but this is only because of the term. He says that the term "race" implies that there are different races within human beings, and this is not the case. And therefore it is the only idea behind the amendment. It is not against fighting against racism, and it is definitely not to change the agenda in that respect. He says that he thinks that it has to be clarified, and he guesses that Rory misunderstood his intention and the intention of the amendment.

Tobias thanks Jan for keeping well in time. He says that considering that the GA is moving to the actual substantial debate of this motion, he would encourage not to have a debate on the substance of this motion, but to have a vote on the motion by Rory. He says that the vote on whether motion 2 will remain on the agenda is now available online.

Jan intercepts and asks whether it is possible to remove the motion from the agenda according to Dutch law.

Tobias thanks Jan for his question. He says that everyone who comes together here has the opportunity to make a motion, to define and shape how we move on within our General Assembly, and he therefore welcomes any kind of conversation. Participants can decide whether they want to have this conversation or not.

Jakub asks permission of Tobias to speak.

Tobias grants the permission to Jakub to speak.

Jakub replies to Jan regarding the Dutch law. He says that under Article 1 of the Dutch Constitution, in the section about freedom of assembly, we have total freedom of arranging our own General Assembly and agenda. That comes from a person who has chaired a couple of youth associations in the Netherlands.

Tobias thanks Jakub for his intervention. He states that 1 minute for the vote has passed.

*The vote to remove the motion 2 from the agenda passes.*

Tobias says this means that the General Assembly can either move to the motion to accept the agenda or to any other items that may request changing the agenda.

Jakub raises a point of inquiry about motion 3 of the agenda regarding the reimbursement of legal expenditures.

Tobias clarifies whether Jakub wants to ask the person who put the motion on the agenda on the intent of the motion.

Jakub confirms that it is the intention of his point of inquiry.

Tobias thanks Jakub and asks if there is a seconder to Jakub's point of inquiry.

Giulia seconds Jacob's point of inquiry.

Tobias says that the motion 3 on the reimbursement of legal expenditures was put forward by Jan Behrens. Tobias asks Jan whether he wants to explain in 2 minutes the intention of motion 3.

Jan replies that he can try to explain the intention of his motion in 2 minutes, but he thinks that it is a short time, and a better way would be for others to ask him questions, so he can anticipate them in creating his answer.

Tobias responds that the motion has been made that he has the floor for 2 minutes, and whether Jan wants to make time of these 2 minutes.

Jan replies that he can do it in two minutes, and after that others can ask him questions. He asks if this is correct.

Tobias says if there are questions, there will be a motion to have a further discussion.

Marcos asks whether he can ask Jan a question, if he accepts.

Tobias asks if this is the question that was asked by Rory in the chat.

Marcos says it is not his question.

Tobias says that we should move forward and provide Jan a floor for 2 minutes to state the intention of his motion.

Marcos says that he understands and he apologizes.

Jan begins his explanation by saying that he has only 2 minutes and that nobody informed him that he incidentally submitted only the first page, he would like to begin with the last paragraph. The allegation against him was in the misinterpretation as that he was alleged with the evidence that a certain member in his eyes was not suited for the job. He can only state that this is completely a lie. He indeed stated that the person was not suited for the position, but only because of formal requirements that the individual was not able to meet quite independently to their origin. Jan says that the formal requirements included having a membership of the association as a set condition for being a coordinator, and having experience in political science or any related subjects. Given that background he later was mentioning that once he was aware that the selected candidate had never ever studied political science or any related subject, he was asking himself why that individual was able to apply for the position, which is not only a completely sound question, but also a quite normal one, keeping in mind how much dedication he demonstrated to the position unto the point as to why he was asking about the speculative application in tears in Madrid to offer him a position just 2 weeks before the position was created without recognizing him, and then even withholding his once again submitted application in front of the entire executive committee. Jan says that he thinks that it is quite normal that if you are trying to apply to one position for years, and for example he can remember that Tobias Scholz after the end of the submission deadline was pronouncing in the official call on Facebook whether anybody knows someone who can manage the website. Hay says that yes, of course, he did get the message that Tobias was searching for anybody, but in your eyes he was a nobody, therefore Jan was completely ignored.

Tobias states that Jan is over 2 minutes, and asks him if he wants to wrap up this document on motion 3.

Jan replies that he was also asking himself as to why there was someone applying from Germany, from Hannover once earlier. He says that it is completely without any

discrimination against his own nationality. He was not doing that in a racist motivation. Having this small sentence which was completely cut out of context and he did not have the opportunity to defend himself before the expulsion decision.

Tobias thanks Jan for his statement. He says that if he is not mistaken, Marcos had a motion or question following up with this one. He asks if this is correct. There is no reply from Marcos. Tobias then asks if there is a motion to follow up with this answer.

Giulia replies that she would like to follow up. She raises a point of information. Paola seconds her point of information.

Giulia has a question to Jan, asking him why he is asking for the reimbursement, if he has already got a reimbursement from the legal proceeding.

Tobias thanks Giulia for her question. He says that he made a little mistake, because it was a point of information, so it did not require a seconder. He says that Jan has 1 minute maximum to give his answer.

Jan replies that he only had a minimum of the awarding reimbursement by the competent Dutch court, and this was only for the formal reasons. He says it is not possible to take a legal action with the awarded amount and he thinks that this is common sense. He says that due to IAPSS not recording its address correctly, he had to pay almost 300 euros for the bailiff, but was only awarded 90 euros, and that was not his mistake. He did not say anything in a racist motivation, and if you are of a different opinion, everyone is welcome to stand up and say "Jan, you are racist". He says that he is not a racist and he has not stated anything in a racist motivation. There was no other opportunity than taking legal action to be a member any longer, and this is the reason he kindly asks to reimburse him, because he spent about 200 hours on this expulsion case. He had many nights when he could not sleep.

Tobias says that his time is over and asks to wrap up the sentence.

Jan says this is the reason why; he had a significant financial damage, and this is not fair, and he should be reimbursed.

Tobias thanks Jan for his answer to Giulia's point of information. He asks if there is any other motion to lead up with this question, or a motion to close this case. Tobias notices that Reon has his hand up, and asks him to speak.

Reon says that he has a point of inquiry. He says that the person who put that motion forward says that he did not make any racist claims. As a particular point of interest, himself and a few colleagues have actually looked into the minutes from the 2019 session, and he is posting that now, on page 19 people can see comments that are being referred to. Reon says he has an inquiry whether the candidate can maybe expand on why there is such a discrepancy between what the minutes say and what he says, because the minutes are pretty clear.

Tobias thanks Reon. As this is a point of inquiry, he asks if there is someone who can second it. Sivuyisiwe seconds the point of inquiry. Tobias gives 2 minutes to Jan to explain

what exactly was the intention of the lines that are referenced two in the General Assembly minutes from December 2019, on page 19.

Rory asks which lines we should be drawing our attention to.

Reon says that those lines are located closer to the bottom of page 19, in particular referencing the candidate for a position from Kenya, and that being a problem.

Jan asks for some time to find the minutes.

Tobias says that the link is in the chat. After 30 seconds of silence, Tobias says he is going to start time now for Jan's own interest.

Jan asks if section 8.27 is the one that is being referred to. He says it is difficult because there was no quotation of that, so he can only guess it was the last sentence. It is not what he said word by word. The motivation why he was asking was that he was an IT coordinator of the association in 2017 and to that time there was not a single member from Kenya. Additionally, the member has never ever studied political science or any related subjects. Additionally, the selected candidate to the time of the application has not studied at all for 7 years. So, of course there was a question of how could that person have the motivation to apply for the position additionally to just being aware that there was a job offer. It is most unlikely that someone is applying for this position without being a student, without being a political science student, and from a country, where in his opinion was not a single member of the association. So, his sentence was not against the selected candidate but against the process. So his idea was that the only sound answer to that could be that the former president of IAPSS who Jan accused of having definitely forced his dismissal with immediate effect.

Tobias intercepts and says that 2 minutes allocated to Jan's response are over, and asks him to wrap up his sentence.

Jan says that in that respect his allegations were against the procedure and the persons in charge so that everyone knows how dedicated he was to the position, and that the only intention was to prevent him from getting the position, because the former president was asking someone else. That was his intention and it was not against the selected candidate from Africa.

Tobias thanks Jan for his intervention and explaining his case. He notices that Justin has a point of information.

Justin points out that during the 2019-2020 mandate, IAPSS conducted a members by country report internally to see how many members there are from different countries, and there were multiple members from Kenya.

Tobias thanks Justin and asks if there are any motions on the floor. When Tobias is talking, Jan tries to intercept by talking over him. Tobias asks Jan if he has a motion. Jan replies that he wants to respond to Justin's intervention. Tobias asks if Jan wants to make a point of

information. Jan replies that this is correct. Tobias says Jan can go ahead and shortly respond to Justin within 30 seconds.

Jan says that this may be the case that in 2020 there were members from Kenya, but that was not in his knowledge. He was dismissed in 2017, and in 2017 there was not a single member from Kenya, and this is why he was in charge of the membership database. He says he does not understand why Justin makes that remark about 2020, because it is not important.

Giulia raises a point of information.

Tobias thanks Giulia and clarifies for those who are not in IAPSS or have not been following this case that there were two expulsion decisions. One expulsion decision was in 2017 and there was another expulsion case that happened a year ago. The one Jan is referring to is the latest one that happened more recently. Tobias then gives floor to Giulia.

Giulia points out to Jan that maybe in 2017 there were no members from Africa, but in 2018 we started the regionalisation project, which of course expanded IAPSS's activities from over the world, as evident by the survey Justin had conducted. She understands that in 2017 things may have been different, but they changed over the years.

Tobias says that he sees a need to move forward and accept the agenda. His personal preference would be to move in that direction, but if there is a substantial interest in discussing the substantial matter of any of these motions, he would encourage to discuss this when the motion appears. He notices that Jakub has a motion.

Jakub replies that he would like to motion to remove motion 3 from the agenda. Paola seconds the motion.

Tobias requests to put the vote on the website. Then he asks Rory about her intervention made earlier.

Rory replies that she would like to make a motion regarding motions 4, 5, and 6, but Jakub's motion goes first. She says she would like to be recognized afterwards.

There are technical issues with posting the vote on the website, and Tobias proposes to participants to introduce themselves in the chat by writing "hello" in their native language, and the place where they are currently located.

Tobias then informs the General Assembly that the vote on removing motion 3 is on the website, and participants can proceed to voting. He reads out names of different countries in the chat written by participants.

*The motion to remove the motion 3 from the agenda passes.*

Rory moves a motion to remove motions 4, 5, 6 altogether. She points out that she is willing to explain why she wants to remove them all at once. The motion is seconded by Giulia.

Tobias gives 2 minutes to Rory to explain her motion.

Rory begins her explanation of the motion by saying that motions on impeachment and expulsion seem to be politically motivated. Acknowledging that the sponsor of the motions is running for positions against people he wants to expel, including the President and Vice-President for Public Relations, one could argue that it is rooted in eroding democracy. Expelling the President and Vice-President for Public Relations before the vote is limiting the IAPSS' members' ability to cast their ballots in a fair election. Especially if there are only two candidates for the presidency, one being the current president whom this motion seeks to expel, and the person making the actual motion. And when you also consider the fact that this would then lead to an unopposed race, it would seem to be politically motivated. Similarly in the position for the Vice-President of Public Relations, this would yield a significant advantage to the other two candidates. The likelihood that those motions are politically motivated is compounded by the lack of evidence provided to support these claims, particularly in the motion 6; and acknowledging the importance of fair elections and the gravitas associated with the charges, and the lack of evidence provided to substantiate the charges, Rory would like to motion to remove those motions from the agenda completely.

Tobias thanks Rory. He reiterates that motions 4, 5, and 6 were put up by Jan Behrens. He says if Jan would like to respond, he will be given the same amount of time - 2 minutes to reply to Rory's motion. He says that the floor belongs to Jan now for 2 minutes.

Giulia notices that Jan is not in the meeting anymore.

Paola replies that Jan had technical issues, and as soon as he joins back, she will let him back in.

Rory raises a point of information. She asks if it would be appropriate to request a 1 to 2 minute recess while the sponsor of the motion adjusts the Internet connectivity issues, so we can substantially discuss the motion.

Tobias suggests a 5 minute recess. He asks if this would be fine with Rory.

Rory nods in approval.

Tobias gives a start to the 5 minute break.

The meeting resumes 5 minutes later at 16:11 (CEST).

Tobias resumes the meeting. He observes that Jan is back, and informs him about the break that was requested so he could respond to Rory's motion to remove motions 4, 5, 6 from the agenda, which were all sponsored by Jan. He says that Jan has 2 minutes to reply to Rory's motion. He notices that Rory would like to speak.

Rory replies that it would be fair for the sponsor of the motions to hear what her motion was about. She requests 2 minutes to speak about her motion again.

Tobias grants the floor to Rory.

Rory says that she would like to amend the agenda to remove motions 4, 5, and 6 altogether, and here is why she decided to compound them. She would like to remove impeachment and expulsion motions, because they seem to be politically motivated. Acknowledging that the sponsor of the motions is running for positions against people he wants to expel, one could argue that it is rooted in eroding democracy. Expelling the President and Vice-President for Public Relations would actually limit the IAPSS's members' ability to cast their ballots in a fair election. Since there are only two candidates for the presidency, including the current president whom this motion is targeting, and the sponsor, this would lead to the race being virtually unopposed. And also when you consider the fact that there is the Vice-President of Public Relations position, that would significantly limit the number of candidates in there. The likelihood that those motions are politically motivated is compounded by the lack of evidence provided to support these claims, so acknowledging the importance of fair elections and the gravitas associated with the charges, and the lack of sufficient evidence provided to substantiate the claims, Rory would like to motion to remove those motions out of order and the agenda.

Tobias thanks Rory for keeping well in time and gives the floor to Jan to respond to Rory's motion within the 2 minutes.

Jan says he thinks that Rory turns the situation upside down. He thinks that her motivation is politically motivated. She cannot argue with it. He says that she will find a trick to get rid of him, and just create a story that he would have been a racist and created racist statements. For example, when Jan has a motion enlisting a very gross misconduct which has taken place over a very long duration. Rory says that he is only doing it because he is running for a position on his own, and this is not right and fair. He does not think that this is a part of democracy to get rid of motions. Jan asks why Connor is laughing out loud and if it has anything to do with his intervention, and if this is so funny what he is saying here. He asks if this is okay for Connor to laugh out loud.<sup>1</sup> He states that it is a very serious question.

Tobias states that Jan has only 30 seconds left.

Jan says that he has got a feeling that Rory<sup>2</sup> is against him on a personal level. And that is the reason why the expulsion decision could only take place at the end. He says that he can give a time order. The letter of complaint was written 5 weeks after the meeting took place. It was not only against that little sentence, and it was also for example told that he would have been aggressive and blunt.

Tobias intercepts and informs Jan that his time is over. Jan continues to talk over Tobias. Tobias asks Jan to finish his sentence.

Jan says he does not think it is fair to be against him on a personal level. He does not think that it is fair to get out of his motions.

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<sup>1</sup> Connor was muted when he was laughing, so his laughter was not audible for other GA members.

<sup>2</sup> Jan uses "you" in this phrase, which likely refers to Rory.



Justin raises a point of order. He informs GA that the member Jan has spoken over a time limit, and the Chair asked him to stop. He did not. Justin asks to note in the minutes the fact that the decorum was breached.

Tobias thanks Justin. He repeats that Jan has gone over the time limit given to him. He notes that Paola has a point of information. After Paola, Anthony and Giulia have their points of information in order. The floor is given to Paola.

Paola makes a clarification like that Rory is not running for any position, so there is no way that her motions are politically motivated, given that she is not seeking any position.

Anthony seconds Paola's remarks. Rory is not applying for any positions, and she is in a right to make these motions. He thinks that the discussion is held between professionals and no one is trying to make it personal. He calls the General Assembly to be more calm with regards to these discussions.

Giulia points out to Jan that this situation is not happening at a personal level. This is a General Assembly where all members can listen and vote. A discussion is taking place so everyone can vote, and everyone can make their opinion. Everyone has time to speak.

Tobias thanks Giulia. He states that the General Assembly moved into a substantial discussion about the legitimacy of the motions on the agenda. He encourages members who have additional information relevant to the discussion to raise their hands. Since no one interrupts him, he requests the board member Bilgtsaikhan to post an online vote regarding the removal of motions 4, 5, and 6 from the agenda.

*The motion to remove motions 4, 5, and 6 from the agenda passes.*

Tobias suggests moving to the confirmation of the agenda. He asks Bilgtsaikhan to reupload the vote on the agenda, since the legacy vote on the agenda has been available for some time, and the vote should be refreshed to ensure legitimacy of results.

Bilgtsaikhan replies with the request for members not to re-vote, because of the technical difficulties with re-voting. She wishes good luck to all.

Tobias thanks Bilgtsaikhan. He asks if there is someone who wants to raise the motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Rutaba raises the motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion is seconded by Ginisha.

*The motion to approve the agenda as amended passes.*

Tobias informs the GA that all motions are available for online voting for the designated voting period that begins when today's meeting is adjourned. The livestream and votes will be accessible to everyone to come to their own conclusions. He then makes a correction that all substantial motions have a voting period of 3 days, but motions of technical nature (like approving the agenda) have immediate effect.

### **3. Approval to seat visitors and grant them speaking rights**

Tobias says that the next point on the agenda is to seat visitors and grant them speaking rights. He asks if someone wishes to explain that agenda point. He states that he was informed that it is Makoto's point. Justin raises his hand to explain the motion. Tobias grants him 2 minutes of speaking time.

Justin says that Makoto is an honorary member as opposed to the ordinary member, this is a motion to include him and grant him speaking rights, as well as to any other members who are not ordinary members.

Tobias thanks Justin. He then asks if anyone would like to make a point in the discussion, a suggestion, or a comment. Makoto raises hand. Tobias grants him the floor.

Makoto says he would like to share his perspective on Justin and his team. Makoto has worked with IAPSS as a partner organization since last year, and he must say that Justin's way of organizing events was tremendously well-received by partner organizations. The activities of IAPSS were excellent and well-received by partners. And in the future he hopes to have many other ways of collaboration besides music. He is very happy to be a part of this group and work on IAPSS activities as a partner.

Tobias thanks Makoto for providing information on this agenda point.

Justin moves a motion to vote to seat visitors and grant them speaking rights. The motion is seconded by Giulia.

Rory asks what the General Assembly is voting on.

Tobias replies that the vote is to approve seating visitors and granting them speaking rights. In his interpretation, it would also include singing rights.

*The motion to seat visitors and grant them speaking rights passes.*

### **4. Approval of the minutes of the December 12, 2020 Online General Assembly**

Tobias asks the General Assembly to move to the vote to approve minutes of the December 2020 General Assembly.

Giulia moves the motion to approve minutes of the 2020 General Assembly. The motion is seconded by Oleksii.

*The motion to approve minutes of the 2020 General Assembly passes.*

### **5. Report of the IAPSS President**

The report can be accessed here:

<https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/President-Report-May-2021.pdf>

Tobias moves to the next agenda point - presentation of the report of the IAPSS President. Tobias grants the floor to Justin and gives him 5 minutes of speaking time.

Justin thanks Tobias. He invites everyone to take a look at the report on the General Assembly Page. He states that it was an unprecedented year for IAPSS, as the association had to deal with Covid-19. That rendered the 2020 World Congress to be canceled. IAPSS had to adapt to that, and it was able to do so by working together on all continents and running online events. To test out the technology, a number of free online events were held. IAPSS got a Zoom account, and provided accessible events to students. There are a number of educational resources online, and IAPSS uses those resources to improve its communication capacities across platforms. By the time of 2021, IAPSS was able to successfully host a World Congress entirely online and generate revenue to keep the association going in the future. Justin thinks it's a great accomplishment, and it was a collected effort from the entire IAPSS team, the World Congress team, the global and regional department. It is very important that we did this. This will in the future be something that students can look back and see how we persevered. This will help the association to build its capacities in the future. Justin has a vision for the future when IAPSS goes back to in-person events; it can have an online component to those events, using what the association has learned. As such, people who cannot afford to travel, can still participate remotely. A number of challenges that IAPSS experienced, there were some resignations, but we were able to use IAPSS's guiding documents to elect or appoint replacements to those positions. There were also some issues caused by the nature of things like bank accounts and troubles with transferring access, however Shobhendra, the treasurer, will talk more about that. At the time of writing the report, the association finished the year with the surplus. With Covid-19 and everything, that's good news for the association going forward. Justin says that the report is quite long and he thanks everyone who volunteered their time for IAPSS over the past year whether it is on the team, as our partners, and external organizations we have worked with. IAPSS has led an initiative to mobilize the student governments from around the world to create an umbrella organization, a Global Student Government to represent all students from all subjects. That can provide an additional layer of advocacy and help IAPSS and other student governments to advocate for policies change conducive to students in bodies like UN and other areas where their policy input is needed. Justin thanks everyone and says he is happy to answer any questions.

Tobias thanks Justin for providing an overview of this year's mandate and keeping well in time. He invites any kinds of motions to have a discussion on this report. If this is not requested, a motion to approve of the president's report is expected.

Jan requests an intervention.

Tobias asks whether Jan wants to raise a motion for an inquiry.

Jan replies that he has a remark.

Tobias says he would need to raise a point of information.

Jan raises a point of information. Tobias grants the floor to Jan.

Jan says that as far as he knows, that the association established a kind of association membership, by which all members of the joining association become members of IAPSS. He asks if this statement is correct, clarifying that this is a first step of his intervention.

Tobias thanks Jan for his point of information. He asks Justin to provide an answer.

Justin says that this was a change voted on at the previous General Assembly. The members decided to do this. The old conventional definition of the association member in the 2013 statutes that IAPSS had to revert back to in March 2021 does not describe categories of the association membership. We do have a different kind of agreement, where by joining IAPSS each individual member of the association gets voting rights, instead of the associations having one vote each. This accounts for different sizes of the associations and allows more students to be informed of IAPSS' opportunities.

Tobias thanks Justin for his answer.

Jan interrupts and talks over Tobias.

Tobias asks if Jan has another motion.

Jan says that it was the first part of his word that he would like to present.

Tobias invites Jan to present his point of information within 2 minutes, so Justin can reply to all of his requests in full, so everything can be more structured.

Jan says that he does not think that it is allowed to have such association membership agreement. As far as every individual who wants to become a member of the association has to apply for admission on their own, it is not possible to present an IAPSS membership like a present or a gift or an automatical agreement. At least it is not right to automatically offer every member of the partner association voting rights during the General Assembly. It is against Dutch law.

Tobias thanks Jan for his point of information, He asks him if he wants to continue with other questions or comments.

Jan replies that he has another comment. He says he is not quite sure if it is allowed to limit the opportunity for members to be part of the writing contest like it was organized by the North America chapter. In the statutes it is clearly defined that every member of the association has the right to participate in every kind of activity unless it is reasonable to prevent such participation and additionally it is defined by the Board of the association, and both is not the case. It is also quite weird that the condition to participate in the writing contest just by being enrolled in the study program in the United States or Canada, which does not mean that every member of the chapter is allowed, because it is also possible that you are already finished with your studies, and also living in North America, and also it is possible that you are a member of another country, but you are enrolled in another study program.

Tobias asks Jan to wrap up his point of information, as he has exceeded two minutes.

Jan says that he thinks that it is not allowed to arbitrarily limit the access to IAPSS' activities like it was done with the writing contest. Just to underline the response to Rory's intervention earlier.

Tobias says that this is not a point being discussed, as this is a conversation about the president's report. He says there were 2 points addressed to Justin in Jan's point of information, and he is going to give Justin an equal amount of time to respond to Jan's questions. Tobias reminds everyone that there is a separate agenda point that discusses regional reports, and there will be a further opportunity to discuss activities more in-depth and the structures of the regions. In this case, IAPSS USA and Canada was addressed, so there will be a section in which we can talk more in depth about regions. Tobias grants the floor to Justin for 2 minutes.

Justin responds to the first point of Jan. He says that IAPSS is not giving away memberships. The political science student associations that join IAPSS pay fees. Then they send an email to their members, asking who would like to opt into the IAPSS membership that the association has paid for, and those members opt into it. So, generally, very similar to the previous model, but we just expand services that IAPSS offers to the associations. As to the second point, Justin says that Jan complained to the Advisory Board about this, and it has ruled that IAPSS USA and Canada is a distinct organization, and is governed by internal regulations that grant regions autonomy. The Advisory Board ruled that the contest was okay. He invites the Advisory Board and the Chair of IAPSS US and Canada to respond as well.

Tobias thanks Justin. He states that Justin only used 1 minute from the available time, and he invites a member of the Advisory Board to reply to Jan's comment.

Giulia takes the floor. She says that the Advisory Board received a complaint from Jan about this topic. The Advisory Board that the legitimacy of the regional chapters is governed by Regulation 5. Every regional chapter has freedom to build a network of political science students and to offer programs of any kind to members. Giulia says they have already talked about it with Jan, and Jan said he does not agree with that, but the Advisory Board replied that their decision is based on IAPSS' statutes. She states that she does not know what else she can add to this point. If someone needs more information, she can send a full explanation given to Jan, so it is clear for everyone.

Tobias thanks Giulia for keeping well in time. He asks if there are any other points of information, motions, or a motion to approve the president's report.

Jan requests a point of information.

Tobias grants Jan 2 minutes of speaking time.

Jan says that it was not possible to get an answer via email. He says that he applied numerous times for the IT coordinator position, and the last time he applied was in July 2020. He was recognized with his application because of the expulsion decision. Then there was a ruling by the competent Dutch court that the expulsion decision was unlawful.

Tobias intervenes and asks Jan whether his point of information is related to the president's report.

Jan says that yes, of course, because it was during the mandate, and it's about the responsibility during the mandate and the governance by the administration during the mandate.

Tobias says that Jan may continue and asks him to keep in mind that this is discussing the document that Justin posted online and is waiting for approval.

Jan says that the report can only be approved when everything is fine in the administration of the association. Jan says he would like to ask why there was no response to his inquiry, that it was not his fault that his application was not recognized. He asks why a procedure is not going on since the verdict in March. He says it was quite difficult, he was writing an email, and there was no answer. Two days later he writing the next email, two days later he reminding for the second time. Two days later he was reminding for the third time. Then there was an answer that he would get an answer in a timely manner. He waited another week until he reminded for a second time. So, it is very difficult. He knows that everything is done on a professional level, and on a professional level there was nothing against somebody. In that respect he would like to kindly ask why it is not possible to continue with the process.

Rory raises a point of information.

Tobias thanks Jan. He recognizes Rory and gives her 2 minutes of speaking time.

Rory asks whether it would be possible to withdraw this particular motion, because she does not think it is necessary to remain for the rest of the discussion, as there are more relevant things to discuss. She understands that Mr. Behrens had some issues with his application, and that makes sense, but ultimately it is not a conversation for the general public. According to the IAPSS' policies to keep things very calm, and to ensure that the General Assemblies are used for general membership issues, and to direct the conversation towards more broad topics, as opposed to issues of individual members.

Tobias thanks Rory. He states that he actually does not see any motions by Jan. He only posted points of information that stimulated this discussion. The members can of course put the motion to approve the president's report or any other motion.

Rory says that she would like to clarify her comment. She thinks that the General Assembly should direct the conversation, whether in the form of a motion or comments, towards things that are relevant to the General Assembly. Considering that members are staying up late in different timezones, and also this is a larger conversation, and it is not necessarily specific to any particular members. Any individual members' questions should be directed to the parties concerned as opposed to bringing it up in the context of the General Assembly. Therefore, she would like to put a motion to approve the president's report.

Tobias thanks Rory. He asks if there are any seconders of Rory's motion. The motion is seconded by Connor.

Jan intercepts and says he has another point of information before the vote of approving the annual report.

Tobias says the time has been given to have two points of information including feedback. The evidence was presented that there has been a process that followed the legal requirements and responsibilities involving the body responsible within IAPSS to follow up with such requests. You have encouraged to again have this discussion, however others have highlighted that there is a conversation within IAPSS through these legitimate channels. So, he is going to grant the motion to approve the president's report. You can directly respond to this motion if you have a substantial argument against this particular motion. He asks not to open a separate discussion that moves this subject back to this conversation which has been closed already. He asks Jan if he has a disagreement with the motion. If yes, he would have to put a motion, and he would need a seconder to respond negatively to the motion to approve the president's report.

Jan indicates that he will not put forward any motion.

Rory proposes a motion to have Mack sing during voting. The motion is seconded by Giulia.

*The motion to approve the president's report passes.*

Tobias states that the General Assembly has been sitting for 2 hours and suggests a 5 minute break.

Mack asks for permission to share a screen to share a video. Max says he will share a music piece that has never been shared with IAPSS before.

Rory replies that it is impossible to grant that permission given the current Zoom settings, but Mack can just play it on his computer.

Mack replies that he needs time to prepare.

Rory suggests having music played during the next break.

Mack goes ahead with playing music during this break.

The meeting resumes at 17:03 (CEST).

Tobias thanks Mack for his musical intervention. He states that the vote to approve the president's report passed.

## **6. Report of the IAPSS Treasurer**

The reports for sections 6.a and 6.b can be accessed here:

[https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/IAPSS-Financial-Report\\_-2020\\_2021.pdf](https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/IAPSS-Financial-Report_-2020_2021.pdf)

### *a. Financial Statement 2020-2021*

Tobias moves to the agenda point - presentation of the treasurer's report. He gives the floor to Shobhendra for 5 minutes. He asks him to clarify whether there will be 2 votes - on the financial statement and on the draft budget, or just one.

Shobhendra thanks Tobias. He says that he shared the link to the report in the chat in case people do not have it. He expects to have two different votes, one the financial statement and one the draft budget. He is going to present his report in roughly 3 blocks. One block will talk about the financial state of IAPSS last year. The second part will focus on the areas where the next treasurer should work on to improve as far as finances are concerned. In the third part he will look at the budget. For the first part, page 13 in the report tells about the financial situation of the association. The report was drafted at the end of March, March 30th. Some things have changed since then. IAPSS made around 10,000 euros in revenue, most of it came via membership fees or partnership fees. This is quite an achievement, because of Covid hitting especially last year, and this year we had to move to online events, and still having such membership revenue is promising and gives some comfort for the future. The expenses were almost at around 10,000 again. Most of them were related to Zoom and other software things; such expenses would not be seen in the previous years because of the nature of the online part. There was a profit of 500 euros at the end of March. Shobhendra is happy to say that by the end of May, because of the sales of World Congress tickets and no substantial increase in costs, because the event was online, the profit is now around 4000 euros. We're in good shape if looking at the next 6-8 months down the line. The major expenses were the legal and notary expenditure, they took around 5000 euros, which accounted for 50% of the expenses. 10% of expenses were for the software part, and insurance also cost some money. Long story short, there is a profit of 4000 euros, which shows that the model of online events is working and people find value in membership. 99% of the revenue comes from the membership. This is the financial statement. The second part includes the area of improvements, which are available to read from page 4 to page 8 in the report. Shobhendra says he joined IAPSS as treasurer in November of last year, because of the existing treasurer at the time leaving the mandate. He worked in this role from November to May. When he joined, there were quite a few things: there was no access to some bank accounts, the association could not transfer money to some of its vendors, so some Executive Committee members and regular members were paying for expenses from their pockets to keep things running. Thanks to them for this, but we have fixed most of it now. We are now using proper bank channels and credit cards for these things. All the back personal payments have been cleared up. Most of the basics are fixed in place. So, for the treasurer, who picks up the next mandate, they will have a solid base when it comes to running the organization's finances. Another area where we should improve is the grants position. Most of our revenue comes from membership fees, but when you look at the other organizations of this nature, you would see that grants are a source of revenue. We do not have that, so we should get better at that. One of the reasons is that in the Netherlands the organization is listed as the association, which limits the grants we can get. But now that we are considering moving to Canada, we will have this again as a viable option, so we should definitely look into that. Getting a good grant will help us to have assurance in the future. Because right now we are only looking at survival in terms of finances. For example, we look at the legal costs, and yearly revenue, and see if we can break even. Once we have some grants, we should do the strategic financial positioning, and not look at it from the day-to-day



basis. We should have a plan and use finances to improve it. I explained and gave an example of how this strategic financing can work quite extensively in the report from page 4 to page 9. Shobhendra asks to have a look at it, because at this time he cannot go into the details yet, but he hopes that gives an indication for the next Executive Committee and treasurer on what would be an option. The last part is the budget. The budget has been drafted, and is available on page 9 and 11 of the report. The budget will be used to conduct both online and offline events, because online is working, and hopefully some in-person events can happen. Accordingly, some assumptions have been taken that we can improve on the existing membership, getting an increase of 10% from last year. This year we made a revenue of 16,000 euros. The budget for the next year considers that we can make a revenue of 20,000 euros. The costs will remain around the same. The net balance will be around zero. The areas of costs will include conducting events, the relocation to Canada, which would take up to 3000 euros, and keeping the operational and administrative costs like bank accounts, insurance, and others. Shobhendra thanks everyone and concludes his report.

Tobias thanks Shobhendra. He says he did not stop him after 5 minutes, because he thought that the discussion was worth allowing him some more minutes to go into details, especially considering the important decision he and the rest of the Executive Committee want to pursue with moving to Canada. Tobias asks if there are any motions of any nature.

Jan raises a point of information.

Tobias grants Jan 2 minutes of speaking time.

Jan says that it is not possible formally to approve the financial report, because according to the statutes, the financial year begins on the first of January, and ends on the last day of December, so it is a completely different reporting period, so it is impossible to vote on the approval of the financial statement.

Tobias thanks Jan for his point of information. He asks Shobhendra to respond and gives him 2 minutes.

Shobhendra replies that when the report was made, he was using the 2019 statutes. The 2018 report has already been approved. So for him it depends on what the audience wants, he can make a new report covering the dates from January to December, if that is required by law. But then the audience will miss what was done from January to May in 2021. The idea is to give people transparency of the financial year. He cannot provide that if he only provides a statement for a half of the mandate. But for him it is no problem preparing a report for a specific period, but it would not serve the purpose of providing people with transparency. He requests keeping the existing financial report that fully covers this mandate.

Tobias thanks Shobhendra. He asks if anyone or Jan wants to respond to Shobhendra.

Oleksii raises a point of information.

Tobias grants Oleksii 2 minutes of speaking time.

Oleksii says given that IAPSS had to revert to its older statutes, and it happened in March of this year, and up to that point the association has been operating with the different statutes, and the IAPSS treasurer was working with them. So it makes sense why he posted the financial statement and the budget under the dates of the 2019 statutes. There is clearly a technical problem with different statutes here. One possible solution to that would be to move this motion to the next GA. Because at the next GA we will be approving the Canadian bylaws, and in those bylaws the dates of the financial year are back to what they used to be, where the end of the financial year is May 31st. So that is the point of information to consider for the treasurer.

Tobias thanks Oleksii. He says that now we have some possible sort of solution to this. He thinks that it is just important for IAPSS to have a financial report that covers the entire time, and not have from one report to the next time period that is not accounted for. This is an important aspect, and he thinks that this is also Shobhendra can provide a clarity on. He asks what was the time period of a last report, and how does this one complement that one. Is there a period that has not been accounted for. The large question is whether IAPSS can report entirely on the last two years, or would there be a gap.

Shobhendra replies that the previous financial report covered the period of time from June 1 2019, to May 31 of 2020. This report covers the period of time from June 1, 2020, to May 31 of 2021. There is no overlap at this point between the reports and there is no gap. If we change it, we will miss the financial report from January 1 to May 31, which has a lot of activities including the World Congress. He says he likes the proposition of Oleksii, because it is a good and practical one to consider.

Tobias thanks Shobhendra. He asks Shobhendra to confirm that moving back to 2013 statutes reverses the 2019 decision, which is the decision to report from June to May is based on the statutes that we need to operate under.

Shobhendra confirms that 2019 statutes were expecting the financial year as it is in this report. He would have to check on 2013 statutes, as he was not a part of IAPSS.

Tobias recognizes Justin's point of information.

Justin says that since the decision to move to the older statutes occurred in March 2021, there is a period of overlap. The period from January 2020 to the end of May 2020 has already been approved by the General Assembly, so there is the rest of 2020 that Shobhendra has reported on. And then after March 2021, after that decision, Shobhendra also included 2021, up until the current point, from January to March. So the information is there, Shobhendra provided the space in between as well, and since the General Assembly already approved the financial report from January to May of 2020, members can still approve this report, and he would like to move the motion to approve the financial report.

Tobias thanks Justin. He asks him if this was a motion to only approve the financial report or both the financial report and the draft budget.

Justin replies that the motion concerns only the financial report. The motion is seconded by Giulia.

Max raises the point of information. Tobias grants the floor to Max.

Max thanks for the report and the difficult work of upholding financial sustainability. He references a recommendation on page 7 of the report that academic committees of IAPSS should obtain resources for publishing in journals on relevant topics by the end of 2022 mandate. Max's reading of the recommendation is that it is a suggestion that the academic pillar of IAPSS should be more independent. But it is not a requirement to obtain those resources by the end of the 2022 mandate, because of course that requirement could pose substantial obstacles to the publication of the IAPSS Journal Politikon, which currently relies on the IAPSS budget for the basic website infrastructure and cross-referencing depository. Max states that this was his reading of the report, and he will appreciate it if he is corrected on his reading.

Tobias thanks Max. He invites Shobhendra to give a short response to Max's comment.

Shobhendra says that on page 6 of the report, where he begins explaining strategic financial planning, there are different approaches and examples of how to use finances in the most strategic way. These are not mandatory requirements, but suggestions, there can be also other ways to achieve a strategic financial approach.

Max thanks Shobhendra for clarification.

Tobias thanks both Max and Shobhendra. He asks Max to confirm in the chat that his request was satisfied for the formal recognition.

*The motion to approve the financial report passes.*

#### *b. Draft Budget 2021-2022*

Tobias requests a motion to approve the draft budget.

The motion to approve the draft budget is moved by Giulia and seconded by Paola.

Justin speaks in favour of the motion. He says that the treasurer provided an extra insight into the possible future of IAPSS, but the report also encapsulates the rest of 2021 and fulfills formal requirements.

*The motion to approve the draft budget passes.*

### **7. Report of the IAPSS Advisory Board**

The report can be accessed here:

<https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Advisory-Board-Report-2021-2.pdf>

Tobias moves to the next agenda point - the presentation of the Advisory Board report.

Giulia takes the floor. In general, the Advisory Board knows that most of the activities of IAPSS were affected by Covid. The Advisory Board is happy to observe that in the past months the ExCom managed to start working again, organized events online and strengthened international cooperation. The mandate of the Advisory Board heavily focused on the expulsion case. First, reviewing the appeal until October 2020. Then when the legal action was taken against IAPSS at the end of 2020, the Advisory Board spent most of the beginning of 2021 finding a lawyer, and a deadline with the matter. After different consultations with different ExCom members and lawyers, IAPSS decided not to appear in court and defend themselves due to economic reasons, which led to the default judgment by the court, which resulted in reinstatement of the expelled member. Another decision was entailed in the court decision that IAPSS 2019 statutes were declared void, and IAPSS reverted to its 2013 statutes. The Advisory Board also reviewed the financial management. The financial management performance was low, but around 65% of IAPSS' expenses were spent on legal expenditures. Recognizing those circumstances and the effect of Covid on the organization's finances, the Advisory Board still sees a structural problem within the organization when it comes to the management of finances. The Advisory Board would like to highlight the importance of continuity and competence in the financial department, which is getting better. The Advisory Board also highlights the importance of developing a more robust fundraising structure, and a long-term financial goal setting. The Advisory Board recommends on the communication level to update the website more frequently. The role of the Advisory Board should be better defined for the next mandate. The transition between mandates should be organized better to ensure continuity. Since we saw online events going really well, the Advisory Board recommends to keep organizing online events even when Covid will be just a bad memory, so people can come together even when they cannot travel. As mentioned before, the financial management needs improvement. Since the legal proceedings have been a problem in terms of finances, the Advisory Board recommends getting insurance that would cover legal fees. Last, but not least, during the last General Assembly members voted to move to Canada. The Advisory Board supports this decision, so the organization can improve its membership outside of Europe and remove language barriers to make statutes and bureaucracy easier. There is a motion coming up to dissolve the Dutch Association, and it needs an 80% majority of those present here to pass. The Advisory Board recommends voting for that motion, since it is a formality, as the decision has already been made. Giulia thanks everyone, and especially Mihai and Rose for their support this last year.

Tobias thanks Giulia. He states that from his understanding this report represents the entire Advisory Board. He recognizes Connor's point of information and gives him 2 minutes of speaking time.

Connor asks how much was spent on legal fees and undoing what we did last year. He says that coming from a common law system, the Dutch civil law is not his area of expertise and he does not know how the financial aspect works in regards to court cases in that area of the world.

Tobias thanks Connor, and grants 2 minutes of speaking time to a member of the Advisory Board.

Giulia replies that she does not have a precise number. She says she has a number in mind, but is not 100% sure. She asks those who have exact numbers to tell it to the General Assembly.

Shobhendra says that he missed the question.

Giulia asks how much IAPSS spent on legal costs.

Shobhendra replies that IAPSS spent 5300 euros in legal costs.

Tobias asks Connor if his question was answered.

Connor replies that his question was answered partially. He asks what the translation fees associated with the court case were.

Giulia says that there is a Dutch lawyer taking care of everything. IAPSS did not spend money on translation fees, and relied on the lawyer translating everything.

Tobis states that this point of information has been answered. He asks if Rory had a point of information.

Rory says she does not have a point of information.

Tobias asks if there are any other motions or points to be raised on this report.

Jan and Rory raise points of information simultaneously. Rory gives the floor to Jan.

Jan clarifies that legal fees constituted less than 65% of income, given that the stated income on the balance sheet was almost 11,000 euros. Shobhendra said that there were 5300 euros of legal fees, and that is not 65% of the income, just for the clarification. Jan says that to be honest, he is quite surprised that the only solution for that legal case that you have to be harder than hard, colder than cold, cooler than cool, and having insurance in his opinion, it should have been the other way around, just to prevent there is a legal case at all. He would like to know from your side, as presented by the Advisory Board, if Giulia is confident with the whole procedure. If you are convinced that he is a racist, if you are convinced that he has done a statement in a racist motivation. In future times it would have been better to just talk to a person to inform about allegations, instead of deciding behind others' backs.

Rory raises a point of information. She thinks that it is appropriate for a member to discuss any individual member. She does not think that IAPSS is an organisation that speaks about its members in that particular way. She knows that IAPSS does not tolerate racism and racist rhetoric, and does not give any IAPSS leader or member the opportunity to make decisions about any particular member. IAPSS is an organisation that does not discriminate on behalf of different members or relating to different members and opinions. Rory moves to strike the question from the agenda.

Tobias asks Rory about her last statement, what exactly she wants to remove from the agenda.

Rory apologizes saying she is not sure of Robert's Rules in that regard. She wants to make sure that the Advisory Board is not required to answer that question, as she thinks that it is inappropriate.

Giulia says she has a question for Jan.

Tobias suggests making it clear procedurally. In his point of information, Jan spoke about the aspects that did not fit into the scope of the point of information which is the medium he chose to address here. There were aspects that were within scope, and Giulia can choose to answer them if she wants to. Tobias grants 2 minutes of speaking time to Giulia.

Giulia says she does not have a comment in regards to Jan's point, but she has a question for him. She asks him to clarify who he was referring to when he said "cold and harder than something".

Tobias thanks Giulia. He reminds the General Assembly that the debate is currently in the report of the Advisory Board. If Jan is responding, he should try to link his response to the Advisory Board report, as there is currently a misunderstanding on how his comments relate to the report. He grants the floor to Jan for 2 minutes.

Jan thanks Tobias. He says that in his opinion it is not the right way to deal with such a situation. He had proposed in 2017 where he voted that a most transparent and inclusive perception and communication has to be anticipated and followed by everyone. Any dispute either between members or bodies has to be taken seriously and counted commonly by all members. It is not allowed to incuse any information, powerful person, advantages and or against others. And for procedural fairness, it should be to prevent damage to the association itself as well as to its members to whom allegations have been made against, it has to be faced with immediately, giving affected members the chance to react to questioned behaviours and its justification, and or adjustment before unexpected termination and suspension or disqualification has to be decided and done in good nature and be recognized. This is what he had as a motion in 2018, and it was officially completely ignored. He would never thought about that statement he had in 2018 would have prevented himself from further damage. It was done in order to prevent others. There is a space of bullying within this association. So do not tell him anything about that. You are only doing that in a professional manner. This is what he does not believe in your minds. He says he is not convinced that this is the association everyone should be proud about.

Tobias states that Jan hereby responded to Giulia's question. Due to the fact that the discussion has not addressed the nature of the presented report, he recommends moving towards approving the report by the Advisory Board, but of course members are free to have a more in-depth discussion of the subject on the agenda. Tobias recognizes Rory's point of information.

Rory says she will allow the chair to determine whether or not it is in order or not in order based on personal discretion, but she thinks it should be raised. Otherwise she will move a

motion to approve the Advisory Board's report. She says that Connor's question got her thinking about the expenditures that were associated with it. Giulia said that legal expenditures represented 65% of IAPSS' expenses. She would like to know if money was spent on translating any of the statutes that had to be amended under Dutch law. She knows that under the Dutch law one has to liaise with the Chamber of Commerce and form it in Dutch which is the working language of the Netherlands, obviously. And if there were those costs, how much did those costs bear on IAPSS's spending? She says that if this is an inappropriate question, she will leave it up to the members of the Advisory Board to answer if they feel it is not an inappropriate question. If not, she will move the motion to approve the Advisory Board's report.

Tobias thanks Rory. He says that the point of information is in order and gives the floor to the Advisory Board.

Giulia says they did not spend money to translate the 2013 statutes. As others may have seen on the website, the English translation is unofficial. That was something they did not spend money on, but of course the money were spent to amend the 2019 statutes. It was the lawyer who took his hourly rate to translate everything from the court, but she does not know how to quantify that work of the lawyer.

Tobias thanks Giulia for replying. He gives the floor to Rory for a follow-up.

Rory yields the floor to Nzube.

Tobias thanks for yielding the floor. He grants 2 minutes of speaking time to Nzube.

Nzube thanks Tobias. Nzube proposes to have a vote among members with an 80% threshold to decide whether the association should get involved in court cases and spend money. In that way the association can reduce its spending on court cases.

Tobias thanks Nzube for his point of information. He recommends discussing this topic at the next General Assembly. He provides the floor to Justin and Shobhendra so they can provide a perspective of the Executive Committee on the issue.

Shobhendra says this is a fair point by Nzube. The Executive Committee thought of that, whether they were spending the association's money in the right way. But if there is a court case against the organization, it has to respond, there is no other option. IAPSS did not go to court. It was recommended by the lawyers to refrain from going to court to save money. The lawyer said if IAPSS will fight the case, the organization will have spent a lot more money. There was no other way to reduce expenditures in that case. One thing that could work out is having extra insurance that can help in such instances. But there are many types of insurance which the organization can pick, and it also costs money. Now, having this experience, the Executive Committee will work on getting the right insurance. It is also not the best use of the association's money, so we have to be practical on that part also. Shobhendra says he hopes the clarification was clear as to why IAPSS had to spend money on legal fees.

Tobias thanks Shobhendra. He asks Nzube if his point of information has been answered.

Nzube says that it should be included in the legal framework of the association, that before joining the association members agree that 80% of the General Assembly have to give approval for the case to go to court. Damages should be incurred on the person who takes the case to court without the approval of the General Assembly. The association can use it as a legal backing in the court that the member went to court without the approval of the General Assembly.

Tobias thanks Nzube. He says that this is an issue where the organization has a history of 1.5 years of different documents collected by the Advisory Board, it might be nice to have it as an appendix to the meeting minutes to show how this court case came to happen. There were quite a few steps involved, and it took quite a long time even before this case was taken to court. It needs to be highlighted that at no point did IAPSS make a decision to go to court, but responded to the decision to go to court, which was the legal obligation of IAPSS. Tobias encourages members to draw this conversation to the end. He gives the floor to other members of the Advisory Board to provide their comments.

Mihai takes the floor. He says there were efforts to settle issues outside of the court, but unfortunately it did not work.

Tobias thanks Mihai. He invites Rory to elaborate on her point mentioned in the chat.

Rory says that the member who sues IAPSS was not actually a member, because he was expelled. Thus, Nzube's proposal couldn't be implemented in that case. But what might be a good amendment to it, would be to absolve IAPSS of legal liability, and make that abundantly clear in the bylaws in certain instances to prevent lawsuits in this way that financially drain the organization. She understands the intention of Nzube's point. Members should have an understanding of how much these cases cost the organization, and have more control over finances and the spending. So the bylaws should be amended to prevent such instances, to make it abundantly clear how the organization should respond in such instances. If there was a motion that would be filed accordingly, she would second that motion, but that is a larger discussion. Rory moves a motion to approve the report of the Advisory Board.

Tobias asks if it is possible to create a task force consisting of Rory and Nzube tasked to develop pathways to innovate such instruments within IAPSS. He asks if Rory generally agrees that something like this should be included in any other business.

Rory replies that she would support that. She says that what is amazing about this organization is that it constantly evolves and members determine what that evolution looks like. There are always opportunities to improve, so that is why we are here today, it is because we believe in the idea of improving the organization we are so proud to represent. She would absolutely support the idea of a task force in that way, and she would love for Nzube to lead it, because his point sparked a conversation.

Tobias says that this should be noted for the General Assembly next week.

Jan requests a point of information.



Tobias says that there is a motion, so a motion against the motion has to be made. He asks if Jan wants to make a motion against the motion to vote to approve the Advisory Board's report.

Jan replies that he only wants a point of information with no attachment.

Tobias says there is an open motion to approve the report of the Advisory Board. So it has to be seconded or Jan needs to make a motion against that motion, and it also needs to be seconded.

Jan says he only wants to give information. If the only way to do that is to vote against the motion, he wants to vote against it, so he can bring up his point information.

Tobias grants 30 seconds of speaking time to Jan.

Jan says that he wants to inform the General Assembly about two things. The first one is that even if the board would have decided to go to court, IAPSS would have never ever won the case, in any respect it would have lost. In point two Jan says he does not allow for people to say that he had done a statement in a racist motivation. For example, there was a verdict, and there are no insights, and he should be trusted that he is against any kind of discrimination and against any kind of racism. He would never ever say that people from Kenya or Africa would not be invited or welcome to join the association. But please, do not say something that is not the truth.

Rory raises a point of information. Tobias grants Rory 30 seconds of speaking time.

Rory apologizes to Jan if he felt that her motion before was in any way implying that he was racist, that is not necessarily the intention of it. It was just the intentions of the motions that would have had those implications there. She does not think that anybody in this organization would target any particular member or make those assertions, that is not the responsibility of anyone in this organization to make those decisions about individual members. That being said, she would like to acknowledge that those motions have already been removed from the agenda at the beginning, as determined by the popular vote. She would like to move forward in a way that is conducive to moving the discussion along, because there are a lot of different agenda items. She does not think it is appropriate in the General Assembly to speak about the opinions of any particular member, which is not appropriate, and is not a purpose of this General Assembly. It is to get all of us together to discuss how we can better our own organization that we are so proud to represent. She wants to remind everyone of the intentions of why we are here. Rory repeats her motion to approve the report of the Advisory Board.

Paola seconds Rory's motion to approve the report of the Advisory Board.

*The motion to approve the report of the Advisory Board passes.*

Tobias reminds the General Assembly that points of information are for requests for the information on the nature of this meeting. The tendency is to have a conversation on the

past, present and future of the organization, and not about the personal issues that individual members would like to present as the most important ones to everyone else. The General Assembly should be a matter of all IAPSS members, and not just a few.

## **8. Regional Reports**

The reports can be accessed here:

<https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Regional-Reports.pdf>

Tobias moves to the next agenda point - the regional reports. He invites Regional Chairs to present their reports. He proposes to give 5 minutes of speaking time to each Chair, and conversation can start right away after the presentation. The motion to approve the report should follow. He gives the floor to a person representing IAPSS Africa.

There is no one from IAPSS Africa to present the report.

Tobias asks if there are any comments regarding the report of IAPSS Africa. There is no response.

Tobis gives the floor to a person representing IAPSS Asia.

Rutaba takes the floor. She starts her report by talking about the team and how it has evolved. When the mandate started, there was not a team, so one of the biggest challenges was to create a team. A full leadership committee was created within 2-3 months of the mandate's start. There were new positions within the team, which were also filled. Sustainability within the team was achieved; if some positions went vacant, there were assistants to fill in. The number of country coordinators increased, there was representation from Japan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Nepal. The team itself is even more diverse, with over a dozen countries represented over the last year. Such diversity helped to ensure widespread participation, given that Asia is one of the largest continents. Country coordinators were asked to draft strategies for their own countries, giving them the option to have their own events if they wanted to. Many events have been hosted in cooperation with country coordinators. When the mandate started, there was not a lot of social media presence, only Facebook and Twitter, and they were not very active. The Facebook page only had 200 likes, and about a dozen followers on Twitter. Instagram page was created, and now has over 300 followers, the Facebook page has over 800 likes. There are nearly 280 followers on Twitter. There were 18 different events, Rutaba is very proud of her team that put it all together. There was a Young Politicians' Round Table with 130 registrations. There were 67 Instagram live events that are not included in the overall event count. The registration for UN75 consultations had over 300 individuals. There was an event "Vectors of Modernization for Uzbekistan", which had 132 registrations. There was a regional conference on Democracy, Identity, and Power, which was the main theme for IAPSS World Congress. The conference received over a dozen papers. About 10 papers were approved and will be published in the political science department at the University of Mongolia, in their digital journal. Rutaba then lists partnerships that have been established during the mandate. She highlights the focus on creating sustainable partnerships. Team members of IAPSS Asia also represented IAPSS by participating in different conferences and panels. There were a lot of challenges as well. One goal was to register IAPSS Asia as an NGO, but it was not achieved. Opening an NGO and a bank account in that region is far more difficult

than in other regions. IAPSS Asia applied for different grants, even if they seemed out of reach. In the end, Rutabas says there is a collective pride in IAPSS Asia for its achievements with limited resources and no team, and then building a team. She is hopeful for what is in store for IAPSS Asia in the next mandate. If anyone has any questions, she is open to answer them.

Tobias thanks Rutaba for the insightful report.

Ginisha says she has a point to add. Tobias gives the floor to Ginisha.

Ginisha thanks team members responsible for social media for designing posters for events.

Tobias asks if there are any other comments or questions related to the report of IAPSS Asia. There are none.

Rory raises a point of inquiry. Tobias gives floor to Rory.

Rory asks if it is possible to adopt by consensus every regional report unless there is an objection to it, so everything can move along quicker.

Tobias says that regional reports do not need to be approved or voted on. But it would still be nice to have all regional reports presented, so everyone can have an idea of where the regions are heading. He asks if Rory agrees with that.

Rory says it was not a motion, just a procedural question, and she agrees to proceed with Tobias' suggestion.

Tobias moves to the presentation of the report of IAPSS Europe. He asks if there is anyone who feels eligible to present the report of IAPSS Europe.

There is no one from IAPSS Europe to present the report.

Tobias asks if there are any comments regarding the report of IAPSS Europe. There is no response.

Thomas raises a point of information. He says he would like to present the report by IAPSS Africa.

Tobias replies that it is possible if there is no serious motion that would prevent him from presenting his report. He grants the floor to Thomas for 5 minutes.

Thomas thanks Tobias. He says that IAPSS Africa worked on decreasing membership fees, hiring country coordinators, and establishing ties with campuses in African countries. They have been in a process of organizing programs in the region. There is a long-standing relationship between IAPSS Africa and Africa SRC. Another relationship was established between IAPSS Africa and Nigerian Political Science Association, and it is growing. There are relationships between IAPSS Africa and other political science associations from across

the continent. That effort is to ensure that IAPSS Africa builds connections with the local organizations, as they move to organizing different regional conferences.<sup>3</sup>

Tobias thanks Thomas.

Rory raises a point of information. She says that IAPSS Africa has done a great job. Reon, Funmi, and the whole team have done an incredible job at partnerships. Their UN75 consultation report was showcased in the Secretary-General's report.

Thomas thanks Rory for her contribution.

Rory adds that IAPSS Africa got a lot of partnerships with UNAs as well and that deserves a really big round of applause.

Tobias thanks everyone. He said it has been a long way that IAPSS has come in the recent years to achieve its broad activities and objectives.

Thomas adds that Justin did extremely well. He thanks Justin for being very supportive.

Tobias thanks Thomas for highlighting that. Tobias asks if there are any additional comments regarding the report of IAPSS Africa. He then proposes a 10 minute break.

The 10 minute break begins.

The meeting resumes 10 minutes later at 18:45 (CEST).

Tobias gives the floor to a person representing IAPSS Latin America and the Caribbean.

There is no one from IAPSS Latin America and the Caribbean to present the report.

Tobias asks if there are any comments regarding the report of Latin America and the Caribbean. There is no response.

Tobias then moves to the presentation of the report of IAPSS Oceania. He gives the floor to Connor.

Connor says that Mitchell (Chair of IAPSS Oceania) is not here, because it is 3 am in his timezone. He says he is going to give an overview of the mandate. It has been a busy year for IAPSS Oceania, especially in the online events space. There were quite a few relatively successful events featuring high-profile speakers and academics from the Oceanic region. They were mostly Australia-centric, but they also featured some scholarship winners from Tuvalu. The focus of the past mandate has been more involvement with Oceania, and that will be the focus of the next mandate. They have been building relationships with regional bodies, like the United Nations Youth New Zealand, Griffith University, Australian National University, and others. The next goals will include consolidating the event and spreading the word out. IAPSS Oceania is a new organisation in the region, and there are other

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<sup>3</sup> Thomas had a bad connection, so some of his speech was impossible to hear.

Australia-specific and South Pacific focused groups. They will also try to build personal connections. Connor then concludes his report.

Tobias thanks Connor for his report. He asks if there are any questions directed to him about his report.

Rory raises a point of information. She says IAPSS Oceania has done a great job with webinar series on climate change. It was a very interesting topic, and it empowered a lot of people in that region. The Oceania team was also instrumental in the YOUNGA partnership with Flavia's involvement.

Tobias thanks Rory. He gives floor to Connor.

Connor thanks Rory for her acknowledgement of the Oceania team.

Tobias thanks Connor. He asks if there are any other comments about Oceania's report. He then moves to the presentation of IAPSS USA and Canada. He gives the floor to Oleksii.

Oleksii says that his name is Oleksii and he is a Chair of IAPSS USA and Canada, as evident by the flags behind him. The work started from scratch when he was elected a Chair of the region. The team was recruited in July 2020. All positions were filled with the exception of a fundraising coordinator. As of now, the team is still together, but without the events coordinator, though the fundraising coordinator position has been filled. The region hosted 8 online events. There was collaboration with other IAPSS regions, including IAPSS Asia and IAPSS Ukraine. There was a major point during the mandate, which was assisting in building the infrastructure for Canadian Political Science Student Association. Their president has joined the IAPSS USA and Canada team. The presence on social media has also increased. The Facebook page is now second most popular among all regional pages. The following has doubled on the Instagram page. Other projects included a regional newsletter starting in January 2021. Just finished hosting the essay competition, and judges will start reviewing entries soon. There were 3 partnerships signed with student-based organizations. There were 5 partnerships signed with non-profit organizations. The region collaborated with multiple non-profits when organizing events. Another major effort was done in the second half of the mandate after the General Assembly voted to move to Canada. Oleksii has been assisting with the relocation. Many talks were done to facilitate the transition, and more updates will follow during the final motion to relocate to Canada. The next step will be finding a new chair who can replace Oleksii, so they can continue the work that was started in this mandate.

Tobias thanks Oleksii for his report. He asks if there are any questions or comments related to his report.

Rory makes a point of information. She gives 100% of credit to Oleksii for assisting with technical aspects of the 24-hour telethon. Oleksii also facilitated a partnership with UNA-Southern New York. Another credit for IAPSS USA and Canada is for facilitating a partnership with Disability Unite. It facilitated IAPSS's move towards accessibility for people who are neuro-diverse or disabled.

Tobias thanks Rory for being a reliable member of this General Assembly, and highlighting the strengths of everyone's work.

Jan raises a point of information. Tobias gives him the floor.

Jan says it is the time to repeat what was said earlier about the writing contest. One has to know that the statutes are superior to internal regulations. According to internal regulations there are regions, and regions can organize events and activities for the members and those activities may be for the members of that region. But it does not mean that you can exclude other members. It is written in the statutes that ordinary members will all have the opportunities to participate in those activities to the extent that this can reasonably be required. He does not see why it should not be reasonably required not to participate in that writing contest. Additionally, there was a limitation that everything which is except of that has to be set by the Executive Committee, and that is not the case. So he is quite sure that it is not right to exclude members by set conditions.

Tobias thanks Jan. He states that this has been addressed previously and discussed previously within this General Assembly. He refers Jan to a discussion that took place at an earlier point in the meeting. He also directs Jan to read what IAPSS has been doing within the past 3 years, both structurally and nominatively, and this is certainly building on IAPSS statutes of the past, but evolving into something new. Something new is not necessarily something bad.

Rory raises a point of information. She understands Jan's questions. She points out that when people register for IAPSS membership, they pick their region, so they can get voting rights within that region. For example, the USA and Canada Chair is elected by members of the USA and Canada regional division. So as a result it is not inconsistent with IAPSS' values to restrict people from those particular regions. It is not discrimination, it's more along the lines of when people register to be members of a particular region, they can get access to opportunities in that region. It's not a discrimination of nationality, if that makes sense. The writing contest was actually extended to people from the USA and Canada who are currently studying, that is not discrimination on the basis nationality, it is restricting the opportunity to people registered in that region.

Tobias thanks Rory. He says that this question was addressed again for the second time. He asks if there are any other comments in the context of the USA and Canada report.

Rory motions moving on to the next item on the agenda.past the regional reports. Paola seconds the motion.

## **9. Legal Framework Amendments and Motions**

*a. Motion 1: Liquidation of the Dutch Association and Transferring Resources to the New Canadian Not-for-profit Corporation.*

Tobias moves to the next item on the agenda - legal framework amendments and motions. There were previously 6 motions in the motions package, but now there is only 1 motion left - liquidation of the Dutch association and transferring Resources to the new Canadian

not-for-profit corporation. That motion has been put forward by Justin Patrick. Tobias says he is going to give Justin up to 10 minutes to speak, given that this decision is the largest one IAPSS is about to take since Tobias joined the organization 6 years ago. He informs Justin that he can yield his time to whomever he wants if he is done speaking before 10 minutes run out. He grants the floor for Tobias.

Justin thanks Tobias. He says that this motion is part of a longer initiative based on the decisions of the past General Assemblies. At the May 2020 General Assembly, members voted to relocate. Justin encourages members present here to take a look at the minutes of the May 2020 General Assembly to examine the arguments for that. A number of the key ones included the current status of the association in the Netherlands to obtain grants. Moving to another place where IAPSS can have a non-profit status would allow IAPSS to have more funding. Not all of the resources have been available online. This required in the past the IAPSS Executive Committees to physically travel to the Netherlands to sort things out with the bank accounts and the Chamber of Commerce or mail things internationally. Justin states that the Chamber of Commerce strives to make things accessible in English language that IAPSS operates in. But this has not always been the case, and it has been difficult for individuals to have a full understanding of what's going on, especially regarding things like statutes. Unofficial translations may not always be the exact equivalent of the Dutch statutes. In addition, in December of 2020 the General Assembly voted to choose Canada as the country for relocation, as it did meet these requirements that Justin mentioned. In addition in the city of Montreal, where in particular IAPSS was thinking of moving to, there are opportunities for potential funding to connect IAPSS with services that provide assistance to non-profit organizations. Concordia University in Montreal mentioned that they may be interested in providing not only a post office box, like IAPSS currently has in the Netherlands, but also a physical space in case we need to store our materials which are currently scattered across the world in individual people's houses. If IAPSS ever has a need to, individuals could go there to conduct IAPSS operations. These were the main reasons which led to this decision. Based on the decision of December 2020 General Assembly, the IAPSS Executive Committee was tasked with initiating the relocation process. And we did, we created a Canadian non-profit organization for IAPSS, and now we are completing the final step to move IAPSS to Canada. As mentioned on the General Assembly webpage this would include transferring everything over to the new organization, and then concluding and dissolving the old association, so we can keep going. Just to make it clear, this is not necessarily a vote on relocation, this is the final step. Because if we do not vote to relocate now, we will have two associations side by side, and then will have to call the General Assembly as soon as possible, to keep voting on dissolving the old association. That being said, this is a formality, but a very important formality procedurally. As 2013 statutes indicate, which IAPSS now follows, the motion would need an 80% majority of those present at the General Assembly to pass. The voting will be open over the course of 3 days. This is a pivotal moment in IAPSS' future as it grows as an organization and is able to take on larger capacities, and also be more accessible to its members and especially in the situations when we have future ExComs whose representatives are elected from multiple continents. This would allow them to do their work digitally, in a more online-friendly space. And it would hopefully help to alleviate some of the financial issues involving transitions of bank accounts that Shobhendra has outlined. Justin encourages members to vote for this motion. He invites questions on this motion.

Tobias thanks Justin for his overview of the motion. He then asks if there are any active involved members who would like to add relevant information on the motion.

Jan indicates that he wants to speak.

Tobias clarifies that the question was if there are active members who are currently holding positions, and after that he will be invited to speak. He says that he saw both Paola and Rory unmuted.

Paola says to vote for this, it is a good idea, and has no downsides.

Rory states that this is a great motion for a number of reasons. Firstly, the lingua franca of IAPSS is English and the working language in Canada happens to also be English, so there would not be a question of having linguistic disparities when we're communicating with people who are actually in charge. As it relates to the financial transparency, it is important to know that we are a democratic organization and leadership is constantly transitioning, and so it is difficult to get access to the financial information and pay the different fees every single time we transition leadership, and ultimately she thinks that it does cost this organization a lot of money and a lot of time that we could otherwise be spending on providing exceptional programs to the students and the constituencies that we serve. She thinks it is also important to recognize that since this was last voted on, we actually have a large membership association out of Latin America, so the move to Canada would be more consistent with the timezone in which we have the largest percentage of members. She thinks that the benefits of working with our parent partners as we like to call them would be a phenomenal opportunity for us to strengthen the partnerships and also facilitate a transition from people that are no longer students and starting to go into this professional space. She thinks the fact that there would be an office that would cost nothing to IAPSS members and provide opportunities for us to be actively engaged with the university is unparalleled. If the Dutch were to provide us with the same opportunities, then she does not see a reason to leave the Netherlands, but unfortunately there is no opportunity that is similar or comparable to the offers we are getting out of Canada. She thinks that ultimately that the lingua franca be standardized is so important to us being educated and empowered on how we can actually operate in this country. She thinks that the fact that a lot of things are in Dutch because Dutch is the lingua franca of the Netherlands makes it difficult for people to step up into leadership positions and it makes them fearful of the legal obligations, but ultimately she thinks that this is a great proposal as written and she also wants to reiterate that it was something that the general membership had voted on in the past. She understands that we are having to redo it right now, but to vote to undo it right now, while acknowledging the fact that this may not be the same membership that voted on it last time, would be to vote to undo the popular will of the members that we represent. So, she really wants to urge members to vote in favour of this motion.

Tobias thanks Rory for her input and gives Oleksii Zahreba the floor.

Oleksii states that we have done a lot of work and it has been a long process, over a year, since members voted to relocate to either Ireland or Canada, and then Canada was selected as a more suitable option, and then since December we have worked with various stakeholders to make sure this project will be implemented in a short timeframe and will



allow IAPSS to move within this year. He also would like to highlight his takeaway from all this. Canada is one of the most advanced countries on Earth digitally. We registered two organizations, one federal and one provincial. So we have a federal IAPSS and a provincial IAPSS stationed in the province of Quebec. Everything was done online, all the forms were filled out online. We did not need to travel. We did not need to do any extra activities. Everything was affordable. The fees were affordable. We did have some difficulties, which were communicated really fast by government officials, but everything was resolved in days by email, and it was a huge step toward better efficiency within IAPSS, as we already operate online. It will allow for a much smoother transition between executive committees, a much smoother operation of finances and bank accounts, it will stabilize IAPSS operations online, and it will allow people to continue to volunteer from around the globe but without the difficulties that we have had in the Netherlands, in addition to having a physical office in Montreal and building our base there and connecting with multiple universities that are located there, and involving students that can work on the ground to make IAPSS popular in Canada and to fundraise to make our impact even larger.

Tobias grants the floor to Justin to provide more information about the partnership with IPSA.

Justin states that the International Political Science Association or the professor equivalent of IAPSS has been working with IAPSS to help us with this relocation process. So, IPSA has already moved to Montreal before, so they were aware of the benefits that area offers and they were able to connect us with an organization, a kind of municipal branch of Montreal that assists with non-profits relocating to the city. He would also like to move the motion.

Tobias gives Jan the floor to raise a point of information.

Jan would like to raise his point in two parts. For the first one, he would like to ask for an answer to the first question that he would like any information that can be offered about the Canadian association, so it was already mentioned that there is already an existing Canadian association, and so he would like to know about the articles of the association and about the people who are the current members of that association.

Tobias asks Justin whether he wants to respond to Jan's question and then asks if there is a seconder to the motion which has just been put out.

Justin replies that the way this works in Canada is that the articles of incorporation are different from the civil law system in the Netherlands, so it is essentially a little bit of information about the name, the basic description of what IAPSS does, the address, and things like that. So the "statutes" are a different document called bylaws. So, instead of having internal regulations and statutes, under the Canadian system it would be all one document called bylaws. So, what we have done is on the General Assembly web page, if you see General Assembly Part 2, which is scheduled for next Saturday, we have draft bylaws, which, if members vote in favour of those, they would be the standing bylaws for the Canadian Association. So, you can take a look at those draft bylaws there, and in terms of the individuals who are currently involved in that new association, we essentially have directors listed for now, but it is only a transition period because the way the Canadian system works is that we have to have a General Assembly to ratify the Canadian bylaws and then have the first elections of the Canadian association. So, the directors essentially

created the association and it is up to the members to set up all the rules for it and have the first elections for elected directors who would continue on. That is the process that it has to be in, it has to be in that order, so in terms of the founders it would be the president, secretary general, and treasurer, and we also requested the help of the IAPSS USA and Canada Chair given their positionality to help us with that process, but if this motion passes and we have the election next Saturday, it would be the Executive Committee.

Tobias indicates that Thomas has seconded the motion and that the motion is up for a vote. Tobias asks Jan if Jan's question has been answered by Justin.

Jan replies that it has partly been answered. He was asking for the names of the directors. That was not answered. And he would like to continue with the second part. He knows that the IT environment is full of personal sensible data, and so he sees quite a serious problem in transferring the sensible data from the property of the Netherlands in the European Union, especially according to the GDPR, to outside of the European Union to Canada, so as far as he does see, you have to create an IT environment in Canada at first and then you can have new members to that Canadian association that you have to sign up in the Canadian-based database, but it is not possible to treat sensible data like a property. Property is of a financial nature and of material documents, but sensible data is outside of that and cannot be transferred in that way.

Tobias asks Jan if he wants to make a question out of that.

Jan states that he sees it as a serious problem.

Tobias asks Jan again if Jan's question has been addressed by the Executive Committee. Tobias interprets Jan's response as two questions that Tobias directs to Justin, the first being about the people involved as directors and the second about whether and how the IAPSS Executive Committee has dealt with the question of personal data while relocating the association.

Justin replies that the names of the directors of the Canadian association would be him (Justin Patrick); the treasurer, Shobhendra Srivastava; the secretary general, Biligtsaikhan Uuganbayar; and the IAPSS USA and Canada Chair for practicality reasons until the election, so Oleksii Zahreba. In terms of the transfer of data, the relocation would not just be automatically transferred after that. We're working with the IAPSS legal counsel to oversee the transfer of funds and resources, and things like that. So, we are following that process and there is a set process for dissolution and we are following that as well. That involves being in contact with tax professionals because there is tax on transfers. Also the members do have an option, there is a consent form for those who wish to opt-out of this relocation on the General Assembly webpage, so if members can indicate if they do not want to be transferred to the new association, in which case when the Dutch association dissolves, their memberships would expire. We also have a form, he thinks it is on the same form, where members can opt in as well, so we do have those kinds of structures in place and we are implementing the processes.

Tobias thanks Justin for answering the follow-up question on the point that Jan raised here, and Tobias thinks that it is a very important point to bring up here at this General Assembly,

but he also saw that there were two people quite interested in this process, which are Rory and Jakub. He gives them the floor in that order.

Rory understands Jan's point about data privacy and stuff like that. It is a legitimate question. It is a different type of thing for IAPSS and she is sure that there are questions. She would like to draw attention to what Paola posted in the chat, which is the relocation consent form, so that way it can address some of Jan's points.

Jakub states that regarding the relocation and the legal basis for it. This would be article 45 of the European Data Protection Regulation, which states that within the international organizations that data can be transferred to third countries based on whichever have been deemed safe for data protection or not. With the list of what he can find, Canada is currently on the list that the European Commission deems as safe and having adequate protection for personal data, therefore the transfer of members or transfer of data does not require any specific permissions.

Tobias thanks Jakub and Rory for clarifying this process. Tobias asks Jan if there is something that is still unclear on this specific matter.

Jan sees the point regarding current members of the association, but as far as he knows, there was a lot of data regarding former members that are actually not current members of the association and also that would be included by completely transferring the data, and so these are people who cannot be asked if they would like to consent in transferring their data and so there are legal requirements for example for the bookkeeping and the financial accounting of the association that you have to save personal data for a few years and according to Dutch law and this is regarding the operation in the Netherlands and so these data are for example is not allowed to be transferred to Canada.

Tobias thanks Jan for his comment on this and for reminding the Executive Committee and everyone who is currently working on this that this is an important aspect to be reminded of when transitioning. Tobias asks if there are any other points to bring up in response to something Jan just mentioned. Hearing none, then all the points mentioned in the conversation are acknowledged and taken down in the minutes we come to the vote, and he would like to ask Biligtsaikhan to upload the vote on the website.

Rory motions to have Makoto sing in seven languages while we wait for this to be uploaded.

Giulia seconds the motion.

*Makoto no longer appears to be present.*

Tobias asks if Rory has any music she would like to contribute.

Rory says she does not. She was just going to be Makoto's back up dancer.

Tobias indicates that this is a space for members to express themselves.

Rory recounts a time during the IAPSS 24-hour Telethon in November where attendees sang happy birthday to the United Nations when there were technical difficulties and people were watching who had no idea what to think about it. It is unfortunately no longer the UN 75th anniversary and unfortunately that song no longer applies.

Tobias jokingly asks if this is because the UN only has a birthday every 75 years.

Rory replies that as the UN Secretary General said, it is not just a birthday, but an opportunity to build back better. She does not get to repeat that line as often as she would like to now that there is a UN 76th anniversary.

Tobias says he has heard that saying before. He also has good news that the vote to dissolve and liquidate the Dutch association and transfer resources to the new Canadian not-for-profit corporation is online and members can vote with “yes”, “no”, or “abstain”. Members can find it after refreshing the page. Tobias adds that this motion is of greater significance, as it requires an even higher barrier to pass than on other days, other items, other motions. There needs to be a certain quorum of people voting based on members present, and the vote will be up during the designated voting period, after which the results of the vote will be announced. With that, he realizes that this agenda point comes to an end and this part of the General Assembly comes to an end, and since there are no other points of any other business today, he is happy to adjourn the meeting until Part 2 next Saturday, same time, same place. He bids members goodbye and thanks everyone who participated. This has been fantastic and has been exciting to realize which areas regionally, substantially, topically, theoretically we are working in. For everyone interested in staying, he will not prevent them from gathering still. However, the live recording on social media will end here.

*The motion, referred to as “Motion 1: Liquidation of the Dutch Association and Transferring Resources to the New Canadian Not-for-profit Corporation” passes with an over 80% majority in favour.*

*The discussion portion of General Assembly Part 1 adjourns at approximately 19:37 CEST.*

### **General Assembly Part 1 Motions Package**

The General Assembly Part 1 Motions Package can be accessed here:

<https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/IAPSS-May-2021-General-Assembly-Motions-Package-as-of-April-15-2021.pdf>

### **General Assembly Part 1 Zoom Chat Log**

*Timestamps recorded in EST.*

From Justin Patrick to Everyone: 09:02 AM

Here is a link to the GA attendance form: <https://forms.gle/u69RrEoQdZp2g8AU6>

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 09:03 AM

Hi Tobi :)

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 09:03 AM

apparently the link on the site is not working. can someone email membership with correct link

From Frank Stengs to Everyone: 09:04 AM

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScncnKr4dQatVdlQPGHNJqN-caFmxHKmbp3tF\\_BE\\_1wWzPrVQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScncnKr4dQatVdlQPGHNJqN-caFmxHKmbp3tF_BE_1wWzPrVQ/viewform)

From Marcos Peña to Everyone: 09:12 AM

Mr. Chairman Request of Inquiry

From Tobias Scholz to Everyone: 09:16 AM

<https://www.iapss.org/iapss-general-assemblies-and-elections-may-2021/>

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 09:20 AM

Hello friends, to those who are joining late, here's the announcement on the recording:

This is necessary to ensure that our process remains democratic, as it ensures that IAPSS members who are unable to attend the General Assembly discussion due to time zone differences can still listen to the General Assembly discussion portion and make an informed vote within the General Assembly voting period as outlined in IAPSS' Internal Regulations, and to ensure that online General Assembly minutes are sufficiently detailed to fulfil IAPSS' legal requirements. Recording meetings thus serves an integral function for IAPSS' democratic processes.

By participating in the Zoom Call, members are consenting to be recorded. Anyone who does not want to be on camera is welcome to opt out and participate via the Livestream chat, and there will be someone monitoring it to ensure that their voices are heard.

This is all in accordance with the GDPR and Dutch laws.

From Jakub Zientala to Everyone: 09:27 AM

Mr. Chair I wish to speak in favour of removal of the motion

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 09:34 AM

I believe that the motion is to inquire the intention of the motion?

From Reon van der Merwe to Everyone: 09:45 AM

<https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/IAPSS-GA-Minutes-December-28-2019.pdf>

p19

Line 8.7

The last sentence

From Connor Clarke to Everyone: 09:45 AM

8.27 JB argues that it is not a different interpretation; studying chemistry is not a related field to

political science and regarding competencies, he had also studied computer science, but he is also

enrolled in political science. He repeats that he feels deeply offended for not getting a response, that it is so disrespectful, that he was crying at the General Assembly, and the fact that he did not receive an announcement for the General Assembly. He expresses that it is not a good atmosphere. He accuses the Board of infringing the Statutes. He then adds that in this respect he would like to have a statement from IAPSS and a statement is not something about the association having a different opinion. Then he adds that it is a pity former IAPSS President Anna-Lisa Wirth is not present and that he cannot contact her because she blocked him on Facebook. He states that he has no idea on how someone from Kenya, from Africa, applied for the position, behind his back.  
this one?

From Reon van der Merwe to Everyone: 09:45 AM  
Yes sorry 8.27

From Siwe Kuse to Everyone: 09:46 AM  
Here is the line "Then he adds that it is a pity former IAPSS President Anna-Lisa Wirth is not present and that he cannot contact her because she blocked him on Facebook. He states that he has no idea on how someone from Kenya, from Africa, applied for the position, behind his back."

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 09:50 AM  
but what does it have to do with the position?

From Oleksii Tkachenko to Everyone: 09:52 AM  
dear colleagues, please let enter to our colleague from Ukraine, member of IAPSS, Mykola Bondarenko. He was left from Zoom by some technical malfunction

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 09:52 AM  
As soon as he joins the waiting room, he will be accepted into the meeting :)

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 09:53 AM  
I would like to make a motion regarding 4,5,6

From Jan to Everyone: 09:57 AM  
My Internet connection broke

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 09:58 AM  
it's all good, we're waiting

From Jan to Everyone: 09:58 AM  
I can not hear you, I will try once again

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 09:58 AM  
we're waiting for the website, I mean

From Jakub Zientala to Everyone: 09:58 AM  
There is a problem with technical issues on the website

From Marcos Peña to Everyone: 09:59 AM  
Hola a Tod@s  
Marcos Peña desde la República Dominicana

From Biligtsaikhan Uuganbayar to Everyone: 09:59 AM  
Greetings from Mongolia! <3

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 09:59 AM  
How do you say hello in Mongolian?

From Reon van der Merwe to Everyone: 09:59 AM  
Hi from South Africa

From Oleksii Tkachenko to Everyone: 09:59 AM  
Mykola Boddarenko is here again, thank you very much for help him  
Greetings from Ukraine!!!

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 09:59 AM  
Hola! Paola (mexicana) desde Alemania!

From Siwe Kuse to Everyone: 09:59 AM  
Molo! Siwe here from South Africa 🇿🇦

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 09:59 AM  
Thanks Tobias. Namaste from India.

From Veronica Svitach to Everyone: 09:59 AM  
Greetings from Ukraine :) Pryvit!

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 09:59 AM  
Ciao from Brussels :)

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 09:59 AM  
Hi, Rory from NYC. <3

From Edmundo Sandoval to Everyone: 09:59 AM  
Hola! Aquí Edmundo de México!

From Sheryl Bellagamba to Everyone: 10:00 AM  
Hello everyone from Italy!

From Tobi Adewunmi (Africa & MENA SRC) to Everyone: 10:00 AM  
E kasan gbogbo ile

Tobi from Ibadan, Nigeria

From Mitchell McIntosh to Everyone: 10:00 AM  
G'day from Australia

From Mihai Chihai to Everyone: 10:00 AM  
Salut, Mihai, din Romania!

From Nzube Chukwuma to Everyone: 10:00 AM  
Hello, I am Nzube Chukwuma from Nigeria currently in WUHAN, China

From Connor Clarke to Everyone: 10:00 AM  
Scarn on cobba! From WA

From Mack Okubo to Everyone: 10:00 AM  
Hello, Mack from NYC. I am new to this group, but have been working with you as partner  
MusicforSDGs

From Boluwatife Ajibola to Everyone: 10:00 AM  
Boluwatife Ajibola, Nigerian. Currently in the UK

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 10:01 AM  
السلام عليكم from Pakistan! - Rutaba

From Melis Kırtılı to Everyone: 10:01 AM  
Merhaba! Ben Türkiye'den Melis - now in the UK

From Frank Stengs to Everyone: 10:01 AM  
From the Netherlands, Hallo!

From maheen shafeeq to Everyone: 10:01 AM  
Assalamu alaikum from Pakistan!

From Max Steuer to Everyone: 10:01 AM  
Greetings (pozdravy) from Slovakia!

From Kingsley OGUNNE to Everyone: 10:01 AM  
Ogunne Kingsley, Nigeria.

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:01 AM  
Motion is up!

From Tobias Scholz to Everyone: 10:02 AM  
Tobi in Germany! Grüßt euch!



From Omogbolahan to Everyone: 10:05 AM  
Ekú ilé l'm Ọmọgbóláhàn Bello from Ìbàdàn, Nigeria

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:06 AM  
10:11 in EST; 11:11 Peru/Latin America hahaha

From Tobias Scholz to Everyone: 10:07 AM  
yeah! But India always runs .5 hours in comparison to other time zones... and Nepal 45 minutes which I always find hard to convert

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 10:09 AM  
for those who just rejoined, we're on a 5 minute break. We'll be back at :11

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:12 AM  
I would like to repeat my motion.

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 10:15 AM  
point of information

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 10:17 AM  
point of information

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 10:19 AM  
second that, we are discussing motions sent by a member.

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:19 AM  
Believe me, I am definitely not running for any position; and my motion is rooted in the lack of sufficient evidence to substantiate.

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:21 AM  
Is it up?

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 10:21 AM  
yes

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:22 AM  
Also, to clarify — my motions are not targeted to any member. I am not precluding anyone from running; I just want to make sure that there is sufficient evidence to substantiate these claims because they are quite serious.

From Jan to Everyone: 10:23 AM  
Yes, Rory, there are quite serious. So why don't you want to give me the floor to explain?

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 10:25 AM  
Jan, with all due respect you were given two minutes

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 10:25 AM  
The India Pakistan camaraderie we need :P @Ginisha

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 10:26 AM  
Haha. Roger that ;)

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:27 AM  
Speaks to the ways that IAPSS is a conduit for diplomacy  
MUSIC FOR SDGS  
Mack is here and can probably do that!

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 10:27 AM  
Yesss

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:29 AM  
I will sing Totoro with you, Mack!

From Frank Stengs to Everyone: 10:29 AM  
Tanoshimini ni shitemasu @okubosan

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:31 AM  
I was going to say that Mack should get singing rights

From Justin Patrick to Everyone: 10:32 AM  
I motion to move this point

From Mack Okubo to Everyone: 10:33 AM  
My totoro song would exceed the 2 minute limit. So, maybe next time.

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 10:47 AM  
it was a fun year and we loved working together and making new friends <3

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:54 AM  
Point of information: the USA and Canada is autonomous, as per the June 2020 GA.

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 10:58 AM  
The legitimacy of these regional chapters is governed in particular by Regulation 5: Regions. The mandate of the regional chapters is described under Section 4 of said Regulation. Paragraph 11 of that Section stipulates that it is the regions' responsibility and mandate to (a) "create and build a political science student network in the respective region [...]" and (b) "to offer programs of any kind that provide IAPSS members' professional learning experiences and access to a professional junior community in their respective region". Given the regional context of these stipulations and the responsibilities and mandate of the respective regions, it is sufficiently clear that the regions are within their capacity to offer such programs only for the IAPSS members of that specific region. Also, Paragraph 22 of Section 5 (Regulation 5) states that the respective Regional Chapters are independent in their work unless otherwise stated in the legal framework. All of this means that, in its mutual context, the USA

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 10:59 AM

sorry, I'm not understanding what the question is

From Anthony Medina Rivas Plata to Everyone: 10:59 AM  
Me neither

From Connor Clarke to Everyone: 11:01 AM  
sorry Paola!

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 11:01 AM  
it's all good :D  
that's what I get for being too slow

From Connor Clarke to Everyone: 11:02 AM  
its the 11pm 4 coffees reflexes

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 11:02 AM  
hahahha

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 11:05 AM  
Mack is being voluntold ;)  
We have a space committee, so it is def consistent with IAPSS' SRCs

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 11:09 AM  
Thank you Mack! it was amazing

From Connor Clarke to Everyone: 11:10 AM  
MAck, did you say that was from the space battle ship yamato anime??

From Mack Okubo to Everyone: 11:11 AM  
yes  
I asked a professional opera singer Manami as my side vocal!

From Connor Clarke to Everyone: 11:12 AM  
that's amazing!

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 11:12 AM  
thank you so much!!!

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 11:12 AM  
Thanks, Mack, for tolerating and bearing with me.

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 11:13 AM  
Thanks Mack :) It was lovely

From Shobhendra to Everyone: 11:14 AM  
[https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/IAPSS-Financial-Report\\_-2020\\_2021.pdf](https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/IAPSS-Financial-Report_-2020_2021.pdf)

From Mack Okubo to Everyone: 11:15 AM

Thank you. You are always more than welcome.

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 11:16 AM  
Well done indeed! :)

From Tobias Scholz to Everyone: 11:20 AM  
I am aware that the time granted is over. However, as the discussion and overview is important I am assigning 4 more minutes.

From Max Steuer to Everyone: 11:33 AM  
Point of information, thanks.

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 11:43 AM  
<https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Advisory-Board-Report-2021-2.pdf>

From Connor Clarke to Everyone: 11:47 AM  
can I ask a point of information after?

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 11:50 AM  
I wanted Connor to say that he was from "Down under". :D

From Jakub Zientala to Everyone: 11:50 AM  
Well IAPSS is financially Down and under

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 11:55 AM  
is this a point of order?  
this has nothing to do with the question  
Connor just wanted to know the price

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 11:56 AM  
point of information

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 11:57 AM  
I would like to make a request for information after Mr. Behren's point, if that is ok.

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 11:59 AM  
i am once again asking  
if this is the space to discuss personal feelings

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:00 PM  
My point of information would address the report

From Nzube Chukwuma to Everyone: 12:00 PM  
Point of information.

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:03 PM  
Nzube, I am so sorry if I mispronounced your name.

From Shobhendra de Vries to Everyone: 12:04 PM  
can I respond to Nzube

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:04 PM  
Would that work? If iapss gets sued, then they would have to spend money on the defense.

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:10 PM  
Perhaps Nzube's point could be amended to absolve IAPSS of legal liability in certain instances to make sure that members are aware of their rights; and prevent expensive lawsuits that financially drain the organization?

From Mihai Chihai to Everyone: 12:11 PM  
might I add something?

From Nzube Chukwuma to Everyone: 12:14 PM  
Good Rory.

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:15 PM  
Sorry I signed you up for a leadership position, Nzube. I was so impressed with your point, and wanted to empower you. :)

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 12:15 PM  
It was a really interesting point

From Nzube Chukwuma to Everyone: 12:17 PM  
Empower me! Rory, I will be needing your expertise

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 12:17 PM  
this is somehow not relevant to the motion, I think

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 12:19 PM  
I second the motion

From Connor Clarke to Everyone: 12:19 PM  
I third that

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:23 PM  
Jan, I apologize if you feel that my comments and objections to motion #2 (which has now been stricken from the agenda) was directed at you. It was not. My objections were rooted in the principle and the implications of removing that language (and by extension protections) for people from those communities.  
One thing that I love about this organization is the ability for us to meaningfully discuss these issues and implications with one another in a respectful way, which is what I was doing in my points of information.

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 12:23 PM  
this is why it's always recommended to bring snacks!

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:24 PM

Share in the comments what you are snacking on. I am on my second bag of chips.

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 12:24 PM

Point of order!

The snacks were announced  
on social media!

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 12:24 PM

Hahaha

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 12:24 PM

Along with a potatoes emoji

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 12:35 PM

Would like to thank all the regional chapters and IAPSS global for their support throughout the year :)

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:37 PM

Great job, Rutaba!

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 12:37 PM

Thanks

From Biligtsaikhan Uuganbayar to Everyone: 12:38 PM

Rutaba you are a great team leader. I learned a lot from you!!! <3

From Mack Okubo to Everyone: 12:38 PM

Would also like to express our gratitude to all the regional chapters for their support on the activities of Music for SDGs. We intend to expand our network in the 6 regions.

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 12:39 PM

Indeed! We would love to Mack. Thanks for all the support

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:40 PM

IAPSS Africa has done such a wonderful job. I want this noted in the minutes. Reon, Funmi, and the team have done a phenomenal job with partnerships; and had their UN75 reports showcased in the Secretary-General's report.

From Reon van der Merwe to Everyone: 12:41 PM

Thanks to the global team for all their support.

From Siwe Kuse to Everyone: 12:41 PM

Thanks for the shout out, Rory ✨

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 12:41 PM

it's true and you all deserve it!

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 12:41 PM  
We should plan for a party on that note

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:42 PM  
We should have a party on all of this  
I always call people out  
For wonderful work

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 12:43 PM  
Thanks to you too Rory

From Mack Okubo to Everyone: 12:43 PM  
Thank you, Rory (☺>◡<☺)。 ✧♡

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:43 PM  
To clarify - the Africa reports were featured in the UN Secretary-General's report (which makes it even COOLER!)

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 12:44 PM  
Thanks to the distinguished IAPSS Africa team

From Biligtsaikhan Uuganbayar to Everyone: 12:46 PM  
Enjoy it :)

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 12:46 PM  
Thanks Bilgee

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 12:46 PM  
thankkkk you!!!!

From Oleksii Tkachenko to Everyone: 12:50 PM  
I has to leave the Assembly because of urgent deals. I wish you to end Assembly successfully! Greetings for you and every member of IAPSS from IAPSS Ukraine and Ukraine!

From Biligtsaikhan Uuganbayar to Everyone: 12:54 PM  
Thank you so much dear  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2Q6YO3Ez44>

From Connor Clarke to Everyone: 12:55 PM  
you have to get the radio host voice  
i can briefly speak

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 12:58 PM  
love Flavia!  
I knooooow, they were really great!

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 01:00 PM  
nice hat rory, are those flags?

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 01:01 PM  
It is!

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 01:01 PM  
lovely!

From Connor Clarke to Everyone: 01:04 PM  
go oleksii!!!

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 01:05 PM  
go Oleksii!

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 01:05 PM  
My comments re: Latin America

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 01:05 PM  
this was already cleared

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 01:05 PM  
They did a PHENOMENAL job liaising with Peru and have the largest memberships out of any region  
Europe got some wonderful high-level speakers for the 24 hour telethon; and want that reflected in the minutes.

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 01:07 PM  
new and better!

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 01:10 PM  
We only have motion 1 left

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 01:10 PM  
it's such a big and wonderful step!!

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 01:16 PM  
I am way too excited about this move

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 01:25 PM  
Seconded

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 01:29 PM  
There is a relocation form to ask people for their consent.

From Jakub Zientala to Everyone: 01:30 PM  
Art 45 GDPR



A transfer of personal data to a third country or an international organisation may take place where the Commission has decided that the third country, a territory or one or more specified sectors within that third country, or the international organisation in question ensures an adequate level of protection. 2Such a transfer shall not require any specific authorisation.

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 01:32 PM

Consent form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrFQH2T9EIo7E9xofcRgCZYWtVkpDqnZhP26mMYWIK2cMiVg/viewform>

From Jakub Zientala to Everyone: 01:32 PM

Canada is on the list of the third safe countries <https://gdpr-info.eu/issues/third-countries/>

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 01:38 PM

sing us a song, you're the piano gal

From Connor Clarke to Everyone: 01:39 PM

we are all the waitress practicing politics in that song

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 01:39 PM

next time we can organize an a capella group

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 01:40 PM

I am down. :)

From Nzube Chukwuma to Everyone: 01:42 PM

I have a song to play. Can I while we wait?

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 01:42 PM

vote vote vote

From Oscar Andrés Nazario Rocca to Everyone: 01:43 PM

I need the link, can't enter (My PC died and I'm using My phone)

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 01:43 PM

Loved your excitement Paola :))

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 01:43 PM

<https://www.iapss.org/iapss-general-assemblies-and-elections-may-2021/>

From Oscar Andrés Nazario Rocca to Everyone: 01:44 PM

thanks :)

From Mack Okubo to Everyone: 01:44 PM

Thank you very much.

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 01:44 PM

Thanks everyone and Tobias

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 01:45 PM  
thank youuuuuuuu all!!!!

From Mihai Chihaiia to Everyone: 01:45 PM  
A huge thank you!

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 01:45 PM  
Great work everyone!!

From Connor Clarke to Everyone: 01:45 PM  
Thanks everyone, good hustle!

From Max Steuer to Everyone: 01:45 PM  
Thank you all!

From Paola Navarro Villa to Everyone: 01:45 PM  
thanks everyone!

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 01:45 PM  
Thanks to everyone for participating!

From Reon van der Merwe to Everyone: 01:46 PM  
Thank you everyone see you all next Saturday!

## **General Assembly Part 2**

*Note: Since the vote to dissolve and liquidate the old association in the Netherlands passed with an over 80% majority, Part 2 of the May 2021 IAPSS General Assembly is governed by the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act and the 2013 Dutch Statutes do not apply.*

### **Location**

The meeting was held online via Zoom from Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

### **Attendance**

#### **Individual Members**

1. Justin Patrick
2. Giulia Zampedri
3. Omogbolahan Bello
4. Reon van der Merwe
5. Meenakshi Bansal
6. Rutaba Tariq
7. Ahmet Kaan Ketboga
8. Moilana Chirema
9. Oleksii Tkachenko
10. Artem Oliinyk
11. Max Steuer
12. Melis Kirtilli
13. Frank Stengs
14. Boluwatife Ajibola
15. Kateryna Dyshkantyuk
16. Mykola Bondarenko
17. Natalia Fomina
18. Beshentseva Kseniia
19. Minh Nguyen

20. Mihai Chihai
21. Shobhendra Srivastava
22. Jan Behrens
23. Anthony Medina Rivas Plata
24. Sivuyisiwe Kuse
25. Ginisha Dewani
26. Lesedi Senamele Matlala
27. Yehor Hunia
28. Nathan Edward Swartz
29. Clara Caspar
30. Oleksii Zahreba
31. Rory Mondshein
32. Thomas N. Singbeh
33. Andrew Kurzweil
34. Rose Smith
35. Biligtsaikhan Uuganbayar
36. Paola Navarro Villa
37. Tobias Scholz
38. Connor Clarke
39. Tobi Adewunmi
40. Maheen Shafeeq
41. Kingsley Ogunne
42. Herbert Mba Aki
43. Crystal Staebell
44. Mykhailo Omelchenko
45. Ivan Boiarchuk
46. Lucy O'Connell
47. Tomoki Matsuno
48. Arina Muresan
49. Shrey Madaan
50. Alfonso Enrique Díaz y Sotelo
51. Nadya K. Gamarra Chipa
52. Burcu Güler
53. Alyssa Elaine Braker
54. Pallavi Pradhan
55. Adeyoe Adesina
56. Harjeet Singh
57. Viktor Savinok
58. Elizaveta Lisyutina
59. Andrii Gut
60. Daryna Ostrovska
61. Karyna Boiko

## **Agenda**

1. Ratification of new Canadian bylaws – [click here to access the bylaws](#)

## 2. Elections – (candidate presentations, questions, and voting)

- a. President
  - b. Secretary-General
  - c. Treasurer
  - d. Vice President for Academic Affairs
  - e. Vice President for Programs
  - f. Vice President for Public Relations
  - g. Advisory Board (3 positions)
  - h. IAPSS Africa Chair
  - i. IAPSS Asia Chair
  - j. IAPSS Europe Chair
  - k. IAPSS Latin America and the Caribbean Chair
  - l. IAPSS Oceania Chair
  - m. IAPSS USA and Canada Chair
- ## 3. Other Business

## 4. Adjournment

### **Livestream link**

<https://youtu.be/1uL8paA-o4M>

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Call to order**

Tobias gives instructions to participants about submitting questions to the General Assembly Board in the chat if they have any. He then asks if there are other items to be submitted to the agenda that do not fall into the scope of other business. Seeing no questions or new agenda items, Tobias proceeds to call the meeting to order.

#### **2. Ratification of Canadian By-laws**

Tobias asks Justin to present the by-laws. He gives him 10 minutes of speaking time, and allows to yield unused time. The floor is given to Justin.

Justin thanks Tobias. He says that these bylaws are made of old internal regulations and policies. The new clauses are highlighted in red. Those clauses are requirements in Canadian law. The bylaws are a combination of statutes and regulations. We tried to keep the same procedures, but there are small changes. In addition there are other changes recommended to members, including standardizing voting times for elections and bylaw and policy amendments to 3 days each as a minimum requirement, instead of 7 days for elections, and a 2 day minimum for bylaw and policy amendments. We also proposed to account for frequent resignations at IAPSS in the past years, when there were situations where people served smaller fragments of terms to specify that one term toward a term limit would only be counted by serving more than half of a term. So if someone serves a few weeks until a by-election or something like that, that would not count as one term. Whereas they serve 6 months and a day, then that would count as one term toward the term limit. This is a recommendation to ensure continuity, but as members you are welcome to recommend amendments to that. Justin says that apart from that, he does not think a whole lot has changed. If other folks would like to add things, they are welcome to do so. Justin says he is happy to answer any questions.

Tobias thanks Justin. He is interrupted by Rory who motions to ratify this wonderful document. She says there was ample time to review it, and if there were any questions, they would be raised at this time; as there are none, she motions to ratify Canadian bylaws. Her motion is seconded by Giulia.

*The vote opens on a website.*

*The motion to approve the Canadian bylaws passes.*

## **2. Approval of the Agenda and General Assembly Board**

Tobias moves to approve the agenda and General Assembly Board with Tobias Scholz as the Chair and Biligtsaikhan Uuganbayar as the minute taker. He asks to make the vote available on a website.

*The vote opens on the website.*

Tobias says there is definitely some music missing from last time and the brakes were more lively last time. He says we could definitely push a motion for more such musical intervention for the General Assemblies to come.

Rory replies she has got Tobias on such a motion. She motions to have more musical interventions to make this more fun. Her motion is seconded by Giulia.

Tobias states that there is now a message to the Executive Committee to follow up with an action plan on how to include more musical programs in the General Assemblies.

*The motion to approve the agenda and General Assembly Board passes.*

### 3. Elections

#### a. President

Tobias says there are two candidates for the position of a President. He suggests proceeding in alphabetical order when presenting candidates. He says 5 minutes will be given to all candidates for all positions for their platform statements, but candidates can keep their speeches shorter. Tobias invites Jan Behrens to provide his presentation. However, Jan is not in the meeting. Tobias then gives the floor to Justin.

Justin thanks Tobias. He encourages everyone to look at this platform statement and CV. The documents are quite long, but he hopes members have had time to read them in the weeks leading up to the General Assembly. In the platform statement, Justin says, he went over the year and outlined what went well and what did not based on the platform from a previous year. He encourages everyone to take a look at that and hold him to account. He says the same momentum should be kept going in the upcoming mandate. A lot of things are underway: we are relocating to a new country, and there is also a possibility to get a physical office for IAPSS so we can store all our stuff, and maybe in the future to have some office staff to help us with procedural things, as we grow and professionalize as an organization. There is also the creation of the Global Student Government, the founding meeting which is happening later this month, in about a week's time. This will represent all IAPSS has done on the international stage in terms of advocacy in the past year. This is also a very consequential moment, and we have to keep moving along. We have to keep learning from our mistakes and keep capitalizing on our advantages. This would involve using the new association membership model to increase memberships further to give more students access to IAPSS's democratic processes. As it can be seen from the resolved General Assembly Part 1, we had a very high turnout, higher than usual. We had about 74 people attending, so it is very important that we make things transparent and accessible. In addition we should also strive to learn from our capacities of having online events, especially our online World Congress, to keep having online events in the future as long as this pandemic keeps happening, and look forward beyond that when we can be in person again, we can have an online component, so folks who cannot afford to travel to the conference location, can still participate virtually. He believes that it is very important that we have all continents represented in IAPSS and that is something IAPSS has driven to do; and to make sure that barriers of economic status and other obstacles to participation can be alleviated as much as possible. And also to make sure that political science students have a voice in international education policy making and discourse, so we can help shape education for the future, so our successors, the students that come after us, can have an even better education than we had. Justin says he is happy to answer any questions.

Tobias thanks Justin. He says that the second candidate has not joined the meeting at this point, so the General Assembly can directly move into the questions section. He asks if there are any questions for Justin.

Rory tells Tobias that she has questions for Jan Behrens, but since he is not here, she asks to formally introduce her questions to the minutes.

Tobias grants the floor to Rory.

Rory asks the following questions to Jan: what is his motivation to run for IAPSS President, and what are his best assets that he can bring, since he talked a lot about his passion for IAPSS, and particularly the lawsuit. So, what are his motivations, especially since he just sued the organization?

Tobias thanks Rory. He says that Jan Behrens is not here, but he can certainly see it in the minutes. He asks if there are other questions.

Anthony asks Jan about how his prior experience with doing research in political science, or leadership or management could be useful in comparison with his intention to be in the leadership of the association, especially after suing IAPSS.

Tobias thanks Anthony. He asks if there are any more questions.

Rory asks Jan if elected for President, would he support creating a task force to review bylaws and create language to free IAPSS from legal liability and expensive lawsuits? She adds that this question also goes to Justin.

Justin responds that members are free to brainstorm among each other and develop a proposal for such a task force. He thinks that given the nature of the IAPSS organization, there may not even be a need for such a formal structure. Members can meet and talk about that, and propose this as a motion at the next General Assembly or to the Executive Committee directly, and things can go from there. If there is a need to have a more formal structure and members are interested in this kind of thing, then by all means.

Tobias thanks Justin. He notices that Giulia is unmuted, and asks her if she has a question.

Giulia replies that she has a question for Jan Behrens. If elected as President, how would he address issues among the team when they arise. Since we already saw Justin in this past year dealing with it, she would like to know Jan's approach.

Tobias thanks Giulia. He asks if there are any more questions.

Boluwatife asks Justin whether he has new approaches and plans in engaging the regions.

Justin thanks Boluwatife. He says that in particular we need to focus on what was successful last year and try to innovate there. A successful strategy was trying to get in contact with schools. For example, Justin met with IAPSS Africa team, been in communication with them over the course of the mandate in an attempt not only to provide more affordable membership fees rate for folks in Africa, but also to put a strategy in place in reaching out to political science student associations and universities to try to find association membership models that are affordable to them and that allow more students to get involved and be a part of IAPSS. In addition, online events have been successful as well, making educational resources, as online events are recorded and posted online, so in future years students can keep going back and they can keep looking at these and learning from them in the future. We have to look at which of these resources were the most successful and how we can replicate this to get more content based on what students are interested in or in need of



learning more about. Those are some ideas he would recommend. In addition, through organizations like the Global Student Government and UNESCO, IAPSS should try to get an even more active involvement in various UN bodies and various policymaking processes to establish more relations with other student governments who may be able to help us bring more political science students in each of the regions on board. That way we can have an even larger number of standardized members to keep the positive trend going.

Tobias thanks Justin. He asks members to mention their name when speaking to make it easier for minute takers. He also asks to correct him if he pronounces names wrong. He then welcomes more questions if there are any.

Biligtsaikhan says that she does not have a question, but wants to mention that voting options are in the alphabetical order. She wishes good luck to Justin and Jan. She then asks if Jan is online, and whether the General Assembly should start the vote or wait for him. Tobias replies that if there are no more questions, the vote can be opened. He asks if there are any questions.

*There are no questions.*

Tobias asks if the option “no” can be added in voting. There is an option to abstain, but in his interpretation there should also be a “no”.

Biligtsaikhan asks if “abstain” can be counted as a “no”.

Tobias says that legally speaking those are different.

Biligtsaikhan replies that she can edit the options.

Rory says people should be made to decide the candidate and there should not be an “abstain” option. If they wanted to run, they could have run.

*The option “no” was added.*

*The vote opens on a website.*

Tobias reminds everyone that like at the General Assembly a week ago, the results will not have an immediate effect, the vote will be open for 3 days.

*By the time the voting period closed, Justin Patrick was elected IAPSS President.*

## **b. Secretary-General**

Tobias states that there were 4 applications for the position of a Secretary-General, but one was withdrawn. 3 applications are left: Jan Behrens, Oleksii Zahreba, and Reon van der Merwe. Tobias says 5 minutes will be given to each candidate for their presentations. Jan Behrens is still not online, in the meantime, if he joins, he will be given a chance to speak. Otherwise, the floor is given to Oleksii.

Oleksii thanks Tobias. He makes an introduction of himself. His name is Oleksii Zahreba and he is a student enrolled in the International Studies program with a minor in political science. He is studying in the province of Alberta, Canada. He is entering the last, 4th year of his studies and he is a current Chair of IAPSS USA and Canada region, and there is one week left until his mandate expires. He has been involved with IAPSS over 1.5 years, starting with the involvement with the World Congress 2019. For those who are interested, the IAPSS USA and Canada report is available on page 9 in the regional report document, and that is available at the link in the chat. Throughout his time at IAPSS, he has been noticing different things that IAPSS could do better, and the work he has done in the last 6 months has shaped his platform on which he is running for this position. The platform is available on the General Assembly page, and Oleksii invites people to read it. The platform is based on 3 main directions, 3 areas which contain different goals Oleksii would like to achieve during his mandate as a Secretary-General. Those three areas are: improving the website and digital infrastructure, establishing and developing IAPSS in Canada, and helping IAPSS to become a leader among other international student organizations. So, starting with the website. Oleksii became an IAPSS member just two years ago, ironically, on May 23rd, 2019. He googled the political science associations to join and IAPSS was on the first page. However, that is not how people usually join IAPSS. The website receives over 15,000 visits a month, yet those visits do not convert into paid memberships. The main page does not contain enough information about the organization, the website design is somewhat outdated, and some pages are missing vital information. His goal as a Secretary-General is to change the design of a website, make it more user-friendly and focus on promoting IAPSS membership to new visitors. He would also like to create an intuitive internal system for IAPSS members, which would be especially useful for new members. Imagine if someone signs up, they can receive instructions and a welcome message about how to get involved. They can access the directory of IAPSS members, with the consent of our members, those who are willing to join that. The goal here is to revitalize the organization as a network of political science students who build professional relationships between each other. He thinks that it is especially important in the times like these, when the only networking opportunities are available online at the moment. Oleksii says he has over 4 years of freelance work experience as a website developer, and he especially has a lot of experience with Wordpress. So he wants to use that experience to create the best digital representation of IAPSS possible. The second area of work is the development of IAPSS in Canada. During the last 6 months, since the moment GA voted for relocation in December, Justin and Oleksii met with representatives of International Political Science Association, Concordia University, and the agency Montreal International. He helped to incorporate a federal and a provincial entity in the province of Quebec. He also contributed to writing Canadian bylaws. Currently he is working on a document for Concordia University that outlines the long-term vision of IAPSS, and how it is going to enrich the city of Montreal with its presence, so to speak. Overall, he is really excited about relocation to Canada, because he lives here, but he knows this is one of the best countries for non-profits to be located in, so he wants to do everything in his ability to make sure IAPSS succeeds here. This includes an enhanced focus on fundraising, which includes obtaining grants from federal and provincial governments, and using those money to professionalize IAPSS and increase its income. Oleksii says he believes in a goal that Justin stated in his previous platform when he ran for President last year, which is to remunerate IAPSS volunteers. He thinks this is achievable, including having the Secretariat and staff in Montreal, and he hopes it will be achieved before the year of 2025. He is also going to work on creating documents for future IAPSS Excoms on how to

deal with Canadian bureaucracy, which is not very difficult, but he wants to make sure that future Excoms know how to file annual returns, and how to file tax forms, to make sure that IAPSS is up to date with the government. Oleksii says he wants to leave the organization well-prepared to function in Canada, once all current Excom members leave IAPSS. Last thing, but a very important area of work is, as Oleksii would call it, defining the place of IAPSS in the world. As everyone knows, IAPSS is a co-founding member of the Global Student Government initiative. Throughout the past year there have been discussions with other international student organizations and associations, and as it turns out, from Oleksii's perspective, IAPSS is well-positioned to be a leader among those organizations. So his goal is to solidify that leadership by working on the Global Student Government initiative and making sure it succeeds. He has already created the website for the Global Student Government, it's more of a landing page for now, the link is available in the chat. He plans to contribute to GSG in all questions regarding operations and digital infrastructure. Regarding IAPSS's collaborations with other organizations, Oleksii would like to see IAPSS to be even more engaged with the United Nations system and its bodies. He believes that can be done by gaining a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and rejoining the UN Global Impact. He thinks those actions will give IAPSS more exposure in the world and will give more possibilities of partnerships with other international non-profits. That is it. These are 3 directions he would like to work in as a Secretary-General. If there are any questions, he is happy to answer them.

Tobias thanks Oleksii. He gives the floor to the next candidate Reon.

Reon thanks Tobias and everyone for the opportunity to run for the position of a Secretary-General. He then introduces himself. His name is Reon van der Merwe and he is from South Africa. He entered the IAPSS system through SRCs, and has since worked extensively with Africa's regional team with some of the projects they ran. In reflecting upon the position of a Secretary-General, he thinks that the idea that comes to mind is servant leadership. He believes that the Secretary-General is essentially a servant of the organisation, with the President as the face and international cooperation, links the association with various organisations globally. It is the job of the Secretary-General that there is an internal cohesion within the various moving parts of the association. This has become increasingly important, specifically now, since 2018, after embarking on the regionalization process. This was the first move towards a truly international association for IAPSS. Reon believes that a lot of progress has been made in this process, but there are still some areas that need to be improved upon. He wants to focus specifically on those. Looking at the Vision 2022, which was set up during Tobias' year as President, the first goal of that specific document which can be found on IAPSS website, is nurturing a global community. Reon thinks that this is one of the reasons he wants to focus his candidacy on regionalisation. IAPSS established regions and teams in 6 parts of the world and ran projects. But in Reon's view, IAPSS has not successfully created a grassroots link that can create sustainability for those regional structures. He thinks that many regions in this last year showed what successful regions can look like. The Asia region, the Africa region, even the US and Canada region did amazing work. But the question of sustainability remains key. The association was struggling with the Secretary-General not being present in 2020, as the Secretary-General had resigned and a Deputy Secretary-General had to step in. A lot of that, building relationships, following up, making sure that things are actually happening on the ground, it could not be done. Obviously, he thinks that Justin and Rory did an excellent

job linking IAPSS with international organizations, as was mentioned, the UN, the UN75, the Global Student Government project. But unless we can create sustainable links to the ground, those grassroots links, inevitably IAPSS is going to enter those platforms and there will be nothing to show for it, because they will ask “where is your international association?” Reon would really like to build on a momentum that was created, by being an aid to the regional organizations and SRCs, rethinking what it means to be a part of SRC, what is the product and the outcome we want to achieve with SRCs. As a Secretary-General, you are the head of the entire secretariat, so you must be an aid to all of the different vice-presidents within the various fields of IAPSS; and that is something Reon really wants to focus on. In closing of his motivations for this position, those are very clear in the document he set out. Even though the move to Canada is very important for the future of IAPSS, and is pivotal for the long-term success, Reon does not think that the future of IAPSS lies in Canada alone. It lies in Africa, Latin America, Asia, in Oceania, it lies across the world. Personally for Reon, one of the things he loves IAPSS is that it strives to bring together the community that has been very often ostracized in the past. We know that political science is an extremely lonely field. We are often criticized as not having any practical value in society, graduates often question whether there are any prospects for career within the field, and actually leave the field. And we know, specifically those of us in the parts of the world where there is hectic instability, we know that political science is very important. So, IAPSS is that beacon within the globe that says, “you matter, we have a community for you, you can become part of us” and that all relies on our membership, that all relies on having a regional team that looks like you, speaks like you, and represents you. And so for a global Secretary-General position, Reon thinks it is very important to build those relationships and build those ties. Reon states he is open to any kinds of questions about the details of doing that.

Tobias thanks Reon. He confirms that there were presentations from 2 present candidates and Jan still has not joined. He invited members to ask questions to the candidates.

Rutaba says that Reon talked about sustainability for regionalisation. She asks him to shed more light on how he intends to go about it. It is not a full plan, but she would like to understand how he is going to make the regionalization process a bit more sustainable.

Reon thanks Rutaba for her question. He says it is a strategic conversation that needs to happen with the consultation of the chairs. Off the top of the head, it is two things: ensuring that regions have strong leaders, because we have seen that when a region has a strong leader, that actually helps to drive the projects. But even more than that, while you have a strong leader, you need to connect that leader and that team to the members of IAPSS in that region. So that is one of the main things Reon wants to focus on - connecting the members on a sustainable basis. And a country coordinator issue is super important. In the region he was working with, Africa, they struggled with the country coordinator process. Reon thinks that should be pushed along strongly, so IAPSS can have at least one liaison in every single country that can assist the regional team. Because if you do not have that, you essentially end up having regional projects, but that is a very broad brush approach. So the students in specific countries never feel like IAPSS is coming to them, they feel like IAPSS came to their region. The way we do it now, we should draw on the strengths of the regions that have worked, we need strong leaders, but at the same time we need those institutional branches that link us to the country level and to the grassroots level.

Tobias thanks Reon. He notices a request for a question in the chat from Thomas. He grants the floor to Thomas.

Thomas thanks Oleksii for the presentation. He asks him what strengths he would bring to the table if elected as a Secretary-General, especially when forming a Secretariat of IAPSS. He asks how he will increase the efficiency of the Secretariat, especially working with different organs of IAPSS Global?

Tobias thanks Thomas. He asks Oleksii whether he heard everything, given that the sound quality was shaky.

Oleksii asks Thomas to repeat the question, as there was some background noise on Thomas' side.

Thomas asks that if Oleksii is elected as a Secretary-General to the IAPSS Global Board, what would he do to increase the efficiency of IAPSS Secretariat. How would he work with various organs and what extra marginal value does Oleksii bring to IAPSS Africa that is different from his challenges, and possibly different from predecessors. What extra thing does Oleksii have that would make him an exceptional and effective Secretary-General.

Oleksii thanks Thomas for the question. He states that when he started working as a Regional Chair a year ago, there were some difficulties, because the Secretary-General was essentially a liaison between the digital infrastructure and the Chairs. That was changed a few months later, when the Regional Chairs got direct access to the website, and eased things a whole lot, because Chairs did not have to contact the Secretary-General anymore for posting things on a website, posting candidacies, it became much more autonomous in that regard. However, Oleksii says he thinks there is more to be done with regards to regular members. Speaking from personal experience, when Oleksii joined IAPSS, he had no idea what to do next. He clicked to purchase the membership, the membership was purchased, and that is it, he was a part of the global community, as the main page advertises, but he did not know what to do next. Later he started receiving newsletters, but what he would do is streamlining digital experience, because usually people would get to know IAPSS via in-person events, but if they join us via the means of Internet, they should be instructed and presented with clear steps on what they can do in the organization, because there are so many opportunities there. Given that he has experience with Wordpress, and creating and maintaining websites, he believes that during his mandate IAPSS can make a big step towards being better represented digitally, in terms of the website. As for IAPSS Africa, if there are any suggestions on your side, if you have been frustrated with your experience with the Secretariat, Oleksii asks to submit those questions to him, if he is elected of course, and he will be happy to work with you on improving that.

Tobias thanks Oleksii for answering the question. He then gives the floor to Crystal.

*Crystal writes her question in the chat. She asks, "what would you propose that IAPSS should do to increase the membership engagement as strong engagement keeps people around?"*

Tobias grants the floor to Reon.

Reon says that he thinks it is not that people are not interested in IAPSS. He thinks that IAPSS has a good message and it is a good organization, it has a lot to offer, if it is sold correctly. Reon commends the PR team from this year, because they have done a lot of work of building an online brand for IAPSS. He thinks that needs to be continued, because it leads to visibility. But as it was pointed out, visibility does not always translate into membership. For him, personally, you sign up for things when you feel that you actually become a part of a broader community, and you actually see yourself represented in the structure you feel personally connected to. So, obviously, there are various membership management tactics you can use, welcoming emails and those kinds of things, but for him personally, it is very important to empower individual teams, as his platform is based entirely on that. Empowering regional teams so they can reach out to regional members directly, so that they know that somewhere in the world there is a Secretariat, there is an office, wherever it is; but there are people in my region, from my continent, who are actually working, and I am directly in contact with them. So that is quite important when we have these kinds of events, when we have the World Congress. There were 170 people at the World Congress, and Reon wonders how many of them will continue engaging with IAPSS. Reon hopes that the majority of them will, now as we have them as members. But he thinks that what is going to be the difference between them signing up next year as members, or not signing up, is whether they are actually engaged on a regional level with more than just a blanket IAPSS organization. So Reon thinks that is a very important thing for increasing and retaining membership.

Tobias thanks Reon. He then grants the floor to Oleksii.

Oleksii says that the main challenge we have here is the competition for attention. When people sign up for IAPSS, they have a few other things on their plate, one primary thing is that they are students, usually full-time students; so IAPSS needs to capture the idea in the mind of a member that IAPSS is something they should allocate their time to, because they will get something out of it, and IAPSS will be useful for them. He thinks that IAPSS should market itself as the organization that has practical use, if you are not just a member of it, but an active participant. Changing a message around the goals and around the marketing, that IAPSS is an organization that helps you to improve professionally. This is if you participate in it, if you take part in SRCs, if you take part in leadership, if you take part in organizing events, this is something that enhances your resume, and this is the organization through which you can make friends, through which you can build relationships. So it is not an abstract organization as Reon mentioned, there is a Secretariat somewhere, but there is no personal connection. So the idea here is to promote those opportunities directly to members, and that can be done via website and personal communication with members via email and social media with direct links to sign up for various opportunities. But again, the focus here is on opportunities IAPSS has on becoming more professional, so people see value in volunteering for IAPSS and actively working within this community, because it benefits them in the end.

Tobias thanks Oleksii. He says there are a couple of questions, and in the matter of time and given that some of the questions may address similar points, he proposes to collect the questions, and let both Oleksii and Reon answer cumulatively to all the questions. He grants the floor to Thomas, with Ginisha, Rory, and Rose following after.

Thomas thanks Tobias. He says that Reon is exceptionally qualified. He has seen him perform in IAPSS Africa, and in Africa SRC. He says that Reon comes from the continent that has been challenged with membership, as it has the lowest membership in IAPSS. Reon worked with the IAPSS Africa team, which has been truly wonderful to ensure that there is an informative membership strategy to reach out to students who are challenged by different socio-economic circumstances. He hopes that Reon brings this up with the Public Relations Department if elected Secretary-General.

Tobias thanks Thomas. He then grants the floor to Ginisha.

Ginisha thanks Tobias. She asks Oleksii about the website content, as it needs to be updated, and some content is outdated. She asks what content Oleksii wants to put on the website, if he has a plan for that, or any specific ideas.

Tobias thanks Ginisha. He then grants the floor to Rory.

Rory says she has a question for all candidates. If elected as a Secretary-General, will you respect the will of members and usher the transition to Canada as opposed sticking to the Dutch association?

Tobias thanks Rory. He then gives the floor to Rose.

Rose says it is great to see a lot of candidates. She wants to know what they would like to do, since we can have only one Secretary-General, it would be really great to have all these active members to be active. She would like to know what their plan is if they do not get elected to the position, and how they plan to be involved, if they do plan to be involved.

Tobias thanks Rose. He grants the floor to Oleksii.

Oleksii says he will start with Ginisha's question. First, let us talk about the main page. The main page of IAPSS website has a lot of unused space, we kind of only use the center space of the website. We have IAPSS events, IAPSS regions, IAPSS academic publications, but there is no explanation of what this is about, it is just links that change between each other. He would first enlarge the font, enlarge pictures, make everything a bit larger in general. And just give more information on the main page in simple terms about opportunities we have. Now it is pretty unobvious what is winter school, what is a study trip, what are IAPSS regions, what is Politikon, these are just links. Given that the attention span of visitors is pretty short, we have about less than 10 seconds to capture their attention, so we should put more simplified information on the main page. A second thing, Oleksii would work with all Regional Chairs to keep their pages updated, so we can make the IAPSS experience more personal on a regional level. Because the problem is, if a regional page is not updated, the impression is that the region is not active. So he would work with Regional Chairs to help them, as he knows it is hard to figure out Wordpress if you never used it. He will help to keep the regional pages updated. Update the academics page, especially the Student Research Committees, some of them are missing information. The biggest point is to make the donate button more visible, as we are the organization that relies on donations. Also streamline the opportunities for people to donate to IAPSS, so it should also be as easy

as possible. But also he wants to ask for feedback, so it is not just him working on it, but he will be consulting with IAPSS Excom, IAPSS Regional Chairs, and IAPSS in general, to see if people like the changes, so we can work on this together.

Oleksii proceeds to answer the question from Rose. If he does not get elected, his plan would be to help the Excom to finish the transition to Canada, finish the transition to Concordia. Since he is that far in this work, might as well complete it. Hopefully we can organize the World Congress next year in Canada, and he will be happy to assist with that.

Oleksii then proceeds to answer Rory's question. He says he will support the transition to Canada as much as possible.

Tobias thanks Oleksii. He then grants the floor to Reon.

Reon first answers Rory's question. He says that he supports the move to Canada, as he thinks that it is a great move, it is good, if we can get more support and fundraising there, it makes logical sense. One extra point that he would add there, that if we do move it to Canada, just as with the Netherlands, we must always be aware of the threat of elitism. He thinks that while members did vote to move to Canada, they did not vote for opportunities to be centralized in Canada. So when you speak about internships and international staff, his intention for it is to be truly international, and for us to spread those equally among all members, because that is what they essentially voted for, a better association for them as well.

Reon then addresses the second question about staying on with IAPSS. As he pointed out, his current role is the Chair of Africa and MENA SRC. If not elected as a Secretary-General, he will continue in that position, because it is something he is very passionate about. His SRC has grown from 10 members to 14 members, there are 6 different cluster projects. So it is running very successfully, and he intends for it to continue running successfully, regardless of what happens at the GA.

Tobias thanks Reon and Oleksii for answering the questions. He sees 2 questions in the chat by Giulia. He grants the floor to her.

Giulia poses a question to Oleksii. She says that he has been a Chair for the US and Canada. She was wondering why there are no candidates for the position of the Chair of US and Canada and why he decided to run for Secretary-General instead of covering the US and Canada Chair position. Her other question is for Jan. She asks him why he is running for 4 positions, and what makes him qualified for the position of Secretary-General and all other positions. As seen from his CV and platform statement, he only has experience being a website coordinator, which was terminated because of misconduct in 2017. So, it does not mention any other experience, so she would like him to explain if he joins, what other experiences he had that make him qualified for the position of a Secretary-General and all other positions.

Tobias thanks Giulia. He asks if there are other questions that members can collectively pose to the 2 present candidates. There are no other questions, and he gives the floor to Oleksii.



Oleksii thanks Giulia for a good question. He says he had a great time as IAPSS USA and Canada Chair, and he believes the regional chapter has developed further since the moment he started. However, the upcoming year is his last one in his bachelor's degree, he does not know what comes after that, and this is his last chance to contribute to IAPSS as a student. He believes he will have the most influence and even more opportunities to shape the organization for the years to come in the position of a Secretary-General. As he mentioned in his speech, the last 6 months shaped his idea to become a Secretary-General to help solidify IAPSS in Canada. He says Giulia is correct, there is no person running for the Chair of USA and Canada. There was some misunderstanding between him and another person, given people had to submit candidacies a month in advance, there was a person lined up, later they changed their mind; however there will be a person running in a by-election. According to current by-laws, the by-election has to be initiated within the first week of a position becoming vacant. According to that, the by-election will be initiated in the first week of June, and there is a person who will be running for IAPSS USA and Canada Chair. It is in his interest to make sure the work he and his team started will continue, so he will do his best to make sure there will be a transition between him and a new Chair, and they will be able to start working in a full capacity, and he really wants to see this chapter continue to develop, so he will make sure it will continue functioning after he leaves this position.

Tobias thanks Oleksii. He says there are three people asking questions: Rory, Anthony, and Ginisha. He gives the floor to Rory.

Rory says her question is for all three candidates. She yields the floor to Anthony and Ginisha.

Anthony asks Jan Behrens what is his position on race and gender equality and other ways of discrimination that appear in academia, and what measures he could take to tackle this problem.

Tobias thanks Anthony. He gives the floor to Ginisha.

Ginisha says her question is similar, how will we be dealing with issues of racism in general?

Tobias thanks Ginisha. He gives the floor to Rory.

Rory thanks Tobias. She says she has 2 questions. First one is in reference to last week's motion regarding racism, and whether that should be removed. She asks how all 3 candidates would approach diversity, equity and inclusion and ensure those are protected in this organization. Jan Behrens promoted motion 2 last week. Her second question is which bylaws would you specifically amend in IAPSS, and which one is your favorite bylaw you are committed to promoting.

Tobias says it is a good way to start all future IAPSS meetings. Not ask how everyone is, but what is their favorite bylaw. He gives the floor to Reon.

Reon starts with the question about bylaws. He says this is not something he thought about in-depth. He will be entering the Secretariat position, and his role will be to ensure he

understands bylaws as they are, and then to proceed to identify any discrepancies and so forth. As they currently sound, the Secretariat has done a good job. The second question with regards to equity, equality, and so forth. He thinks this is a super important question. Reon says he goes back to regionalisation on the basis of equity and equality. The regionalisation should be the bridge between the grassroots and top leadership of IAPSS. Personally, even though he is running for Secretary-General, it does not go unnoticed, that within the candidates for both President and Secretary-General, which are two very key positions within IAPSS, all the candidates are male, all the candidates are white. This is a problem, and he says that knowing he is running for it as well. But he does not say that in a way that is negative, it is a problem, but it is also an opportunity. The association needs to go beyond legalizing questions of racism and gender exclusion, and actually taking tangible steps to make sure that the most isolated students in the most far away university from wherever any of us find ourselves at this very moment, has access to this platform where we all have access to these opportunities, and feel equipped and empowered to actually take leadership within IAPSS. So he would take it all the way up to the leadership that needs to be reformed.

Tobias thanks Reon. He gives the floor to Oleksii.

Oleksii thanks Tobias. He starts with the question about bylaws. He contributed to writing bylaws. Most of the work was done by Justin, but he helped for some sections there. As of now there is his personal bias that bylaws are well done in accordance with Canadian laws. But definitely some issues may arise during the mandate. The first issue he already sees is the regulation he wrote that was passed at the General Assembly, the regulation about by-election, it is not very practical in case positions do not get filled at the election. According to the regulation, the by-election has to be initiated if the position goes vacant. Technically, if someone does not get elected at this General Assembly, like a Regional Chair, then the Secretary-General must initiate the by-election within the first week, which is not very practical given it has only been 2 weeks since the last election, and there was no candidate. His first intention would be to tweak that a bit, to make a regulation more practical. The second question with regards to diversity and inclusion. Reon brought up a good point about regionalisation, and he understands the concern that too much power and opportunities may be concentrated in Canada. He does not think it is good, IAPSS should not have all these opportunities available to only students living in Canada. It has been the case where IAPSS was heavily concentrated in Europe, and we do not want the status quo to change from Europe to Canada. So his greatest goal would be to achieve all IAPSS volunteers receiving some kind of compensation for their work, even if it is not big, to kickstart the movement in our industry, where people do not get paid, those famous unpaid internships where people get amazing experience but no money. He thinks that if we manage to pay the volunteers, we will be much stronger, and will be able to increase opportunities for students on every continent, especially in the underrepresented continents, like IAPSS Africa, which as Thomas mentioned has the lowest membership. He also would like to focus on making sure there are opportunities for interested people to develop IAPSS in Canada, but also that there are as many opportunities in each region as Canada has. At this moment IAPSS is not as strong yet to have employees come from abroad, though this was something suggested to us by Montreal International. However, in the future maybe if we have a big enough budget and become a big enough organization, IAPSS will afford job opportunities for people from

abroad to come to work at the Montreal office. This is a grand vision, which may not be accomplished in this mandate, but he would be happy to lay a foundation towards that.

Tobias thanks Oleksii. He asks if there are more questions. There are none. He asks if candidates have any last comments, in case they forgot to mention something. There are no comments. Tobias asks to post the vote online. He informs the General Assembly that if someone has already voted, they should revote, because questions have been reuploaded. He asks if there is any particular reason why the option “abstain” was included this time. He says we should stick to one way of voting, instead of having the option “abstain” in one question, and not in another.

Biligtsaikhan asks Tobias what did he exactly say.

Tobias clarifies his question. He says that in the President’s election, there was no “abstain” option, but it is included in the Secretary-General’s election.<sup>4</sup> He says we should decide on one format of voting, and not have different options included for different questions. To keep the structure of a previous vote, the option “abstain” should be removed.

Biligtsaikhan updates the vote.

Tobias invites people to vote. He says that the meeting has been going for 1.5 hours and suggests a break.

*The 11-minute break begins.*

*The meeting resumes 11 minutes later at 16:36 (CEST).*

Tobias says he hopes everyone was able to cast their vote.

*By the time the voting period closed, Oleksii Zahreba was elected IAPSS Secretary-General.*

### **c. Treasurer**

Tobias states there are two candidacies, one by Jan Behrens, and one by Shobhendra Srivastava. Jan is still not in a meeting. Tobias gives the floor to Shobhendra for 5 minutes.

Shobhendra thanks Tobias. He says he is the acting Treasurer of IAPSS. He took this role in November of last year, when the previous Treasurer resigned. In the past 5 months we improved a number of things, everyone can read them in the Treasurer’s report. The first area of work was getting the foundation of finances fixed. When he joined, IAPSS had a number of problems which were making it difficult to pay basic bills to keep the website running. IAPSS was not properly registered in the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands. IAPSS did not have its bank accounts working. They had to get help from former treasurers and members, because the accounts were still registered under their names. The credit card was blocked. It was quite a mess, to put it lightly. With the other

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<sup>4</sup> The abstain option was included for the President vote, the results of which can be viewed here: <https://www.iapss.org/iapss-general-assemblies-and-elections-may-2021/>.

Excom members he has been working to fix all of this. Now we are in a much better state, most of the accounts' access is back, the debt was cleared, as many payments were done personally by Excom members, because IAPSS accounts were not working. So the foundation was fixed, and that leads him to the next point, which is to provide more transparency as a Treasurer about finances. He wants to provide more transparency, but because there was no access to most of the accounts, it was difficult in the last 5 months. Now we are in a better state to provide transparency. One of the reasons it was difficult to provide transparency was because he did not know which personal accounts were used to pay for something. He has also been involved with transitioning from the Netherlands to Canada, and he hopes to help in that further. He is located in the Netherlands, so that will help to wrap up things there, close bank accounts, and get taxation advice about moving to Canada. One more thing he was doing is diversifying the revenue stream. Along with Justin and others, the merchandise became operational. It does not provide much revenue, but at least there is a channel to build on. If he gets elected as a Treasurer again, he will continue to work in those areas, because they are not finished, as he could not get everything fixed in the 5 months. The additional areas Shobhendra would like to work on is getting access to grants. IAPSS is registered as an association in the Netherlands, as we move to Canada and get a non-profit status, so getting grants would be possible, and he would like to help with the finance angle. The second thing, which also he pointed out in his report, is using finances in a strategic way. Right now the organization deals with finances on a transactional basis, trying to ensure that there are enough finances to pay the bills and keep everything running. We can use it in a much more strategic way to grow to the next level. These are reasons he is asking for another mandate.

Tobias thanks Shobhendra for keeping well in time and providing his platform statement. Jan is still not here. To his knowledge, no one has reached out to him so far. If anyone else has information about Jan, he asks to let him know. He notices Anthony wants to ask a question and gives him the floor.

Anthony asks why Jan Behrens is not here. Someone who applies for many positions, and not being present indicates a complete lack of respect to people from IAPSS and General Assembly. Personally, he feels very uncomfortable with this. He does not know what we are discussing if he is applying to so many positions.

Tobias thanks Anthony for raising his concern. He says it is definitely surprising that someone who applied to 4-5 so many positions is not joining. He suggests starting with questions addressed to Shobhendra. He gives the floor to Rory.

Rory echoes Anthony's sentiments, that it is frustrating not to have both candidates here. We appreciate the candidates here, but it would have been great to have that debate and discussion. Her question addresses both candidates. In the light of last week's GA, would candidates advocate for the insurance plan to have a safety net from legal fees in the event of a lawsuit?

Shobhendra replies that we learn from experience. He says we will explore all insurances we should have more stringently. Apart from the insurance, which we need by law, we will definitely look into the legal insurance and get that. Maybe we also need to explore other areas where insurance can help. If we have insurance, we definitely have to pay for it, so we

need to be a bit more prudent in which insurance we take. Legal insurance is something we definitely need to take. Even within the legal [insurance], there are many options for how much coverage we want. The more coverage we want, the more premium we have to pay every year. But we need to look at something that will cover certain cases that are most likely to happen. He asks if that answers Rory's question.

Rory says it is perfect.

Tobias asks if there are more questions.

Rory says that in light of last week's General Assembly, where we discovered that the lawsuit made up 65% of IAPSS' spending, her question is how do you feel about IAPSS' current expenditures, and what is something we have not spent on, as a result of that, and what is something we overspent on?

Shobhendra says that the report he shared last week was updated at the end of May.<sup>5</sup> We were having a net profit of 500 euros, that is as of late March. At the end of May, the net profit was 4000 euros. We are in a better state financially, because of the World Congress tickets. Looking at the expenses, we did not go to court, the lawsuit was put against us, and the lawyer advised us not to contest in court, otherwise you can have a court case dragging for 10 months, and we would end up paying we do not know how much. So we had to pay a bare minimum for him to look at our documents, go to court and tell them we will not take a stand, etc. Having said that, if we did not have to spend that much money last year, also keep in mind that he took the treasurer's position in November, so he only had 5 months and Covid was going on, so we could not get done that many of events, which historically have been the most expensive items on a budget. We could have spent more on PR, online events, but in his view, most of the money would still remain in the books. So that you would have not 4000 euros in cash, but 10000+ euros in cash. When things open up in this mandate, travel, winter school, summer school, those things would be used. But that money we do not have anymore.

Tobias thanks Shobhendra. He notices that Giulia has a point of information.

Giulia thanks Tobias. Her point of information is that when we talk about lawsuit, it was the lawsuit by Jan Behrens, the person running for all those positions. It is important to stress it out.

Shobhendra says that one of the reasons we decided not to contest the lawsuit is because we did not have enough money in our accounts. We did not have the World Congress revenue. Most of the bank accounts were blocked and were not working. Once he became a treasurer, he paid around 2000 euros to the previous member who was waiting for reimbursement. Even now, Justin and him still need the reimbursement. So a reason not to contest the lawsuit was because we did not have money, and that has led to all other problems. We also had to revert to 2013 statutes. In the future, when we are stronger with finances, we can make a decision based on if something is right or wrong, and then decide

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<sup>5</sup> The report Shobhendra refers to was updated as of late March, Shobhendra fixes his mistake in the next sentence.

to go to court or not. This time we had to take a practical approach, because we did not have the money. Better financial planning would probably help in such cases in the future. Apart from the fact if we have insurance, we would not be so concerned about running out of money if we are contesting something.

Tobias thanks Shobhendra. He gives the floor to Max.

Max thanks the outgoing Excom, not just the Treasurer, but all positions. His question concerns the question he asked last week about the Treasurer's report, in particular about strategic finance. He is interested if Shobhendra would be supportive of subjecting the funding of IAPSS publications to particular indicators of performance that are presented in the Treasurer's report, such as the list of references, or the number of references that are presented in the journal, or the number of citations. He asks Shobhendra to elaborate more on this idea if he understood it correctly.

Shobhendra says that the financial strategic approach that he wrote about in the report, he tried to give examples of how it could be. It does not need to be followed word for word. There could be other ways of doing that. He would definitely be supportive of how we measure each project's success and how we drive finances towards it. For example, one of the sources of revenue in the upcoming year will still be online events, because we built that capability. Now, if a region has 100 members, or 10 members, how can you define how many events should be done by then. Are 2, or 5, or 10 good numbers for events. Any number of events is good from a volunteer point of view. But if we look at it in terms of the resources and capacity we have, we should make a plan around it. Then only you will say, have we succeeded or not. So we need some level of KPI in every part of the organization. We should define a target for teams and try to achieve it. If you have no target, you would be happy if you do even one thing. But usually if you look at the research, when people define certain targets, you actually make a plan on how to reach there. And that is something financially and strategically he would support to help and define. Examples in the report were examples.

Tobias thanks Shobhendra. He welcomes more questions from participants. There are none. He asks to post a vote on the website.

*The vote opens on a website.*

*By the time the voting period closed, Shobhendra Srivastava was elected IAPSS Treasurer.*

#### **d. Vice-President for Academic Affairs**

Tobias states there are two candidates for this position, Melis Kirtilli, and Shrey Madaan. He grants the floor to Melis for 5 minutes.

Melis thanks Tobias. She introduces herself. She is a student in the Master of Science in political theory at the University of Oxford. She is from Turkey, and currently lives in the United Kingdom. She has been a Vice-President for academic affairs for the past 1.5 years. She first started as interim Vice-President, and prior to this role she held the positions of a Student Research Committees director and coordinator respectively. She is rerunning for the

Vice-President for Academic Affairs position. We were able to accomplish a good number of projects at the Academic Department. There are projects that require further attention and she would like to address them as well. ADV blog was relaunched with the new structure. There were a good number of papers submitted. Melis asks the audience to submit commentaries to the blog. ALA journal was launched, and new editors were recruited who are about to publish a new issue. Politikon, as usual, has done a tremendous amount of work with their issues, and is now indexed in the directory of Open Access Journals. The academic committee reviewed the abstracts for the conferences held in Mongolia as well as the IAPSS World Congress. The SRC members completed very successful regional projects. There are a number of projects that need to be prioritized in the upcoming mandate. If she does not get elected, she will recommend the following points to be taken seriously by her successor. One goal is introducing a more structured approach to the Youtube channel. With the help of all SRCs providing regular content, the regular is an important part given that they need to hold regular meetings and provide regular content for the channel. Melis envisions the branches of the Academic Department opening new outlets and helping to reach new subscribers. Secondly, there is a need to improve the academic partnerships portfolio, it is a priority. Melis was able to design a new branch called Academic Outreach Committee and recruit its members. The previous Delegations Coordinator left, and the committee has not accomplished yet what it is aiming for, so a better portfolio with more organizations and strengthening current partnerships will be the top priority. Thirdly, with the help of Bilge, Ginisha and Rutaba, the Academic Committee and IAPSS Asia incorporated an online academic conference in Mongolia. This created an opportunity of establishing collaborations with regions other than Europe. Melis wants to particularly consider the region of Africa and join forces with the Academic Committee, the Africa SRCs, and the regions; we can explore this opportunity by organizing a conference with the local university there. Another projects Melis highlights is Y20 Youth Innovation Hubs, and the SRC subcommittees, which will allow a more accessible route to the SRCs. She hopes to work on all of these projects during the next mandate. Despite the extraordinary circumstances we went through this year, Melis especially acknowledges her entire team, the Academic Department, current Executive Committee members as well as volunteers from the regions. Melis says she is happy to address questions and concerns.

Tobias thanks Melis. He gives the floor to Shrey Madaan.

Shrey introduces himself. He is country coordinator for India at IAPSS Asia. It has been a year since he joined IAPSS and it has been an enriching experience for him. He is a law graduate and his speciality is international law, with the emphasis on cyber diplomacy, and its implications in different regions. He filed his application for the Vice-President of Academic affairs, because he believes that we are in a position of focusing on political science and academia, and we have to make every single student out there realize the importance of political science and academia in general. For that matter he would like to acknowledge the current Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Melis, for doing a commendable job. If he gets this position, he looks forward to taking all projects further and expanding outreach to greater lengths. For that matter he has a few projects in his mind. He has been involved in a project with Mongolia University and it was a success. He looks forward to bringing new sorts of projects that are focused on policymaking and encourage new students to introduce their opinions about policies and the importance of political sciences. He wants to collaborate with different universities across the world. He also

believes that we should focus on a collective approach. We can bring different universities and organizations on board and we can always curate some good collective events that focus on an innovative approach of that matter, so that we can bring maximum people in. He believes that if you are able to present the academia in a much more easier to understand manner, it will be easier for new students to attract to what we are doing at IAPSS and of course to encourage them to join this organization, and work in the fields of political science and policy making. And especially for those students who are interested in international affairs, and how it impacts global policymaking and the current work of the public in general. If he gets this position, he will be working on that. He also has his own set of experiences, and he really thinks that political science not only forms a basis of law, but it also forms the basis of every public policy out there. We have to bring out different sorts of projects and different sorts of innovative projects for that matter, so we can think about those students who are not able to understand political sciences and policies in general. He believes that if gets this opportunity, he would love to focus on those aspects and he would like to introduce different sets of themes for certain events, so we can always have a new theme. We can have new themes for a mandate, and of course we can introduce all sorts of different projects. We can work on cyber diplomacy, and once we are done with that, we can always come up with something more innovative things for events, maybe a good collaboration with all sorts of different organizations and think tanks, so that we can attract people and maximize our outreach, as well as we can attract different students not just from universities and colleges, even from the school. He has been a humanities student since he was in school, so that is how he got the desire to pursue international relations and law in general. This is how he looks forward in academic affairs if he gets selected for a position. The rest he leaves for the members' engagement.

Tobias thanks Shrey. He invites members to ask questions. He gives the floor to Rory.

Rory asks about the Y20 Hubs project that was mentioned, and what do you see the goal of it being after the Y20 is over?

Tobias asks which candidate she is addressing.

Rory replies that this question is for Melis, because she brought it up.

Melis responds that it is Rory's initiative and Rory was the one who brought it up. It is helpful, as it was previously mentioned that As previously mentioned, we do not have that many members on the ground who are familiar with international organizations and the structures of international organizations and NGOs' work. We were able to get in contact through Rory's personal network. It is an exciting part of our work right now that the SRCs are able to cooperate with different kinds of organizations that brought a new perspective into SRCs. So that is the main output and also the main benefit to this project that can help us to better inform our work, and in terms of working together with Y20 can help us to reach out to different groups we have not been previously able to reach. But Rory has the best knowledge of that project, having been working with them, so Melis will always have Rory's support in that.

Rory replies that the record should reflect that this is a subtle plug for these hubs, for anybody watching on Youtube. That is literally why she asked that question. In case you are



watching this on Youtube, and you want to know more about the hubs, like, literally, join IAPSS for it.

Tobias says there is one more question by Ginisha.

Ginisha thanks Melis. She says they have been working together for the past few months and it has been great. She asks what other academic programs does she aim for, other than conferences, because we are shifting to online mode, and this is an exciting question for her.

Melis says it was marvelous to work with her and she is happy that Ginisha addressed that question. We have been brainstorming possible projects, some of them are not academic in nature, but she hopes Ginisha will address them in programs. One project is a networking event for people who want to have an academic career or NGO career, and who can network with each other in the form of a table-sitting online event. That will be very nice to have given the expanding opportunities of online conferences these days. We can always count on more panels organized by regions with the help of the Academic Committee reviewing the abstracts. These are 2 projects that she can think of, but she is always more open to more opportunities.

Tobias thanks Melis. He invites more questions from participants. He gives the floor to Max.

Max thanks for presentations from both candidates. He thanks Melis for fruitful collaboration over the past year. His question to candidates is to mention one or two areas in the Academic Department that need improvement. His understanding of the Academic Department is the accumulation of a series of branches that the Academic Department consists of. This question will be easier to answer with previous experience in the department, but also given that quite a lot of information is available online, he is interested in a response from both candidates. He asks for a response to be as specific as possible, so he can see the way of thinking about those areas that need improvement.

Tobias gives the floor to Shrey.

Shrey replies that the Academic Department lacks an innovative approach, as he mentioned it in his speech. He believes that in academia there should be a focus on the more intellectual side of the spectrum, like students have a basic understanding of political sciences and international law, because they tend to prefer academics in general. He is from a region that focuses on activities inclined towards academia, but still has a more innovative approach, like encouraging competitions for that matter or having some policy component kind of a thing. If you are able to expand outreach, to introduce new sorts of events that focus on the intellectual side, and that will help us to expand our outreach, and bring people who have an understanding of political science and still want to learn more about life outside of political science and the importance of international law, the importance of academia in their lives in general, and as well as for a professional life. This is what he believes, if he gets that opportunity, this is what he would like to introduce. Apart from that, that is what he believes.

Tobias thanks Shrey. He gives the floor to Melis.

Melis thanks Tobias. She says the current structure of the academic department is promising, but there is more work to be done in particular branches. The first of them is Academic Outreach Team, which was formed with Delegations Coordinator position, eventually evolving into Academic Partnerships Coordinator, as well as Academic Outreach Coordinator. One of them trying to have a speakers list, as well as having to contact universities in different regions with the help of regions. Another one was responsible for academic partnerships in particular. That is the priority we have to take care of this year, because we want to have more panels and sections, and academic organizations, but we also want to expand towards more regional academic organizations that focus on political science. The other one is ADV. ADV is doing quite well, but we would still benefit from more submissions to the blog. We also want to introduce something like the most read commentary and blog, so there is more attention to the blog. As for ALA, we will need more editors, the call is coming up quite soon, so we can make the process smoother than it is currently. Politikon works quite well, but we should promote it more on Youtube and other platforms so we can reach out to more people and attract more papers. There is one particular issue she has to mention which has to be taken care of in a better way. She hopes that with the upcoming Secretary-General they will be able to solve it together on the website. We need some more technical help in that regard by improving the outlet of the website, particularly in the Academic Department section.

Tobias thanks Melis. He gives the floor to Thomas.

Thomas asks Tobias to read his question from the chat.

Tobias says that Thomas is asking Maheen a question, but Maheen is not a candidate for the position we are discussing right now. He asks Thomas to specify whom he is addressing. Tobias then sees Thomas' response in the chat, that the first question is for Melis, second question is for Shrey. He gives the floor to Melis.<sup>6</sup>

Melis thanks Thomas for his question. It is a topic that we need to discuss with the incoming Vice-President for Programs. We used to have winter and summer schools in the past. This year there was an interesting project that we aim to discover with ECPR, the European Political Science Research Organization.<sup>7</sup> So what we aim to do is a project called "The Futures Lab" and we wanted to bring it up this summer by creating a methods school together with their representative team, so we will actually accomplish that by this summer. When it comes to the winter school, having it independent as IAPSS will require us to cooperate with the Programs Department. But in terms of how we can go about it, it will be good to have such methods' focus for our work. Given that we would attract more Masters and PhD students, by having a methods school approach, we can have for winter school, we can have quantitative techniques, especially statistical techniques being taken up by professors who would like to join us for a winter school for IAPSS, and for the summer we can find someone who does qualitative approaches and we can attract more people and more attention for such a program. But indeed, it would require a lot of collaboration with the programs department, and she hopes this will be addressed by programs candidates.

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<sup>6</sup> See page 111 of this document for Thomas' questions in the chat log.

<sup>7</sup> ECPR stands for European Consortium for Political Research.

Tobias thanks Melis. He grants the floor to Shrey.

Shrey thanks Thomas for the question. In regards to tangible projects, the best approach for us would be to come up with events that are based on students who are in the learning phase for that matter. With that he means students who are still learning more about political sciences and international laws. He tends to focus more on graduate students and who are still in high school. He thinks it is the best way to bring these people on board and make them realize the importance of political science and international law. So for that he would like to focus on a fellowship program of sorts. We can invite applications from them, and pick up potentially good candidates for the fellowship program. We can run that fellowship not just in school, but especially for the students who are in college, so that they can have a brief understanding of how the fellowship works and how IAPSS works. This is how we can actually help to expand our outreach, we can help to spread the word out, and of course we can always improve the quality of academics, and understanding of political science on those people as well. Just like we tend to focus on Masters students and PhD students. This is what he believes is a good approach we can take in this mandate.

Tobias thanks Shrey. He asks if there are any more questions. There are none. He asks to upload the vote on a website.

*The vote opens on a website.*

*By the time the voting period closed, Melis Kirtilli was elected IAPSS Vice-President for Academic Affairs.*

#### **e. Vice-President for Programs**

Tobias states that there are two candidates for this position, Crystal Staebell and Ginisha Dewani. He says that he was informed by candidates that they would like to address this audience without the video. He gives the floor to Crystal for 5 minutes.

Crystal says she will try to speak quickly, as due to health reasons her voice is not optimal. She was the head of World Congress alongside Kaan. She started working because she wanted to be surrounded by a community of political science students during her university years. She was really happy when she approached IAPSS, because she found that it is not just a community of students, but it is a group of people who were willing to build upon each other and their work. She believes that IAPSS has a great capacity as an organization, and she wants to continue to see it grow. There are 2 main things she wants to help with. First, she wants to create a greater variety of program types that we could use to increase the membership engagement. She sees a potential in that as IAPSS is able to bring large enough numbers of people, but she is not seeing as much engagement as she would like to see. She would like to bring people in and tell them that there is not only a World Congress where you benefit from presenting your research, but we have a lot more we can provide to you in terms of knowledge and community. If we can hook in people that way, that could expand our reach much further, but to do that we need a greater variety of programs. Secondly, she would be interested in creating partnerships with outside institutions whether it is universities or organizations to bring more students or speakers. So she thinks IAPSS has a lot of potential, especially now as we are understanding how IAPSS can expand on a

digital platform. We did it with the World Congress, it took some work, but we saw there is a lot that we can learn and do better. There is definitely so much we can do to reach a wider audience and we need to learn how to build and keep a community. Especially this new international community. That is something she firmly believes in. If anything, her experience comes from working with IAPSS for 1.5 years. She has some sense of how IAPSS operates at this point, whether it be through its values, or through what its members desire from the organization, and how the internal branches are operating in what they need. She has some experiences, she has 4+ years of experience working in various think tanks within D.C., and she saw all the different variety of programs that they were able to offer, and how these organizations did not just rely on its internal branches, and how they were able to reach out to people and speakers and grow their networks. This is what she would like to channodo at IAPSS. She thanks everyone for consideration. She is open to answering any questions to the best of her ability.

Tobias thanks Crystal. He wishes her to get well soon. He then gives the floor to Ginisha.

Ginisha thanks Tobias. She wishes Crystal to get well soon. She says she has worked with IAPSS for 2 years. It has been an amazing journey with different positions and teams. She starts her proposal with a gratitude note to everyone for accepting her in the respective department. It has been a wonderful experience working with them. She then introduces herself. Her name is Ginisha and she hails from India. She is doing her PhD in urban governance and sustainability. She has been assisting the government of India for different projects for the same. She has been into the same position since January. The department has been in transition. She appointed a good colleague into her team. They are in the journey to plan. She has 4 major points she would like to work on during the mandate if she gets elected. First point will be defining the plan and a strategy for the programs department. This would include a plan and an events calendar for the upcoming mandate. Also for filtering out our partners that are already on board and what we aim for from the future partners. So that would be the strategy in defining all the objectives and highlighting all those programs. We have been working on designing a workshop plan for the students from different disciplines including political science and other related disciplines. This workshop will be on political science formation and sustainable governance. We are shifting to the online mode, and it gives us a possibility to be more creative and adopt contemporary themes. So that is one idea. The second idea, her personal favorite, is developing meticulous solutions for regional teams and even the other teams that have been associated with IAPSS. Specifically she knows that regional teams are doing well with their departments and programs. But when you look up for the global team they need to have a person who can support them with regional partners and create a strategy for the programs or projects in general. Or even if they want some support technically from the global team. She believes that is the key role of the VP for Programs. When it comes to partnerships, she would want to focus not only on the partnerships of a global nature, but also to involve the local stakeholders from different nations, because they are aware of the grassroots issues that could be represented on a global platform. The last point would be developing social sustainable relations with partners who are already on board. Different organizations have a tendency to forgo the partners, who are already with them on board. Keeping a good communication, engaging them with our marketing, even for the events and programs is the good idea for partnerships and providing a resilient and sustainable partnership. Last point, which is one of her favorites, is working with the internal teams, which is very important. The

internal departments, SRCs, regional teams, academics, PR, they are representative of IAPSS, and they do a lot of work in their departments and teams. Designing programs for them is very important, just to give them a break from their work and keep them engaged in activities of IAPSS, and let them enjoy being the representatives of IAPSS as well. So this is the last point. She would like to end her proposal with the quote of Nelson Mandela, “education is the most powerful weapon which can be used to change the world”. She thinks that we are all doing a better world here. She thanks everyone and states that she is open for questions.

Tobias thanks Ginisha for her presentation. He proposes to Crystal answer questions in the written form, due to health reasons, if she prefers. He says he is open to other suggestions on how to handle this. He then gives the floor to Rutaba.

Rutaba asks whether we should rely heavily on digital programs, given the easing of lockdown and distribution of vaccines. She asks if it is a good strategy to rely on digital events as we need to balance between online and offline events. She also endorses Ginisha for the candidacy, as she has worked with her in previous years and commends her skills abilities.

Tobias thanks Rutaba. He clarifies whether this was addressed to both candidates.

Rutaba replies that the question is for both candidates. She says Ginisha can answer by voice, and Crystal can reply by text.

Ginisha says it is a correct question. She thinks that with online events we are going into the comfort zone, but she would not say that the situation will continue for a longer period, more than a year. We will definitely switch to offline events very soon. We will keep some events as a hybrid. People can attend the event if they are in the same location. Others can attend the event online. Another option is keeping the online events as plan B. Given the situation we are in, for the next year we will be running online and hybrid events.

*Crystal replies with a voice.* With regards to a hybrid form, it depends what you want to get out of the event. When it comes to something like World Congress, when the point of it is to make individuals realize that they are a part of a greater community, the events like that should be done in person. You lose so much over the virtual platform. While the core element of your work is still there, but if it were for some sort of event where you have some guest panelists and a moderator, absolutely keep them online. The past semester she worked at a think tank that did so many virtual events, and there was a great number of people who preferred this format. It just worked so much better with their schedule. So she would propose to keep our online events for the speakers series that were held previously. But when it comes to the events where you want to be able to establish a community, it is vital that you keep them in person. That comes to the next question, however. We praise how great it is to see that IAPSS is finally able to reach a greater international audience, when it comes to these virtual events. So how do you create that hybrid version? Whether it would be that we offer sections of these academies or these World Congress events partially online. Or whether we create whole separate events parallel to one another. That is something we need to explore. She cannot say she has an answer to that. But we need to

put some time aside and think about what our needs are and align them with what our audience needs.

Tobias thanks Crystal. He gives the floor to Thomas.

Thomas states that his question is for both candidates. He asks them to reply to a concern of a partnership with the Academic Department, strategies of reviving IAPSS summer and winter schools. He also asks candidates about their regional strategies for the next mandate.

Tobias gives the floor to Rory for her question.

Rory has a question for both candidates. Acknowledging that there is a new accessibility student research committee, she would like to know candidates' ideas to promote accessibility, whether digital or in person, for people that are disabled in the upcoming programs and events.

Tobias gives the floor to Crystal to answer the questions.

Crystal asks Thomas to repeat his question.

Thomas says he has two concerns. His first concern has to do with strategies for reviving summer and winter school activities. His second question is about the regional strategy, how will you work with different regions in developing programs, and having offline programs. Because what we are seeing is that programs that are in person are more effective than online programs. What are your strategies in these two regards?

Crystal thanks Thomas. She says that when it comes to regional strategies, she would say that the best people she found, especially within the IAPSS team, when they asked people for a World Congress that they wanted to increase a certain number of groups in this area, or we want to increase people from that area, or this university; you need to go straight to the source. You need to have people within IAPSS who are ready to go down, go in their network, and try to personally connect with people in order to increase membership. Personally for her, she and Kaan reached out to people from their universities, and they ended up getting a significant number of people from their universities. It made her so proud to see a representation from her area, knowing that your personal networks can get that. Crystal says she does now know a lot about certain areas, she would not trust herself with that. But that is how she would bring the diversity, making sure she brings in the people who know the region themselves, know the universities, know their network, and they have a strong network where they can put their hands and say, I have a great opportunity for all of you. To do that, she would bring people into IAPSS who have a good network within political science communities from any parts of the world. When it comes to moving back into winter and summer schools. That would go back to what is the goal of that. The goal is to create a smaller community within IAPSS. But she would want to have certain sections of that to be not only accessible for people online, whether we host parallel digital summer and winter and in person schools, that is something she would entertain. Crystal then asks Rory to repeat her question.

Rory says that now there is a new student research committee that focuses on accessibility for persons with disabilities, she would like to know how candidates are going to incorporate accessibility into their programs and events.

Crystal says this is something interesting. She remembers discussing with Justin, when there were a lot of Peruvian students coming in, there was a talk about having subtitled events to reach out to people of different backgrounds and languages. That would be something interesting to bring in. How is that we are not reaching out to people of different backgrounds, and how could we be bringing them in. Whether it is updating subtitled events, trying to see if we can expand our resources. We got a good amount of money from the World Congress. How it is being used, she cannot say. But if we can develop some sort of reputation within this community that we are as a student community, we are a stepping stone into the rest of academia. If we can reach out to these students and we can say that it is possible to enter this big and intimidating world of academia, and we are as a student organization, we want to make sure you feel welcome, just like any other student, that is something she believes can increase our membership. And not only increase our membership, but increase our engagement that we desperately need. If we want to say that we are a truly student organization, she would say we need to figure out if we can create new partnerships with other communities. Or better yet, see what other academic communities that cater to students and other people with disabilities, and see what they are doing. And how it is we can build on, this is something she is very interested in seeing.

Tobias thanks Crystal. He gives the floor to Ginisha.

Ginisha thanks Tobias, Thomas, and Rory. First, she answers the question from Thomas about the alignment of the academic department for winter and summer school. We have been in informal conversations about it. With respect to this mandate, the winter and summer school will take place online. The Programs team will support the Academic team with bringing different partners on board, which is very important for the online event, because we will be shifting to a different structure of the event. Connecting with different partners, Rutaba's team is already on it, and they have a good network within the department and outside of the department. Number 2 approach would be... because whenever summer and winter schools happened offline, there is a possibility for students to engage with each other in person. For the online event the strategy would be adopting a platform where they are free to express their interests, where they are free and linked with specific mentors to share their experiences. Even discuss the possibilities they have learned under these summer schools. That would be the approach we will plan together, given the opportunity. The second question is about regionalisation. Her clear cut approach will be engaging with regional teams. They specifically know about their local needs and approaches we should approach, dealing with partners that are there on the continent or in the countries. Organizing meetings with them and sitting with them together is very important. She remembers when she joined as VP for Programs in the past few months, she got some ideas from one of our Regional Chairs to organize some research projects or programs that are important for the global as well as for the continent they are residing in. So, talking to them and analyzing the problems they are facing, and developing solutions is very important. Going to the next question from Rory. One of her favorite areas of work is providing facilities to people with disabilities. She has worked in the past at the organization with the people that have disabilities, or a disadvantage, in different terms. Technically

speaking, to have a quick or a constant meeting with the people that represent that SRC is very important. To know what their needs are, and how we can gel with the needs of the people with disabilities, that is number 1. Number 2, to kind of find out solutions and technologies that can help people with disabilities to kind of be a part of the program, or be more inclusive while participating in the programs. Whether we can be in partnership with any other organization, or any other software organization, which is important for them to provide easy accessibility to the program. Maybe just making minor changes to the program, using different colors, different tools to help them better would be a good approach to do that. Ginisha says she is not an expert on that, but she has been thinking of different approaches and these are her ideas.

Tobias thanks Ginisha. He says there is one more question from Thomas and a follow-up from Rory. He gives the floor to Thomas.

Thomas says he finds it difficult to understand what kind of support you will provide to regions with these programs. Is it financial support, logistical support, more legal support, what kind of support will you provide to these regions in terms of your collaboration with them? We would like to see a sort of support for regions, because what we found is that especially for regions like IAPSS Africa, we find that regions actually need some sort of support, as they transition from online programs to offline sessions. We need more support from the Programs department (*connection interrupts*).

Tobias thanks Thomas. He gives the floor to Ginisha followed by Crystal. He asks them to keep the answer within 2 minutes.

Ginisha thanks Tobias and Thomas. She says she is not sure with regards to finances, because the Programs department can use its channels of communication to speak with the Treasurer, because the financial matters are taken care of by the Treasurer. We can help regional teams to find opportunities like grants that are available for specific projects. On that note, we can help them with those options, but the direct authority lies with the Treasurer. In terms of logistical support, with offline events, the logistical support authority lies with the regional teams, because they are the ones planning their events on the ground. What we can help here is dealing with legality, in terms of entering MOUs or agreements with local partners, if they want. If they are facing any troubles with them, we can organize one on one meetings with the partners for logistical support. With respect to online events, the Programs team can provide help with the background technical support, because this is where the online events are basically based on. Bringing on different partners for the support for events is another idea for that.

Tobias thanks Ginisha. He gives the floor to Crystal. Crystal responds to the question in the chat.

*Crystal's response can be found on page 113 of this document in the chat log.*

Tobias welcomes more questions. There are none.

*The vote opens on a website.*



Tobias raises a point of information. He was informed that the Advisory Board has written to Jan Behrens asking him whether there is anything we need to know, as he applied for 5 positions and did not appear. He received a Zoom link and there should not be any issues with access.

Tobias suggests a break.

*The 6-minute break begins.*

*The meeting resumes at 18:01 (CEST).*

*By the time the voting period closed, Crystal Staebell was elected IAPSS Vice-President for Programs.*

#### **f. Vice-President for Public Relations**

Tobias states there are 3 applications for this position. One by Jan Behrens, one by Paola Navarro Villa, and one by Shrey Madaan. He confirms that Jan still has not joined the meeting and gives the floor to Paola for 5 minutes.

Paola thanks Tobias. She introduces herself. She has been the Vice-President of Public Relations for 1.5 years. Like Melis, she was an interim VP after the previous VP had to quit, and then was elected last mandate. She assumes that everyone has seen her platform statement on the website. So she prefers to use this time to explain her plan for this mandate. She has 3 big points. First point, she wants to expand the platform externally, so students know that this is a space where they can share knowledge and findings. For example, there is a Youtube channel, journals, and a blog. We collaborate with other departments who produce the work for those platforms. The role of PR is putting them out there. She wants students around the world to be aware of these resources, and make these topics easier to find. She would like PR to work with the Secretariat very closely this mandate. As it was mentioned already, the website is kind of outdated now. She would really like to make it as accessible as possible, so people can find these opportunities a lot easier. Internally, she wants to establish a system in which knowledge and practical skills acquired and developed during our time as volunteers can be shared with new members and volunteers and passed down from mandate to mandate. She wants to take advantage of all the skills we acquired during the Covid time, so we had to adjust and learn a bunch of new things. She wants to make sure we can create a platform where we can share them either in written form or in the form of a webinar, or a workshop, so that we can pass them on. And people who join afterwards can learn those skills and apply them somewhere else when they leave IAPSS or at the same time. This brings her to point 3. It relates to what Rory asked, which is accessibility and inclusion. We try here at IAPSS to be an inclusive organization and we want to be as accessible as possible, when planning, developing, basically everything we do. Something that she noticed is that we fall somewhat behind when it comes to accessibility. For this new mandate she would like to work with the PR department and the accessibility, disability and inclusion SRC. She thinks that we need to develop clear guidelines on how to create accessible everything. Our website, social media, every document we put out there, our virtual meetings, images, graphics, and so on. And these things of course include, but not limited to our text for the visuals, quality subtitles and

transcripts of the videos, using multiple formats for the same content, using larger fonts on the website, and better contrast of the images. And also things she has not considered, because she is not her area of expertise. That is why it is very important to work with partners and SRCs to develop this. So her idea is to create a team that reviews and updates recent material that we already put out there, and develops these guidelines, so all the material that we start to put out in the next mandate has these things in mind, and is accessible for as many people as possible. This brings her to point 3. We have established a lot of partnerships in the last few mandates. She wants to help further cement a role as a serious organization that students can look to when they need resources, advocacy, etc. And this is all achieved through constant communication, exchanging updates with our partners about what we are doing, inviting them to participate in projects. So things that we already do, but also develop more initiatives that have a clear impact on the political students and related fields around the world. Something new that has come up is the hubs project that just started. The accessibility project, to update the whole content that we have. She thinks we can do a lot of good work there. Those are her biggest points for the mandate.

Tobias thanks Paola. He gives the floor to Shrey.

Shrey thanks Tobias. He then thanks Paola for bringing up crucial points that we need to work on. He personally believes, if you are talking about the topic of public relations for that matter. Why do people become part of this organization, they need to get something out of it. He believes that one of the most important things is to incentivize our approach. He would like to propose an idea of the incubator. The incubator would be there to incubate a person. A person is of great importance for the organization. He has to make use of all resources that are available. Now, for some reason, due to a sheer number of applications and people who became a part of the organization. He thinks some members can lose track and are not able to extract the maximum benefit out of the organization. So the whole purpose of the incubator is to give these students a platform so that they can evolve not professionally, but personally. We can use our huge diverse pool of partners, and we can bring those people on board, so they can have a one on one session with these students, or anyone who seeks certain guidance. Talking about himself, he is doing instruction in cyber diplomacy, and he would like to have a person to talk to who is working in that field, so he can evolve himself as a person as well. And for that matter, we can utilise our pool of partners and our resources so we can actually help students to evolve and forge certain relationships with people from different organizations, and help them to forge their career as well.

Tobias thanks Shrey. He invites participants to ask questions.

Giulia has a question for both candidates. What are some of your best assets as communicators and what needs some work? This applies to a third candidate, who is not here.

Tobias thanks Giulia. He gives the floor to Paola, followed by Shrey.

Paola thanks Giulia for her questions. She says that she likes to think that she is a clear communicator, she can break down things into easy ideas. She can get across a point in very simple terms and communicate it rather easily to other people. She likes to think that she gets along well with people, she can work well with different kinds of personalities. She

likes to work with a team, which is very important, because we are a big team. Something that she tried to focus on last year was to foster a team dynamic and good relationships with each other. Those are the assets she can bring to the table.

Shrey believes that in order to be a good communicator, one must possess a skill of empathic listening. If you are not a bad listener, you would of course try to listen to a person, try to analyze his trouble, analyze the type of the situation he is in, and try to come up with the best possible solution. This is how a good communicator should behave, go, and function. An empathic listener is one of the best assets. If he is being a person for public relations, he is going to establish a strong and healthy relationship with his team, so he can ensure a proper and smooth functioning of his team, and all other teams of IAPSS he is going to work with in this mandate. We have to make sure that everything is transparent, and everything has been communicated properly. There is no single... like you know, in communication, in any way, so of course first and foremost, empathic listening, clear and efficient communication, and of course being a little bit friendlier approach. We have to treat it as a more of a personal thing, than a professional thing. For that thing, he is not saying we can always go like a little bit casual. But of course a little bit of a casual approach can do wonders, when we work on projects within a team, and of course outside of the team as well. It helps us to forge better connections with not just our partners, but as of course in general, and of course if you are being a part of the organization, the first and foremost thing has to be, you have how many relationships, or how many good relationships you are getting into. This is what he looks forward to, and this is what he is going to bring to the table if he is selected as a Vice-President for Public Relations.

Tobias thanks both. He invites more questions.

Rose has a question for Jan Behrens regarding his second motion in the previous GA regarding the discrimination. She would like to know what is his strategy is for culturally sensitive communication, given the motion he passed last week?

Rory raises a point of information. She asks to repeat a motion for those watching on Youtube that is not necessarily here and for people who may not have been able to come last week. She asks Tobias to repeat the motion.

Tobias summarizes the motion. The motion was submitted by Jan Behrens, who asked to exclude the term race from our regulations in which we state that we do not discriminate on the basis of race. He asks if there is an interest from Rory's side to repeat the entire motion.

Rory expresses an interest for Tobias to read out the entire motion.

Tobias reads out the motion regarding the amendment of regulations regarding discrimination by Jan Behrens. "It is common sense in (zoological and anthropological) science that amongst human beings there is no valid distinction in "races" or with other words that every human being who is currently living on planet earth belongs to only one single "race". Using the word in context of statements based on a contrary conviction can imply the verifiable existence of such a distinction. In that perspective, the word itself can be seen as social construction based on "racism". For that reason, in the German language it is common sense and mainly accepted to use the term "racism" to describe a behaviour based

on mentioned distinction. Also the German government is going to change the mentioned word that contrary to its handling is still used in the German constitution since its initial ratification in 1949. As a result, with this proposal I would like the General Assembly decide to delete the words "Race including" in §4 (letter j) of the Code of Conduct by voting in favour of my proposal because the meaning of "racism" is already sufficiently defined in that paragraph."

Tobias states that Jan Behrens is not here, thus he cannot answer Rose's question at the moment. He asks if Rose wants to add anything.

Rose would like to clarify that the motion did not pass, and was only put forward by the candidate, and in light of this she asked the question.

Tobias thanks Rose. He gives the floor to Paola to voice her point of information.

Paola says that in the German language we do not use the term *rasse* to refer to different races of people, but still, *rasse*, racism, is a very accepted term and a known problem. Just putting it out there. It is still a thing in German, even if we do not use that exact word.

Tobias thanks Paola. He reminds everyone that the General Assembly is in a question and answer round for candidates for the Vice-President of Public Relations. He grants the floor to Rory.

Rory says that this mandate we have done an incredible job of getting diversity research committees as it relates to racial justice, we have gotten one on accessibility. What would be your strategy to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in all of your communication?

Tobias thanks Rory. He gives the floor to Shrey.

Shrey thanks Rory for the question. He says he belongs to a country that is known as a melting pot of cultures. We have unity and diversity and that is what we are known for. The best approach for us to promote and bring every single diversity on board, first and foremost to educate what diversity is in general. He believes that there are certain preconceived notions that need to break. Not just in regards to India, but with the global world, because there are different definitions, points, opinions, so we need to educate people in general about those things. And of course how important it is to bring every single person from different race, religion, ideology to work together to achieve a common goal. So of course we need to promote all sorts of activities for that thing. For his job as a PR person, he will talk to different organizations and NGOs and encourage them to join our initiatives. Apart from that, he believes from his experiences in his work as a country coordinator and outside of IAPSS Asia, we tend to focus more on the academics. If we are able to venture outside of the realm of academia, and make them understand in the language they can understand. Maybe we can have regional events, so we can actually spread the word. We tend to form a shell and we do not attract other people, especially the intellectual side of people, because they think we are the ones who try to dominate them. He thinks that for that thing we need to focus more on an innovative approach. As he just mentioned about his incubator, he thinks it is a good approach because we are bringing all different people in respect to the race, culture,

diversity, etc., and helping them to evolve themselves not professionally, but as persons in general. They can expand on their knowledge not just about different policies and objectives, but they can always learn about life in general. The intellectuals we will bring on board will teach them and will make them understand how important it is to think above these nuances, that he believes actually hamper the evolution and working of humanity in general. So this is what he is going to work on.

Tobias thanks Shrey. He gives the floor to Paola.

Paola says there are different ways to go about it. We are an association that focuses a lot on advocacy. She thinks it is a part of our job to raise our voices in respect to topics related like what. We should also focus on getting more people into the team. Because it is not just the same to talk about it, we need people who belong to different communities. Being a part of the team and develop ideas, working inside IAPSS to change it for the better. This also means we need to ensure that we have clear guidelines and protections against discrimination, which is why it is good that the motion last week did not pass. But we also need to educate ourselves a lot more on these issues, because sometimes we have them too much in the air. And here is something where SRCs and our partners can play a big role, there is a lot of opportunity to create events, workshops, and shared statements, where we could get together and work on these issues. We could share this with the Programs department, and Academic Department, and this could be a group effort. In her presentation she already said specific things on how we can directly improve the website. She also wants to focus on language and how we use to talk about people and how we express ourselves. Paying a lot of attention to the language we use to communicate and write things that we put out there.

Tobias thanks Paola. He asks if there are any more questions.

Frank thanks both candidates for their presentations. He liked the ideas of both candidates. His question concerns the relations coordinators of different regional teams and the World Congress. He asks how this relationship is currently defined between the departments and federal coordinators. He asks how sees it in the future, would you like for them to have more responsibilities, or would you like to have them working closer together?

Tobias thanks Frank. He asks candidates to limit their answers under 2 minutes. He gives the floor to Paola, followed by Shrey.

Paola thanks Tobias. She clarifies the question, if it was about the current relationship between the regional coordinators and global coordinators, and how it should be in the future?

Franks confirms that her interpretation is correct.

Paola thanks Frank. She says that basically the global team has a supporting role for regional teams. We do not interfere, they are autonomous, and can decide on putting everything out there. We do have a set of guidelines for social media sharing, and they have to adhere to that, because that is for the whole organization, what we are allowed to post, what we are not allowed to post, and how we structure things. But other than that, people

are fairly free to decide. We do provide a lot of support, especially when someone is sick, or they do not know how to do something, they reach out to us, and we can send a coordinator to work directly with the regional team or we just answer their questions. She thinks that up until this moment this has been a good way to go about it, but she thinks we can do it a little better, and we need to work on our internal communication a little bit better, and there is always some room for improvement. For the next mandate, she would like to look into some new ways to make that collaboration easier. Using specific platforms or apps, creating some space where everyone has a chance to look into it, and drop their ideas, and exchange it among the regions and the global team. She thinks it is good, but it could use a little work.

Tobias thanks Paola and gives Shrey the floor.

Shrey responds that there is room for improvement but he commends the work that the regional teams have been doing so far. To take things forward, he would use what he has learned from his past experience of working for a year in IAPSS Asia as India Country Coordinator. When working on the regional team, he often did not know what was happening on the global team. That is a place where we can forge a better line of communication between the regional team and the global team so that the regional coordinators and country coordinators can know what is happening on the global team. We tend to focus on advocacy so of course we are open and able to this in IAPSS Asia, so he believes this can be improvised and if elected he would focus more on this approach and encourage people from regional teams so they can give their opinions and solutions on the projects that we are trying to implement in this mandate. He thinks this would be a good approach.

Tobias thanks Shrey and asks whether there are any more questions. There are none, so he thanks Paola and Shrey.

Rose mentions that Anthony has a question.

Tobias gives Anthony the floor.

Anthony asks Jan Behrens that if elected Vice President for Public Relations, what would be his social media strategy and what would his position be about mentioning the lawsuit on IAPSS channels? This could be for all the candidates but Anthony believes this is something important to mention also.

Tobias asks Anthony to clarify if this is something he wants to address to all candidates.

Anthony specifies that he would like to direct it to all candidates.

Tobias gives Shrey the floor.

Rory raises a point of information to ask whether it is germane to all three candidates because the other two candidates did not bring it up. It is also a point of information to know that the context as far as she knows, and she asks Anthony to correct her if she is wrong, would be because Jan Behrens is the one who launched the lawsuit. Would this be germane to all three candidates?

Tobias replies that he believes it was directed to all candidates.

Shrey thanks Anthony for the question and asks if this question is about what his social media approach would be?

Anthony replies that it is.

Shrey responds that his social media strategy would be to actively spread the word out. For example, this would mean letting members know about what is happening in IAPSS Asia so we can attract them to our organization and what we do. One of the best approaches he has learned so far from working outside of IAPSS is bringing something that is more entrusting. He was working as part of a legal head for an international legal organization, which is a big organization in India. If we use our Facebook page and tend to focus on obscure facts of legalities. These are the bite-sized facts or amazing facts of sorts that we use to attract people who are not pursuing law. This is how we try to encourage them to read our page and so that when it is easy and bite-sized information, they can process it easy and that is how they know about our organization and our pages get more outflow from different areas and different regions to like our page and get to know what we do in our organization. This is how we can do something like that in IAPSS Asia and IAPSS in general of course. We can come up with innovative facts about political science or international affairs and we can keep them engaged and so that we can have this communication so they can always reach out to us to share interesting things they find. Being entrusting and spreading the word out would be a good approach instead of just calls for papers. We can attract people who do not participate in the intellectual, academic aspects and are interested in reading about political science but do not have the energy or resources to write a research paper or do a policy briefing or something like that.

Tobias gives Paola the floor.

Paola states that their social media strategies are good but could be better. We need some restructuring in terms of how we divide and carry out the workload. Most of the issues with the workload were due to the pandemic because the workload at home increased, mental health took a hit for everyone, and some people got sick with Covid so they were out for a couple of weeks even. The most important point would be to expand the team a little bit so if someone is sick there is someone else to take over. Right now most of the time that someone else has been here because the team is not big enough, but that would be the most important thing to strengthen for the next mandate. The social media strategies have clear structures that we discuss within the PR Department because we have to deal with developing promotional strategies, creating the graphics, etc., putting them out there on certain days, and trying to stick to the schedule, and she means trying because sometimes people get sick. She wants to give the social media coordinator specifically the opportunity to explore new ideas. She has a very clear way of social media, but she is not a social media coordinator. Her job as a VP for PR is to oversee that it is going well and it is working. But mostly she likes social media coordinators to develop the ideas themselves, test out what works, what does not work. We have gotten pretty cool things out there during this mandate. There have been things that come out every week, there have been important bits of information on some political issues. So she would like to continue with that strategy, but also focusing on those issues where we are falling a little bit behind. The amount of people

working on it. And going back to the previous point, having a clear platform where we can all see what everyone is doing, and where anyone might need help and support. She hopes that answers the questions. And with regards to the lawsuit, no we do not talk about it out there, it is not for the public to see.

Tobias thanks both Paola and Shrey for answering the questions. He then asks if there are any more questions. There are none.

*The vote opens on a website.*

*By the time the voting period closed, Paola Navarro Villa was elected IAPSS Vice-President for Public Relations.*

### **g. Advisory Board**

Tobias states that the Advisory Board has 3 possible seats and 3 candidates. He notices that Rutaba has a point of information.

Rutaba informs the General Assembly that she would like to withdraw her candidacy for the position on the Advisory Board.

Tobias thanks Rutaba for this information. He states that there are two application, one by Giulia Zampedri, and one by Kenneth Jim Joseph M. Jimeno. He gives the floor to Giulia for 5 minutes.

Giulia thanks Tobias. She introduces herself. Her name is Giulia Zampedri and she is a current member of the Advisory Board. She joined IAPSS in 2018, first as a student ambassador, then as Chair for Europe until last year. Last year she joined the Advisory Board. She would like to structure her presentation in two main parts. First part will be about why she is a good candidate, and the second part will focus on as a member of the Advisory Board in the upcoming mandate. Why she is a good candidate - in general, she thinks that in the past years she proved her commitment to the association. She has been involved for some years. She knows how the association works, and she would ensure continuity within the Advisory Board. At the same time she has a strong work ethic, and in her heart she has the best for IAPSS and its members. When it comes to what the Advisory Board should do in the upcoming mandate, according to her opinion, she references the report she presented last week from the Advisory Board. So more in general, if someone wants more details, they are there. Right now the main important points are supporting transition to Canada. The upcoming months and upcoming mandate will be crucial in moving to Canada. It will require a bit of work from the Advisory Board and the Executive Committee. So she believes that the Advisory Board should support this and be one hundred percent involved. She would also like to support IAPSS in recovery from the Covid crisis, go back slowly to in presence events, and at the same time keep going with online events. More generally, her main interest is to support and make sure that IAPSS members' interests are represented, transparency and democracy are ensured within IAPSS. As we mentioned last week during the General Assembly, she would really like IAPSS to create a task force to review bylaws and remove this legal liability that will prevent expensive lawsuits. She is one hundred percent in favour of exploring this option. She does not have the details, but this is



something she really would like to work on, and she thinks it is necessary. That is all from her side, and if anyone has any questions, she is here.

Tobias thanks Giulia. He states that he does not see the second candidate, Jim Joseph, he is not online. He asks if anyone has any information about him. There is no response. Tobias says that his CV is definitely an inspiration for our future events, knowing that for the World Congress, we hand out the best paper award. Seeing that there is something like an "Epic Scholar" award, that certainly sounds like there are opportunities for IAPSS to explore further the ways to appreciate scholarship. It would have been great, of course, to hear from both candidates. Given that only Giulia is here, Tobias opens the round of questions. He gives the floor to Rose.

Rose says she does not have a question, but she would like to express her support for Giulia. She has worked with Giulia for 3 years in IAPSS, and she strongly endorses her running for the Advisory Board. She is very proactive, responsible, and really dedicated ensuring that IAPSS is working well. She has witnessed it firsthand, and really admires her passion to improve the association. With her as the member of the Advisory Board, she knows that IAPSS will be in good hands.

Tobias thanks Rose. He asks if there are other questions. He gives the floor to Rory.

Rory adds a comment thanking this year's Advisory Board for all the wonderful work they did. She knows that Giulia will do an excellent job moving forward, she has done it in the past as well. She wants to thank this year's Advisory Board, she does not think they had an easy job and she wants to express appreciation for that.

Tobias thanks Rory. He states that he does not see any more questions, which means we only had comments.

*The next few minutes are spent figuring out technical issues.*

*The vote opens on a website.*

*By the time the voting period closed, Giulia Zampedri and Kenneth Jim Joseph M. Jimeno were elected as members of the IAPSS Advisory Board.*

#### **h. IAPSS Africa Chair**

Tobias explains that the votes for Regional Chairs will not be subsequent after the individual presentations. The ballot will be open after all the regions are done with presentations and discussions. The reason it is done this way is because members will need to decide they belong and want to belong. There is no concrete requirement on how IAPSS defines membership to a certain region. After presentations and discussions there will be a link that leads to a form, where members can only vote for one of the regions.

He then moves to the sole candidacy of Boluwatife Ajibola. Tobias gives Boluwatife 5 minutes of speaking time.

Boluwatife thanks Tobias. He introduces himself. His name is Boluwatife Ajibola, he is from Nigeria, currently in the United Kingdom studying a Master's degree in international development at the London School of Economics. He studies political science in one of Nigeria's prestigious institutions, Obafemi Awolowo University. His journey with IAPSS Africa started last year, as a Projects and Events coordinator. It has been really great what we were able to do so far. Thanks to team members, Reon, Thomas, current Chair, and other team members who supported us in the projects in our region, including UN75 dialogue, the 24 hour telethon, and a number of other projects. It has been really interesting how IAPSS contributed to feeling at ease to be a student of political science in a global ecosystem. On this foundation it is his interest in taking this further again, and to demonstrate his interest in the concerns of young political science students across Africa in the position of the chair. This is the reason why he is interested in this position. But just to leave some background of his interest; Africa, and by extension the world, may seem to be wrapped in pandemics of many forms. However, within Africa there are signs of opportunities, brightness, and hope, and only those who choose to see this brightness will reach through to our human and natural potentials. Africa is also a natural habitation of young and progressive minds, men and women of irresistible brightness, and people who are reinventors of the future. They are constantly in the pursuit of opportunities, which they could refine to implement change, as well as becoming channels of demonstrable impact. Among those students of political science and its allied disciplines, we seek to make the best out of education, towards increasing life chances, and toward starting the impossible. For him, it is another opportunity to prove that Nelson Mandela is right, who said "it always seems impossible until it is done". It is time to make the impossible possible for young students and professionals in the field of political science and beyond, and across Africa's 54 countries. So for him, he would write IAPSS Africa on the winds of the SHIFT agenda. First, we prioritize and pursue the proposition of viable solutions to develop the main needs of the African continent, particularly as a concern for young people in Africa. Second is the holistic impact across 54 countries in Africa. Because over time we discover that some of our efforts are likely concentrated in some countries at the moment. It is time to spread this impact across each country in Africa, this is a major concern for him. He is confident he will get support from team members who want to make IAPSS Africa visible across 54 different countries in Africa. And a start would be achieving a form of inclusive and representative leadership that will represent new ideas and notions across different sections, and different countries in Africa, of course. And first we would be seeking to expose young people to first-class opportunities. There is this quest and yearning for opportunities among young people in Africa, right from the undergraduate level there are opportunities to interact with young people, particularly in Nigeria where he comes from. He sees that there is a quest for opportunities, the fact that young people are longing for opportunities to increase their last chances. And the last thing, with his team he hopes to leverage the existing and new affordances of technologies in mediating our agenda towards widening access, networking, mobilization and impact. In the face of Covid-19, some of these new roles and new affordances of technologies have been largely spotlighted, and this can be significantly leveraged towards driving impact in Africa's 54 countries. To make this brief and succinct, he will end with words of Thomas Sankaro of Burkina Faso, "We must learn to live the African way. It's the only way to live in freedom and with dignity". So for him, he will not be shy about seeing the SHIFT agenda in the African way. Because he believes that is a part of living with dignity and transformative outcomes. Now is the time to drive Africa, to make Africa visible across the world, and to make young professionals, young political science students visible across each of the 54 countries on the African continent and

wide ecosystem of political science students and professionals. Now is the time, he sees it happening, and in the next year he sees it happening, to bring IAPSS Africa to the faces of the people, everywhere you turn to, you see IAPSS Africa. That is his agenda, and he hopes to see it happen.

Tobias thanks Boluwatife for his platform statement. He opens the floor to questions. He gives the floor to Reon.

Reon thanks Tobias. As mentioned in the chat, he supports his candidacy one hundred percent. He wants to ask him in terms of diversity and inclusivity in Africa, as we know, Africa is a very diverse continent linguistically and culturally, and across the range; how can we reach this diverse continent. The second question is what is his top priority if he were to become the president of IAPSS Africa.

Boluwatife asks Reon if he can repeat his first question.

Reon replies that regarding the diversity in Africa linguistically, culturally, geographically, how can Boluwatife reach all of the diverse continents of ours? What would Boluwatife's strategy be?

Boluwatife thanks Reon for these questions. He reiterates that now is the time to make IAPSS Africa very visible across all of these diverse regions. First, we are divided by language, which is first, so he wants to put together a team to drive our message across. We have been mainly communicating in English so he wants to establish a team of translators with the media section where we will be able to get translators for every one of our publications. He believes that this would help us get access to more regions of the continent. Another gap is that we lack country coordinators, we just have a few. To get country coordinators across the continent would be helpful to drive inclusivity. Also, to make IAPSS Africa visible, he wants to make the young professionals and young students in political science visible in the political science ecosystem of Africa. Once we begin to see students begin to bring opportunities forward and drive their agenda, and Justin Patrick raised a point about the need to engage with associations, this sums up the need for more visibility; both visibility for students in Africa and visibility for IAPSS, so there are going to be two ways in that sense.

Tobias thanks Boluwatife and gives Thomas the floor.

Thomas directs Boluwatife to the chat.

*Thomas' question in the chat reads as follows: Bolu, in terms of identifying streams of revenue generation. What are your plans?*

Boluwatife states that one goal would be to increase memberships and consolidate our efforts by reaching out to associations and finding new means and strategies to encourage people to become members to the association. He trusts the abilities of the team members to generate strategies to increase the revenue of the association. If elected, he would be confident in Thomas' support because Thomas' ideas will be essential to bring some of these initiatives home.

Tobias gives Rose the floor.

Rose states that in Boluwatife's statement, he mentioned gaps that need to be bridged in IAPSS Africa. Is there a project that he would love to implement in his mandate as IAPSS Africa Chair if elected, and can he tell more about this project and how we would implement it?

Boluwatife replies that it all comes back to visibility. He is not pleased about the current visibility of IAPSS Africa and what he sees on the IAPSS Africa webpage. He thinks it needs to start from there with the webpage so it is clear who the people are who are driving this movement forward on this continent and we can make what we are doing more visible on the platform. At the level of the region, in this current year there were a number of events we planned that we were not able to implement, and it needs to start from there because we have discussed these ideas extensively. One thing that is important for him is creating a strong platform for professional networking among young people across the continent. He is confident that he would be able to leverage his network and those on the team and in IAPSS Global as well, so he thinks networking is important and as a project, he would like to implement this platform as a project along with other ideas that he would like to implement.

Tobias gives Thomas the floor.

Thomas states that he thinks something Boluwatife forgot about, and he was the IAPSS Africa Projects Coordinator for the last mandate, is that we were working on strategies for association members and forging partnerships with political science departments of universities across Africa. He thinks this is a wonderful point for membership strategies and he believes Boluwatife will continue this on in the next mandate.

Boluwatife adds that it is important to establish association members. He understands that a lot of the outreach so far has been in Nigeria and we need to make this outreach more extensive and to drive this across the regions. It is his hope and one of his goals in the next six months to increase the IAPSS Africa country coordinators from about four that we have now to about at least twenty-eight and get some country coordinators. If elected, he would like to drive this home with the support of the team members.

Tobias asks for more questions. There are none, so he thanks Boluwatife and moves to the IAPSS Asia Chair on the agenda. We will move to the vote after all the candidates for Regional Chairs have presented.

*By the time the voting period closed, Boluwatife Ajibola was elected IAPSS Africa Chair.*

#### **i. IAPSS Asia Chair**

Tobias gives Rutaba the floor.

Rutaba expresses thanks for the opportunity to present her candidacy for IAPSS Asia Chair for the second year in a row. She is both excited and honored. Her experience last year puts her in a good position to be able to convince those present that she can do this one more

time. She would like to introduce herself, including her experiences within and outside IAPSS, as well as what we would like to do if elected. In general, she is a researcher and a public social policy coordinator with expertise on youth engagement, multisectoral engagement, and project management. She has experience in grassroots initiatives, building organizational frameworks, especially volunteer organizations where she focused on developing organizational strategies, oversight, and fundraising. Apart from IAPSS, she is also associated with the British Council's active citizen program and OIC's<sup>8</sup> official youth forum. For those who are not aware, OIC is the second largest intergovernmental organization after the UN, and she works with their official forum. For IAPSS, OIC, and other platforms, she has largely focused on youth initiatives where she aimed at public diplomacy, youth skill-building, and policy, especially curating projects where she can ensure young people are included in the decision-making processes of multilateral forums and heard by governments in the OIC geography because there is a huge gap over here. As a result, over the last three years, she has conducted conferences, workshops, networking events, everything under the umbrella, really. By education, she has a master's in international relations and an honors in international relations from the University of Karachi where she focused on Middle Eastern and European history and literature. But that is just her as an individual and now onto the more important part about what she did with IAPSS Asia. It has been an exciting and challenging journey with IAPSS Asia because when she started, we did not have a team, so the first order of business was really to make a team that was really diverse and representative of Asia, which is an understatement because Asia is a very large continent. It is the largest continent so it is very difficult to ensure that we can diversify representation and do events, but then the focus was to ensure that we had a complete leadership committee, which we do and she is very happy for that, just to ensure that the leadership committee also had support, we introduced the assistant positions so that assistants and young people could shadow the leadership committee and learn from them. This was also done strategically to ensure that we can create a sustainable team so even if leadership positions were vacated midway through the mandate, we had the assistants to fill up the positions temporarily, which was a huge problem when we started so this was something that she believes she would like to continue going forward. We have most of the assistant positions filled as well so she is really happy about that, so even if in this mandate we have some leadership committee members drop out, she is hoping that these assistants can fill their place temporarily so that things don't stop at least at IAPSS Asia. She is also proud of the fact that we have a lot more country coordinators than we started with. In the last mandate we had representatives from Uzbekistan, Mongolia, India, Nepal, Japan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, so she is really happy that our team was able to represent all of these voices in some countries where we don't usually get young people from, so even in this mandate we are hoping that we can push the envelope a little more and get more countries involved, so we can get more people involved from the Middle East and Southeast Asia, which are regions we think have not been as involved. To ensure that Asia, because it is so huge, gets represented, we might create sub-regional leaders so that subregions can be represented at IAPSS Asia. We also have an improved social media front, we didn't have that at the start but now on Facebook, Twitter, and even Instagram we now have a very active presence and have been able to engage with a lot more young people across these platforms. We have done dozens of events she is proud of. She does not have enough time to go into detail about all of them, but the Young Politicians' Roundtable was really good, the

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<sup>8</sup> Organization for Islamic Cooperation.

academic conference that we kind of did mirroring the World Congress theme of democracy, identity and power was really important because we partnered with the Department of Political Science at the University of Mongolia and she would like to thank the IAPSS Academic Committee for helping us with that. She thinks that all of these events are reflective of what we can do going forward with IAPSS Asia in this mandate because the results were fantastic. We received papers, we received insights from Asia that we do not usually get into. On the partnership front, we were able to do remarkable stuff beyond the universities from India and Mongolia. We were able to get in touch with ASEF<sup>9</sup>, ASEAN Youth<sup>10</sup>, UN75, so we were really happy with the kinds of partners we were able to get on board because she has one more week as IAPSS Asia's Chair. We will be doing a networking event as we say goodbye to our partners but also as a welcoming note that they can work with us this year as well. In going forward, she knows that she is running a bit over time, but she wants to focus more on infrastructure and organizational development at IAPSS Asia because we know we are very good at events and we are going to do that this year as well, but she would like to establish IAPSS Asia as an NGO and apply for grants and funds as an NGO because we really need that to make sure we have avenues for IAPSS Asia members and young scholars to pay easy for membership because she knows that it is kind of a problem at the moment since they have difficulties paying for their memberships at the moment through the website, so she wants to make sure that we have an NGO that makes the process easier for them. She wants to also focus on outreach going forward and liaison because we have a liaison strategy and just need to execute it and streamline everything. But those are some of the things, for more details you can look at my platform statement or you can ask questions and she would be happy to answer them. He invites questions from the floor.

Tobias thanks Rutaba. It was a little bit over time, but it was very holistic in its perspective, so he expects that since it was so detailed there would not be many questions.

Rutaba adds that apart from the networking event, they are hosting a farewell party at IAPSS Asia where the country coordinator for India, Shrey, would be hosting an Among Us party, so we will be playing Among Us as a farewell for IAPSS Asia this mandate and anyone who wants to join is more than welcome.

Tobias gives Rory the floor.

Rory thanks Rutaba and the IAPSS Asia team for all the events they organized. They hosted a crazy amount of events this year, including ten UN75 dialogues, as well as the conference in Mongolia, and Rutaba has been so inspirational and Rory would like to thank Rutaba for all the work she has done. She has inspired Rory too.

*Rutaba expresses "thank you" in sign language.*

Tobias thanks Rory and gives the floor to Ginisha.

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<sup>9</sup> Asia-Europe Foundation

<sup>10</sup> Association of Southeast Asian Nations Youth

Ginisha states that she and Rutaba joined on the same day and it has been an exciting journey with her, and she also thanks Rose for bringing them together. Rutaba has shared her statement of purpose but she has been an amazing team leader and two things that Ginisha has noticed about Rutaba are that she can come up with different ideas and innovative solutions to any problem at any given point of time and she is ready with all those solutions. And last, the most important thing is that she is good at risk management. While some people have plans A and B, she will have plan A, B, C, D, which inspires confidence. She thanks Rutaba and wishes her luck.

Tobias asks if there are any questions. There are none. Tobias suggests that we take a break and reconvene in about 8 minutes.

*By the time the voting period closed, Rutaba Tariq was elected IAPSS Asia Chair.*

#### **j. IAPSS Europe Chair**

Tobias reconvenes the meeting. He is glad that this General Assembly is split into two parts. Last year's general assembly was seven hours and last week went on for five hours and this one is almost five hours, he does not know... *He stops mid-sentence to address Biligtsaikhan, whose room has suddenly gone dark.* He asks what is going on over there.

Biligtsaikhan says that the electricity must have went out.

Tobias states that her internet is still working.

Biligtsaikhan explains that maybe she used too much electricity, as her lamp appears to be broken.

Tobias states that the Executive Committee should look into this as well in terms of shorter General Assemblies for more compartmentalized usage of internet and electricity.

Biligtsaikhan states that it seems to be just her lamp that might have been overworked.

Tobias expresses that he hopes things turn out well so her internet keeps working so she can keep helping with the minutes and the online votes. He introduces the two IAPSS Europe Chair candidates, Clara Caspar and Frank Stengs. He gives Clara the floor.

Clara thanks the General Assembly for the opportunity to speak. She is a new member of IAPSS. She is half French and half Danish but she currently lives in Paris because she studies at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University. She studies a double bachelor in history and political science. At the university, she joined the organization Les Politistes, the association for students in political science at Sorbonne, and she joined in September 2020 in the international relations section, so she has been organizing events and links with that area. She organized Diplomacy Day where she got to work with experts in the field, including diplomats. She heard about IAPSS because Les Politistes is an association member of IAPSS. She collaborated with IAPSS on an event about the American election of 2020 and she got to meet Rory Mondschein, with whom she has been communicating with regularly. She loved being able to get in contact with IAPSS team members. She has been active in

student organizations since high school where she was the person responsible for the youth branch of Amnesty International at her high school. Because she was so active in this organization in high school, she wanted to take the engagement to a new perspective. Since she has two nationalities, Danish and French, she would like to bring this active engagement to her geographical area. She has already worked in partnership with IAPSS and she believes that she can take this experience with partners to a new level and work more closely with the team. She stated in her platform statement that it would be good to strengthen partnerships we already have and bring some new ones to the table. She thanks the General Assembly and all the IAPSS members she has been in contact with.

Tobias gives Frank the floor.

Frank worked as the administration coordinator for the World Congress this year. His first contact with IAPSS was through LinkedIn and it came at the beginning of 2021. Before that, he was not aware of IAPSS, but since then he has talked to several students and professors throughout the Netherlands and they were all enthusiastic about IAPSS' mission and goals, and they offered to spread the word without him asking for it. He shares this same enthusiasm and would like to run for this position. As Chair, he shares the same vision as IAPSS to embed our association in the political science community and continue our current trend of growth and expand on it. One way to do this is through platforms. He has noticed that on LinkedIn and Instagram, our region has not been that active, so he would like to increase our output. Consistency is key. Another way is by establishing more partnerships. However, he thinks there is a certain way of establishing partnerships and the idea of the IAPSS Asia Chair to not just partner once and never collaborate again but to establish long-term partnerships is the way to go. One example is Music for SDGs. The leader of that organization mentioned last week that he would like to expand collaboration with IAPSS Europe and Frank would like to assist with this. He thinks that a good strategy for Europe is divide and conquer. He would like to look into the possibility of country coordinators, because this would not only get us more members but would also make us more aware of the challenges, needs, and opportunities that each country has. This is his vision as the Chair, but he would also like to operate more democratically. He would like to establish a team, and with that team establish concrete goals, and reach those goals. His role is to ensure that those goals are reached. He thanks the General Assembly.

Tobias thanks both candidates for keeping their platform statements within the time limit. He gives Giulia the floor.

Giulia asks Clara to explain more concretely what she would like to achieve for IAPSS Europe.

Clara expresses that Les Politistes has a partnership with IAPSS but this partnership has not been fully explored. She thinks we can do many great things compared to other years. She would like to strengthen one we already have and not be partners for just one year. That is something she could already do because she is a new student. She can also do this with other organizations that she can bring to the table and she would like to do this with other partners such as Les Politistes to increase IAPSS memberships. She would like to establish partnerships with all of them and develop strong relationships with them. She would also like



to have more meetings with members of IAPSS in Europe because she has not had a lot of communication with all of them.

Tobias gives the floor to Rose.

Rose asks candidates about their leadership strategy. Since a lot of IAPSS work is remote and it is a volunteer organization, and we have other responsibilities outside of IAPSS, as a leader, she finds that at least in her experience not as a regional leader but in IAPSS Global that we need to manage our time properly and also motivate the team. She wants to know how they will be performing in their roles in IAPSS Europe.

Tobias gives the floor to Clara, followed by Frank.

Clara replies that since she already works with Les Politistess, she already works on a daily basis with partners and that is something she integrates in her personal routine. She is already present for other members she interacts with, and she plans to be available and present with everybody who will be asking something, or just be a part of the European part. She already has a routine that is made up for that kind of activism and engagement, since that is something she has been doing for a long time. Personally, she will be really present, she knows herself, and she will be able to handle that kind of duty and pressure.

Frank thanks for the question. Personally, he would like to follow a leadership strategy employed by Crystal and Kaan during the World Congress. What they followed was a less hierarchical strategy. You should consider your partners as equals, the leaders of the teams make sure that everyone follows their strategy and everything gets done in time, or at least that is planning of course. If there are problems or any challenges for coordinators within the team, it should be great to keep your mind and be aware, and you should expect things from persons, but if they cannot manage it, you should be able to get in also and help a bit.

Tobias thanks Clara and Frank for answering this question. He invites more questions if there are any. He reads out the question by Rory from the chat, "What is your plan to deepen partnerships?" Tobias gives the floor to Frank, followed by Clara.

Frank thanks for the question. As he mentioned, one example would be Music for SDGs, they want to expand in our region, and we can be of help to them. Relationships should work in two ways. Of course, we can use their help, but they should also be able to expect our help in case of any goals they want to reach and any events they want to organize.

Clara thanks for the question. She thinks that it would be very important to promote IAPSS' visibility inside the partners we already have, and partnerships that we will have in the future. Maybe have an IAPSS coordinator in each partner organization that can be the link between partners and the Chair or Vice-Chair. That could be, for example, all the information about the General Assembly. In her experience, the members of Les Politistess are also members of IAPSS, but they do not really feel that close of a connection between our engagement and association and also their engagement in IAPSS. That is something that should work closely together. That is something she would implement for all the partners, so we can have a strong connection with a lot of communication.

Tobias thanks Clara and Frank for answering this question. He asks if there are more questions. Seeing none, he moves to the next agenda point.

#### **k. IAPSS Latin America and the Caribbean Chair**

Tobias states there is one application by Murad Khan. Murad is not in the meeting. He asks if anyone has information about Murad. There is no response. Tobias opens the floor to questions for Murad. There are no questions. Seeing that there is no discussion, Tobias moves to the next agenda point.

*By the time the voting period closed, Murad Khan was not elected IAPSS Latin America and the Caribbean Chair.*

#### **l. IAPSS Oceania Chair**

Tobias states that there are no applications for this position. Seeing no requests to discuss this point further, he moves to the next agenda point.

#### **m. IAPSS USA and Canada Chair**

Tobias states that there are no applications for this position. Tobias informs the General Assembly that members will find the possibility to vote on the Regional Chairs on the General Assembly page. After voting on the website, members are redirected to the form where they can choose their respective region. He then moves to the next agenda point.

### **3. Other Business**

Tobias recalls the discussion between Rory, Thomas, and himself last week about building the task force. He asks Rory to mention again what is the task force that they want to build, and who exactly would be in charge of this one.

*Rory does not respond.*

Tobias states that Rory is not available to speak. He asks if anyone else can elaborate on that point, because he remembers discussing it last week. He then asks Justin to provide details.

Justin replies that it was an idea that was posed, but there was no follow-up action. He states that members are tired as it is almost the 5th hour of the General Assembly. He thinks that at this point we can follow up with Rory and the others as well who were interested to do something. He also tells the General Assembly that members are welcome to meet with each other, put forward ideas, and recommend those to IAPSS team members, and we will do our best to make it happen. Feel free to let us know.

Tobias thanks Justin. He says that just before this meeting we made fun of this being kind of like the second part of the "Lord of the Rings" movies, but certainly with almost 5 hours, it is more than the extended version. He thanks for making this comment, he can definitely see how tired the members are. He asks if there is any business.

Ginisha expressed her gratitude to Tobias for chairing the General Assembly today and the last year as well.

Tobias thanks Ginisha for the credit. He says it has been an honour for him every time. He says it has been a great pleasure, but it would not have been as much without all the members who participated in IAPSS General Assemblies for the last 4 years. This is certainly developing into much more interactive and democratically... there is much more democratic accountability, there is much more discussions, many more questions, it is far more in-depth, interesting. Some of those who are joining know how we have improved over the years. That is definitely something we could be all proud of. He thanks everyone who made it a good event. Even though this would have been fantastic words to close, he asks if there is any other business from your side.

There is no response. He reminds everyone that the vote is open for another 72 hours. Tobias moves to the next point.

#### **4. Adjournment**

*The discussion portion of General Assembly Part 2 adjourns at approximately 19:50 CEST.*

#### **General Assembly Part 2 Draft Canadian By-laws**

The draft Canadian By-laws can be accessed here:

<https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/IAPSS-Canadian-Bylaws.pdf>.

#### **General Assembly Part 2 Zoom Chat Log**

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 09:16 AM

<https://www.iapss.org/iapss-general-assemblies-and-elections-may-2021/>

From Paola NV to Everyone: 09:16 AM

<https://www.iapss.org/iapss-general-assemblies-and-elections-may-2021/>

From Justin Patrick to Everyone: 09:16 AM

[https://www.iapss.org/iapss-general-assemblies-and-elections-may-2021](https://www.iapss.org/iapss-general-assemblies-and-elections-may-2021/)

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 09:19 AM

The vote has not appeared

From Oleksii Zahreba to Everyone: 09:19 AM

It's at the very bottom of the page, I didn't see at first either

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 09:19 AM

Got it.

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 09:20 AM

Oh!!! Okay, thanks. Found it.

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 09:23 AM

Welcome to Canada!

MOTION

From Oleksii Zahreba to Everyone: 09:47 AM

IAPSS USA and Canada report starts at the page 9:

<https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Regional-Reports.pdf>

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 09:49 AM

Biligi, how come the ballots are structured in alphabetical order? Shouldn't they be structured in terms of incumbent first and then challenger?

From Justin Patrick to Everyone: 09:49 AM

we list them alphabetically by first name

From Oleksii Zahreba to Everyone: 09:51 AM

Global Student Government landing page: <https://globalstudentgovernment.org/>

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 09:53 AM

Great work there, Oleksii!

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 09:59 AM

Excellent point, Reon!

I have a question for Oleksii

From Boluwatife Ajibola to Everyone: 10:00 AM

Great

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 10:02 AM

Can I also make a comment to Reon!

From Crystal Staebell to Everyone: 10:04 AM

I have a question for both candidates.

Hello, I am unable to speak due to health reasons.

IAPSS is able to generate a large number of members during the World Congress, which is something we need, but only a small number of these members seem to stay within our circle.

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 10:04 AM

I have a question for Oleksii

From Crystal Staebell to Everyone: 10:04 AM

What would propose that IAPSS do to increase membership engagement, as strong engagement keeps the members around?

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:04 AM

I have a question but Thomas can go first.

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 10:07 AM

Great point, Reon!

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 10:09 AM

Question: I got cut off from the call earlier so my apologies if the candidates have answered this already. I want to ask them both (or all three if the third candidate arrives) how they plan to still be involved in the Association should they not be elected for the position, if they do plan to still be involved.

From Crystal Staebell to Everyone: 10:09 AM

Thank you :)

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:10 AM

Rose can go first.

From Oleksii Tkachenko to Everyone: 10:11 AM

Oleksii is absent in my variant of the pole.. There are only Jan and Reon

From Oleksii Tkachenko to Everyone: 10:12 AM

Oh, my vote-form has been updated, all is good now!

From Paola NV to Everyone: 10:12 AM

:)

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 10:16 AM

Thanks Oleksii. :)

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 10:16 AM

Thanks, Oleksii.

Rose's question.

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 10:16 AM

Two questions:

Oleksii (sorry if you already answered this question): why are you not running for the US Chair position and decided to go for the secretary general one?

Jan: why are you running for 4 positions and what makes you qualified for this one in particular? your one experience is website coordinator but you were terminated for misconduct in 2017. You make no other mention of any other experience. What experiences make you qualified?

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 10:17 AM

Reon, your platform addresses in entirety what a reformed IAPSS Secretariat should be! It's not just about visibility/website fixes, but more concrete concerns as you've laid out. You'll definitely make an exceptional SG!

From Tobias Scholz to Everyone: 10:20 AM

have Rory and Anthony on the list

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 10:21 AM

Question to Jan- How being on leadership position you will manage the issues or cases dealing with racism?

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 10:29 AM

Absolutely perfect response, Reon!

It's time to make IAPSS truly international; not just in words, but in representation and implementation!

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 10:34 AM

Great job @Oleksii and @Reon :)

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 10:34 AM

Thanks to both :)

From Paola NV to Everyone: 10:34 AM

If anyone missed it, we are taking an 11 minute break.

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 10:36 AM

Thanks Reon & Oleksii!

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 10:48 AM

Where is Jan? Has anyone reached out to him?

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 10:57 AM

I have a point of information :)

From Max Steuer to Everyone: 10:59 AM

One question.

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 11:03 AM

Great Job Shobhendra :)

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 11:18 AM

I have a question for Melis

Thanks Melis :)

From Max Steuer to Everyone: 11:18 AM

One question.

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 11:25 AM

Melis, Are there plans for reviving the winter and summer school activities, possibly in partnership with the Program Department? What's your vision for an improved academic department under the next mandate?

Maheen, what tangible projects would you bring to the academic department if elected? How d you intend to achieve them?

From Max Steuer to Everyone: 11:25 AM

Thank you for the responses!

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 11:25 AM

Madaan

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 11:32 AM

Thanks Tobi. Appreciated

From Paola NV to Everyone: 11:33 AM

oh no, hope you feel better soon!!

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 11:33 AM

Hope you get well soon!

From Paola NV to Everyone: 11:33 AM

let us know if you need anything

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 11:34 AM

Get well soon Crystal. I appreciate your approach and work you have been doing

From Biligtsaikhan Uuganbayar to Everyone: 11:34 AM

Thank you very much for your contribution and support. Hope you get well soon. <3

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 11:35 AM

get well soon Crystal!

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 11:36 AM

Thank you so much, Crystal. I hope you feel better.

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 11:36 AM

Get well soon, Crystal!

From Paola NV to Everyone: 11:36 AM

Thank you for still speaking and participating Crystal!!

From Biligtsaikhan Uuganbayar to Everyone: 11:36 AM

Thank you very much!!!!

From Paola NV to Everyone: 11:36 AM

Wishing you all the best and a quick recovery

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 11:36 AM

Motion to give Crystal a resiliency award.

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 11:42 AM

Yes



From Crystal Staebell to Everyone: 11:42 AM

I can handle it.

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 11:45 AM

Ginisha & Crystal, thanks for the wonderful job. Could you kindly respond to the concern of partnership with the academic department and the development of strategies for the revival of IAPSS winter and summer school activities.

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 11:46 AM

I have a question after Thomas.

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 11:48 AM

Rose and Rory :))

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 11:49 AM

R&R

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 11:55 AM

My question was about accessibility.

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 11:57 AM

What kind of support would you provide these regions? Financial? Logistical?

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 11:58 AM

My question was answered by both candidates

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 11:59 AM

Great question, Thomas!

From Crystal Staebell to Everyone: 12:01 PM

I would say that it depends on what the regions would need. If you came at us with a great proposal to bring a speaker or regional experts in and you needed financial support to make it happen, if you needed money to create scholarships for students to work on research, or if you have a great idea for a program and it is too large for managing it, we can make it happen. The regional experts are the ones who know what is best needed, and I would want to give these experts a voice to express their needs and support them as needed.

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:02 PM

Motion to move onto the next race.

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 12:02 PM

I second.

From Crystal Staebell to Everyone: 12:02 PM

Thank you, everyone :)

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 12:02 PM

Thanks to all :)

From Shrey Madaan to Everyone: 12:21 PM

can you repeat pls

I lost my connection

the question

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 12:21 PM

What are some of your best assets as a communicator? What assets need work?

From Shrey Madaan to Everyone: 12:22 PM

thank you

From Justin Patrick to Everyone: 12:26 PM

Just to clarify, the motion did not pass at the last General Assembly

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 12:27 PM

As a result, with this proposal I would like the General Assembly decide to delete the words "Race including" in §4 (letter j) of the Code of Conduct by voting in favour of my proposal because the meaning of "racism" is already sufficiently defined in that paragraph.

You are right, Justin. I will correct myself after Tobi reads it.

From Paola NV to Everyone: 12:30 PM

maybe can I add a point of information with regards to the german

if it's deemed relevant of course

could you repeat the question?

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 12:30 PM

What would be your strategy to promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in your communications strategy?

From Frank Stengs to Everyone: 12:41 PM

Thank you for both of your answers

Insightful!

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 12:41 PM

Thanks Paola and Shrey :)

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 12:52 PM

<https://www.iapss.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Advisory-Board-Report-2021-2.pdf>

From Paola NV to Everyone: 12:56 PM

I second

I second that

From Mihai Chihaiia to Everyone: 12:56 PM

Full support for Giulia!

From Oleksii Zahreba to Everyone: 12:57 PM

Point of information

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 01:07 PM

Great point, Bolu!

Full support from IAPSS Africa!

From Reon van der Merwe to Everyone: 01:07 PM

We are led in Africa! Full support to your presidency Bolu.

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 01:07 PM

Bolu, I just want to say you have done a phenomenal job with innovative programming and incorporating the SRCs.

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 01:10 PM

Bolu, in terms of identifying streams of revenue generation. What are your plans?

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 01:13 PM

Question: In your statement, you mentioned that in serving as Projects Coordinator, you have been able to identify gaps that need to be bridged. Is there a specific project that you

would love to implement during your mandate as IAPSS Africa Chair, if elected? If so, could you tell us more about it and how you plan to go about implementing it?

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 01:17 PM

I have a point of information

Thank you, Mr. Chair!

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 01:20 PM

Super proud of all your hard work, Rutaba

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 01:23 PM

Much needed!

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 01:24 PM

Much appreciated

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 01:25 PM

So glad that Rutaba will continue on as IAPSS Asia! It was a pleasure to work with you in the previous mandate! Full support!

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 01:26 PM

Thank you!

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 01:27 PM

\*plans to continue on... :))

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 01:27 PM

Thank you Rutaba for your great work with your region!

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 01:27 PM

Thank you Thomas

From Paola NV to Everyone: 01:37 PM

Bilge, let me know if you need help with anything!

I mean, taking the minutes in the meantime or something, not fixing your lamp hahaha

From Rutaba Tariq to Everyone: 01:37 PM

I was thinking how Paola youre going to fix her light xD

From Paola NV to Everyone: 01:37 PM

I will travel to Mongolia right now with one lightbulb

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 01:38 PM

Hahaha!

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 01:38 PM

Having worked with Paola, I will not underestimate her skill set. :)) She can do a lot of things!  
:D

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 01:39 PM

She must be a superhuman!

From Tobi Adewunmi (Africa region) to Everyone: 01:39 PM

@Paola, take two lamps along. You can stop by in Nigeria on your way from Mongolia. :)

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 01:39 PM

hahahaha

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 01:39 PM

Is Nigeria out of light too?

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 01:40 PM

Yeah, I agree. I actually love how multitasking and talented Paola is :D

From Biligtsaikhan Uuganbayar to Everyone: 01:40 PM

Hey everyone, my lamp is broken. Im moving to kitchen. :)

Thank you Clara

From Paola NV to Everyone: 01:41 PM

hahaha, thanks! I also paint walls and am working on learning to paint and restore furniture

Thank you Clara!!

From Tobi Adewunmi (Africa region) to Everyone: 01:41 PM

My apartment was disconnected 2 days ago. We've had a a national grid collapse lately

From Thomas N. Singbeh to Everyone: 01:42 PM

Nothing strange! Paola will be there in 2 minutes I presume!

From Crystal Staebell to Everyone: 01:44 PM

I would like to vouch for Frank having since he has been a WC coordinator. He's quite competent and would be a strong fit as well as a fresh face to IAPSS.

From Paola NV to Everyone: 01:44 PM

thank you Frank!

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 01:46 PM

i would like to thank Clara for her wonderful work facilitating deeper partnerships with Les Polisteis

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 01:46 PM

Question for both candidates: I'd like to know a little bit about the candidates' leadership strategy. A lot of the work in IAPSS is remote and it is a volunteer organization.

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 01:49 PM

Good question Rose

From Paola NV to Everyone: 01:49 PM

Love Crystal and Kaan!

From Biligtsaikhan Uuganbayar to Everyone: 01:49 PM

Came back everyone.

From Rory Moe to Everyone: 01:50 PM

what would be both candidates' plan to deepen partnerships?

From Giulia Zampedri to Everyone: 01:50 PM

I have to leave. Good luck to all the candidates and have a good Saturday! :)

From Paola NV to Everyone: 01:51 PM

Good Saturday to you Giulia! Thanks for everything

From Tobias Scholz to Everyone: 01:51 PM

Arrivederci Giulia!!

From Crystal Staebell to Everyone: 01:53 PM

Gonna hop off and go rest now, but take care with the rest of the GA!

From Paola NV to Everyone: 01:53 PM

Get well soon Crystal!!

From Clara Caspar to Everyone: 01:53 PM

Thank you for your question!

From Frank Stengs to Everyone: 01:53 PM

Get well soon Crystal! Thank you for being here today

From Paola NV to Everyone: 01:58 PM

one round of applause for our wonderful GA chair

From Ginisha Dewani to Everyone: 01:59 PM

Yes and for You, Bilgee and Justin

From Reon van der Merwe to Everyone: 02:00 PM

Thank you everyone!

From Max Steuer to Everyone: 02:00 PM

Thank you to everyone and particularly to all present candidates for their statements and responses and to the GA Board for the smooth management. Take care.

From Rose Smith to Everyone: 02:00 PM

Have a nice day everyone! Bye bye

From Justin Patrick to Everyone: 02:00 PM

Thanks everyone!

From Paola NV to Everyone: 02:00 PM

Bye everyone!