



**The 36th General Assembly of the
International Association for
Political Science Students (IAPSS),
December 2022**

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Note: 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.

These minutes have yet to be approved at a subsequent General Assembly and may be subject to amendments raised by members at said subsequent General Assembly.

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General Assembly

Location

The meeting was held online via Zoom from Montréal, Québec, Canada

Attendance

1. Leah Rea
2. Sanet Solomon
3. Edgar Leandro
4. Jessie Jr Malibiran
5. Lisa Carroll
6. Ruben Elizabeth
7. Lee-Abbey
8. Obinna Alexander Nwuko
9. Rafael Plancarte
10. Eyrin (Eirini) Kyriakidi
11. Ana Dias
12. Roberto Nugnes
13. Michaël Rakotomalala
14. Keorapetse Modiba
15. Oleksii Zahreba
16. Justin Patrick
17. Crystal Staebell
18. Benjamin Segovia
19. Lisa Carroll
20. Valerie Jeche
21. Max Steuer
22. Boluwatife Ajibola
23. Nzube Chukwa

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the Agenda and General Assembly Committee
3. Approval of the [Minutes of the April 2022 Online General Assembly](#).
4. [Report of the IAPSS President](#) (needs a vote to approve)
5. [Balance sheet by the IAPSS Treasurer](#) (needs a vote to approve)

6. By-elections – (candidate presentations, questions, and voting)

a. President

b. Vice President for Academic Affairs

c. Vice President for Public Relations

7. Debate on the Future of Regions

8. Debate on the Future of IAPSS

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

Livestream link

<https://youtu.be/c5G11u0f-fc>

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: So, welcome everyone to the 36th IAPSS General Assembly (GA). I will call this meeting to order five minutes past the start time. In my timezone, it's eight in the morning, but it's likely a different time in your timezone.

2. Approval of the Agenda and General Assembly Committee

I am going to call on a member of the Executive Committee to let us know who is on the General Assembly Committee for this GA or if it is just the Chair.

So, I see in the chat the General Assembly Committee nominees: Oleksii [Zahreba], Crystal [Staebell], and me [Justin Patrick]. Do we know what roles Oleksii and Crystal have here, so folks know? Okay, I guess there are no set roles. Alright, so in this case I will invite a motion to approve this General Assembly Committee. To move the motion you can raise your hand or type in the chat that you would like to move the motion.

Crystal Staebell moves the motion to appoint Oleksii Zahreba, Crystal Staebell, and Justin Patrick to the General Assembly Committee. Eyrin Kyriakidi seconds the motion.

I'll invite a vote on this procedural motion to approve the General Assembly committee. The vote is up, so you can go to the website and cast your vote on the GA voting page. We will give folks a minute or so to vote on that motion. If you are having trouble voting, please let us know. You should be logged into your account on the IAPSS website. So, for folks who might have just joined, we're voting on the General Assembly committee right now. And I guess in the meantime as we're waiting for that vote to come in, I'm going to ask if anyone would like to add or change anything on the agenda as well as we also have to approve the agenda so we can move forward here. Roberto, go ahead.

Roberto Nugnes, Chair of IAPSS Europe: I would like to add to the agenda something that came up at the very last minute in the Europe national branch. The effort that those founding a national branch is too much in comparison with the fee that they have to pay. So, the idea would be for those who founded the national branch to pay a lower fee, whereas all the other members who join the national branch pay the regular fee of IAPSS membership.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, so is this a point of discussion that you want to add to the agenda?

Roberto Nugnes, Chair of IAPSS Europe: Yes.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, so I guess if it's a discussion, and not a formal motion to vote on it, we can all accept this perhaps as a motion to add this as a discussion item.

We did have a deadline for the motions to vote on because we have a duty to give the members some time to read those. But if this is a discussion item, I can accept this as a motion. Do we have a seconder for this motion to add the topic of membership fees in regard to national associations to the agenda? Is there a seconder? Again, to second the motion you can raise your hand or you can type in the chat. If the motion does not receive a seconder, it won't be able to be voted on and then the motion would fail. So, if you are in support of adding this discussion topic to the agenda, then I encourage you to raise your hand or type in the chat that you would like to second the motion.

The motion to add a topic of discussion on membership fees in regard to national associations is seconded by Benjamin Segovia.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Alright, so, this brings us to a debate. Would anyone like to speak for or against this motion? Roberto, go ahead.

Roberto Nugnes, Chair of IAPSS Europe: Just to clarify, I should defend my position in this motion, should I?

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Yes, you can motivate your motion here.

Roberto Nugnes, Chair of IAPSS Europe: Okay, so for those who don't know me, I'm Roberto, I am both the chair of IAPSS Europe and the chair of IAPSS Italy, the national branch that was founded this year, basically in February. And the reason why I raised this motion is because of my experience in a national branch like IAPSS Europe and a regional branch. I found myself with less space, opportunity, and mobility with the regional branch of IAPSS Europe; whereas with IAPSS Italy, much more space to act and the capabilities to do what I want, what we want with the association.

When I was leading IAPSS Europe during my presidency, I was still looking for the possibility of opening European branches. However, I found out that the fee to join IAPSS, with the creation of the regional branch was considered too much. There was the possibility to open a regional branch in the UK, which then opened as an association on its own and started operating in the UK. But the founders found themselves discouraged when they were facing the possibility to pay twenty (20) euros to join IAPSS, as they thought that the effort they would have put into creating the association was too much to justify a twenty (20) euro. As for IAPSS, it would have been just a win situation because there would have been people in the UK to do all the work for the association. So they didn't understand, why the founders should have to pay twenty (20) euros, whereas it is logical that the other members then would join a National Association should pay the total amount of fee.

Now, speaking as president of IAPSS Italy, we did not receive support from IAPSS in general when we started our operations. We were on our own; nobody really checked on us to see how we were going, what we were doing. We did everything on our own and we were lucky enough to pay a reduced fee because we entered IAPSS through an association partnership of IAPSS, so our fee was lowered. But I don't know if we would have joined if there would have

been the twenty (20) euros fee, because at that point, alwith I the efforts that we put in, there would have been no reason for us to pay such an amount of fee considering the help that we received from IAPSS.

The national branches are a win-win situation for IAPSS because IAPSS does not have to put a lot of effort into it; there are just people who are going to do the work for IAPSS. In my view, lowering the fee for those who found a national branch is just a way to incentivize people to create a national branch, because in my six (6) months that I have been in Europe, I have seen that there are people out there who are willing to open a national branch, both in France and Poland, that are looking forward to opening a national branch. But they are not willing to pay such an exorbitant amount of fee for creating a new branch. So this is why I am raising this motion.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, so just to remind folks, we are not really at the discussion on that, we are not voting on whether to add it to the agenda. So please, we should keep the discussion as to whether or not we should add this item to the agenda. If it passes, we can do the discussion and get into the content, when we get there. Would anyone else like to speak to whether the General Assembly wants to add this motion to the agenda? Eyrin, go ahead.

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Interim VP for Academic Affairs: Thank you, Justin. Before we proceed with discussing this I would like the rest of the people here to consider whether this motion would be fair to the rest of the people who work for IAPSS. Especially the Think Tank, Research Committees, the Journals, and the blog. So, while you consider whether this should be discussed later on, keep in mind everyone else, too. Thank you.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: We will be restructuring the membership fees, given that the legacy fees that we have right now have been built over the years, and the structure is not entirely fair. As you know there is a so-called "Developed Countries" category that was created based on what the IAPSS Executive Committee thought people from those countries should pay. But ideally, we would want to move to the classification of the World Bank and the classification of countries' economies. So, that way we will make membership more affordable based on where people come from, and in this way it will be evaluated not by us, but by professional economists. That's the first point.

And the second point – I agree with Eyrin. Eyrin is an IAPSS volunteer and does their fair share of work, including, of course, the Executive Committee members. We are here not for the benefit of ourselves, but for the benefit of the Association as a whole. Understanding that we have to consider the money it takes to run the Association, I am against creating an unequal membership fee structure based on people's work. I am for having different membership fees based on residency to include political science students from around the world but I am against the membership fees based on work responsibilities.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, so again, folks, we are just debating whether we should add this to the agenda to talk about it. I am going to do another call for points of

discussion here on whether to add this to the agenda. Going once. going twice. So, this brings us to a vote on that motion, I hope that we can add this to the voting page and then folks can cast their ballots there. Do we have a link to the voting page on the website? Is everyone able to vote? It is at the top of the page here, so you'll see a ribbon, you'll see General Assembly Information [link], and then you'll see the Voting Ballot [link]. We will give folks maybe another ten (10) or maybe twenty (20) seconds or so to vote on this, and then we can check to see if we can proceed, as this is a procedural motion there. And just to clarify, we are not adding a motion we are just adding a discussion point to the agenda. If you need help with voting then just let us know. So, the link to the voting ballot has just been put in the chat. I encourage you to click on that and then cast your vote in the polls that appear.

So, it looks like some people might have trouble voting. You do have to be logged in with your IAPSS membership account on the website. There's a little icon of a person in the top right corner and you log in with your email and password, and then you should be able to cast your ballot on the voting page.

Alright, I am going to give it 10 more seconds and then I will share the results.

We have two in favor and five against. That motion does not pass, unfortunately. We are back to the approval of the agenda. I am going to do a last call for any other motions to amend the agenda. Going once, going twice.

No additional motions have been raised.

I encourage folks to vote on the approval of the agenda for this General Assembly.

The motion to approve the agenda has passed, I see six in favor and zero against.

3. Approval of the minutes of the April 2022 Online General Assembly

[Click here to access the minutes of the April 2022 Online General Assembly](#)

That brings us to the next item on the agenda, which is the approval of the minutes of the April 2022 Online General Assembly. So, the link to these minutes is provided on the General Assembly's main web page. You can take a look at these minutes. You can see a list of attendees, the agenda, and all the minutes. It should be quite thorough, it's fifty (50) pages but I'm going to do a call for any motions to amend the minutes. Going once, going twice. I'm going to invite a mover to motion to approve the minutes of this General Assembly.

The motion to approve the minutes of the April 2022 Online General Assembly is moved by Eyrin Kyriakidi and seconded by Oleksii Zahreba.

You are welcome to cast your vote on the online page and we will just give folks some time to cast their votes I'll put perhaps a minute or so on the clock and we can take a look [at

them] after. Or, I guess, the minutes would probably be one of the motions that need to go for three (3) days. So, we could actually move on in the meantime.

4. Report of the IAPSS President

[Click here to access the Report of the IAPSS President](#)

We have the report of the IAPSS President, in which case the report is linked on the web page here. I will hand things over to Oleksii to speak about this report.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: Thank you, Justin. Is there a time limit on the speech?

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: We will just gauge this based on need right now.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: Okay, I won't be long. I will just go over the main points presented in the report; you can read it for yourself. I'll try to be brief. This is the interim report. I had to step into the role of President when Ginisha Diwani resigned in October, so I have been in this position for a couple of months, maybe just about two months. I didn't intend to run for president; I didn't have a platform because I was Secretary-General. But, given the emergency of the president's resignation, I had to step in and continue.

In the report, I identified the issues but also the accomplishments that we have as an Association. I will start with accomplishments, with the good things, and the issues will serve as talking points for our debate at the end of the General Assembly. So, you can, of course, ask me questions after this report, but the report is intended to start a discussion later on.

Our accomplishments include a partnership agreement with Concordia University, which is almost done. We are now reviewing it with the Executive Committee, but we have the final draft, and it [the partnership agreement] is intended to run for five (5) years. Concordia University welcomes us for five years, and this can be renewed later. This is a normal practice to sign an agreement for five years; this is not indefinite, but if they're happy with us, we're happy with them; they can, of course, renew it later. I would like to commend Justin, who worked on this for the last couple of years. He did not get to see it happen; I mean, he's seeing it happen, but he doesn't work at IAPSS anymore. Nevertheless, it was his work that made it happen. So, if all goes well, we should sign the agreement soon, perhaps after the Christmas break, and officially, it'll come into force on February 1st, 2023.

Another achievement, which is also Justin's legacy, is incorporation in Canada. We incorporated it last year, and I had to interact with the software and bureaucracy to file the document. Everything is working well: the taxes, we filed documents for the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec; there are no problems doing that. I will talk about the bank account later, but as I have heard the stories when IAPSS used to be in the Netherlands, the bureaucratic problems used to be a lot bigger and posed a lot more issues to Executive Committees, as international-based members of the ExCom had to mail their documents to get

things approved, and that would slow down the work quite a bit. This doesn't exist anymore. So, this is another thing that's going well bureaucratically; as you know, we are a non-profit in Canada, which is also way better than it used to be in the Netherlands. Because in the Netherlands it [IAPSS] was incorporated as a professional association, not a non-profit. So, we were not even eligible for grants; this is fixed now.

And the final thing on this point is the World Congress. With the help of the International Political Science Association, we were able to secure the venue for free. I will complete the formal booking process with the Executive Director of the International Political Science Association next week; I will also tour the rooms. But this would be free of charge, which is great; that will allow us to focus on providing a good event to students and will also allow us to make money off of this event.

Speaking of money, the next second point is the financial state of the organization. We're also doing well here. Crystal spoke about her mandate when she ran for Treasurer to make our financial state stable, and she succeeded at that. We do not have any debt; we are able to pay our bills on time, we do not have any problems paying for services that we need, and we also took on a couple more services to make the work of our online volunteers easier. Namely, we have a password manager that allows us to share passwords, but it functions as a two-factor authentication. So, before it had to be a phone number, which is, of course, not practical for an international organization like ours. But now this issue is fixed, and we're also able to pay for it, the budget provided for that. So, we also have a credit card; ExCom members do not have to pay organization expenses, which is great because before they had to pay for whatever expenses of IAPSS out of their pocket and then wait to be reimbursed. I read about cases when people would wait for a long time to be reimbursed. This is not professional, but again, ExCom members no longer have to deal with it.

Now the memberships also renew automatically. This was the idea I implemented last year, but it's only now bearing fruit because it's only been a year since I launched the website last year in November. And so, that means the people that started their one-year memberships only now start to renew and actually there is like a wave of renewals coming in, and you know, it's good recurring income, and we will see even more of that next spring because a lot of people who purchased their memberships for World Congress in 2022 will see their membership renew in 2023. So, before that, if their membership was expired, they forgot to renew it, that would be the end of their IAPSS experience. However, we do refund people at the request; we understand that students may not have large personal budgets. Other associations, professional political science associations can charge their members a lot more and can do it automatically, but our audience is students. So in any case, if someone wants to be refunded because their membership was renewed automatically – we refund that.

The third point is the Academic Department. Unfortunately, we had a resignation of Zinia Aurora in July, she resigned from her position. But later on, we appointed Eyrin as interim [VP for Academic Affairs], and she is running in this election today to become an elected VP for Academic Affairs. So, Eyrin Kyriakidi was a chair of the Political Theory SRC, and upon becoming a VP for Academic Affairs, she has introduced a number of projects, including Think

Tank, renewing SRCs, renewing online communications with our journals, and rebuilding A Different View [journal]. I also commend her work for the World Congress. She has done interviews to hire the team, and she's currently working on reviewing the abstracts. So, I would like to say a big thank you for her work, and the future of the Academic Department looks bright. The Academic Department is a pillar of our Association. First and foremost, it is an academic association, and providing academic good academic experience to our members is one of our biggest priorities. So, I'm happy to see it growing, and Eyrin and her team have been doing a fantastic job.

Now, onto the issues. We have had certain challenges in this mandate, which I'm going to report on right now. So, the reason why I'm giving this report is because I had to step in as President when Ginisha resigned. So, we had four resignations so far this mandate. I've already spoken about Zinnia; she resigned because she had a new full-time job. Ginisha resigned because she had multiple engagements, and she was unable to maintain her commitment to IAPSS. That resignation was probably the most hard-hitting because when the President quits, that's a major upheaval for any organization. And for our organization, that meant a transition from... I had to leave my role as Secretary-General and become President and start looking at the issues that have been left without attention, and all that takes time and work, and any resignation ultimately creates problems. We also had VP for Public Relations Nadia Al-Kabariti who resigned at just about the same time as Ginisha. She had a high academic workload; she had a degree in Europe where she had to travel to a new university every semester. So, that kept her very busy, and she was also unable to commit to IAPSS. And the next person we found after that was Rasha Hamade, who was actually from Montreal. She worked for a little bit, but then she found an internship here. There's a COP15 conference happening in Montreal right now, and that's where she's currently working. So, that opportunity seems better than IAPSS, and we are happy to see people go and do bigger things, but ultimately we are losing volunteers because volunteers are unpaid, and they have to do the work on top of their academic commitments as well as personal life. So, the challenge here, the question is, how do we structure the governance of IAPSS to keep it running, to keep it moving even if certain people end up quitting early? And this is something I want to discuss later in the discussion point "The Future of IAPSS". It does sound ambiguous, "The Future of IAPSS", but it's just to ask how can we do it better.

The second point is regions. Regions have existed for about four (4) years, coming on their fifth year, and they also faced this major challenge of a pandemic when they had to... they were started in 2018, but they were not able to host any in-person events, with the exception of IAPSS Europe who hosted a conference in Sweden. But other than that, the regions were forced to go online. Many of them did a great job. I remember when I was a Chair of USA and Canada Region, we collaborated with various regions, we did the UN75 consultations, we did a big online telethon, and there was a lot of work that went into it. But it's really hard, I think, to keep up this online engagement because people never met each other and IAPSS has always been about meeting people, talking, connecting, networking at the events, and just having fun after those events. And that just didn't happen. So, regions first did not generate much visibility in their local country, and in the countries on their continents. As you know, political science communities are run by students and they [regions] are still social media pages. Unfortunately, I

have to state that many of the regions are not active. So, the US and Canada region has a chair Elizabeth, she is helping us a lot, but she had to take over the region that was not really active the previous year. That's really hard to rebuild something from that. We also have IAPSS Africawhicht is, I think, the most active region alongside the IAPSS Europe. IAPSS Oceania went completely silent and we haven't heard in a while from IAPSS Asia and absolutely nothing from IAPSS Latin America. So, things are not going well, and this is an opportunity to ask questions: what should we do, how can we help regions, should we change our approach, should we redesign a regional approach? Should we perhaps return a role of VP for Regional Affairs? Roberto was just talking about how IAPSS Italy did not receive enough support which is because there's really no portfolio in the ExCom to look after the Regions. The role of the VP for Regional Affairs was removed a while ago by a vote at the General Assembly. Perhaps, it could return. But it's really sad to see the regional chapters not being active. IAPSS made the right choice by regionalizing. But perhaps we can reconsider that, re-examine how we do this, because of that unfortunate event, the pandemic that we had to go through.

The third interesting point is the required commitment from Secretary-General. As I had to step down from the position of Secretary-General, which I held for a year and a half, I just noticed how much work it is to keep up with the role. I did my best, but now I realize, connecting with the first issue of the high turnover; if a Secretary-General quits, that's a big issue. I mean, the organization cannot run normally, especially the IT part of it and the website. So much of what is online, and if a person is not there to do that, the organization is struggling. We had an issue with the International Political Science Association when the memberships they were selling were not accepted on our end because of the inactivity of the Secretary-General a couple years ago. So, all that is creating a lot of pressure on one person who has to do the job and so the question is what do we do with this person, what do we do with this role? I had an idea of hiring a paid intern for a couple of hours a week to do the essential technical upkeep, like the website, corporate documents, and so on. Or should they [Secretary-General] spread their workload among other roles? So, there can be many ideas on how we do this. But I want to make it better than it was for me before because I had to do a lot of things as a Secretary-General and I was happy to do it. But if there was someone else in my role who had to quit, that would have been a major issue for IAPSS.

So, that's the end of my report. I presented our accomplishments and our challenges. I am available to answer any questions, but please know that the discussion points in this report serve as future discussion points that we'll discuss later. There are two specific points about the future of IAPSS and the future of Regions. But if you have any questions about our work or the work that the Executive Committee has done, you can ask me.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, thank you. Do we have any questions or comments for Oleksii? Going once, going twice. Alright, so, I am going to invite a motion to approve the President's Report.

The motion to approve the President's Report was moved by Eyrin Kyriakidi, and seconded by Sanet Solomon.

5. Balance sheet by the IAPSS Treasurer

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: That brings us to the next item on the agenda which is the Balance Sheet by the IAPSS Treasurer, so I will hand things over to Crystal.

Crystal Staebell, Treasurer: Thank you for that. I'm a bit new, so forgive me if I end up going through anything. As of today, our total assets accumulated in Canadian dollars amount to \$7,636.20. Our total liabilities are \$2,411.60, leaving us with current retained earnings of \$5,224.60. So, we're not looking too bad at the moment. Do you want me to go through and give a total assessment of how we're doing as well or just the balance sheet?

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Go ahead.

Crystal Staebell, Treasurer: Alright, so overall at this point, it looks like we're doing pretty well in terms of our retained earnings. We have yet to be contacted by Federica about spending the money they've given us, so that's something to be determined in the future. Given that we intend to host more in-person events such as the Summer School or the World Congress, we are hoping to generate more revenue come mid-2023.

The membership and subscription system that we introduced in November is now benefiting us as people are starting to renew their subscriptions. If you look at the report, you'll see that we have a little less money compared to October. This is because we've had to send IPSA some funds. Given that you can purchase an IPSA membership alongside an IAPSS membership, we have to transfer any funds collected for IPSA memberships through our platform over to them. That's why we are seeing a little bit of a dip right there.

IAPSS has sold a few fewer memberships on the IPSA website than it normally would, but we are hoping to see that change in the future. That is all I have for updates.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you. Do we have any questions or comments for Crystal? I see Oleksii. Oleksii, go ahead.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: Just two clarifications. First, the liability is indeed \$2,411.60, but 98% of this amount, \$2,382, is funds received from Federica. We were supposed to send the delegation for their Summer School in Italy this September, but that did not come through, so the money is still unspent. I don't consider it as a debt since we are spending it on activities relevant to us, but it is their money and will eventually have to be spent. There's also a small payment we owe to Yasmin, around \$30, for a Crossref expense.

Second, we did sell fewer memberships on the IPSA website, but I have an insight into that because I work at IPSA. Every year IPSA does not have the World Congress, which is this year. The World Congress is held every two years, so there will be one next year. But because they did not have one this year, that means they sold a lot fewer memberships. So they actually have these ups and downs. A non-Congress year is a down. A Congress year is a major up. They actually have a similar structure to us, because a lot of people who are members of IAPSS are

members because they had to purchase World Congress memberships. That is a similar aspect of these political science associations. However, I remember when I had to do the reconciliation of memberships in 2021, we did not end up owing them any money, because we sold so many memberships on their website, our memberships, and equally they sold a lot of memberships on our website. So that's something to consider. Thank you.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Alright, so, are there any other questions or comments for Crystal? Going once, going twice. So, the vote is up there on the voting page and you can take a look at the Report on the IAPSS website on the main GA webpage.

6. By-elections – (candidate presentations, questions, and voting)

a. President

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: And this brings us to the next item on the agenda which is By-Elections. We have a few positions open on the executive committee. The first one would be the President. We have Oleksii running as the sole candidate. You can see Oleksii's CV and platform statement here. I know that Oleksii just gave a thorough president's report, but maybe I'll put a timer here for maybe three minutes. If you would like to say anything else, you're welcome to. If not, that's fine, and then we can have some questions.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: I think I should give a short statement, and people can ask questions if they want to. Much of it has already been mentioned in the President's Report. I will just say that, again, I did not intend to be President originally, but sometimes things like that happen. I have been in IAPSS for quite a long time, and I understand. I'm a little—well, not—I wouldn't say old, but I've been doing things. It's good to have other people take over and do things the way they see fit.

So, I really want to hand it over to the next generation of students. It's not my intention to stay here a lot longer. The ultimate goal for the next six months is to make progress on the issues I mentioned, which are regions, high turnover, and the role of the Secretary-General. Also, to hold a successful World Congress in Montreal, which will bring us new people who would be excited to keep it going.

So again, I'm not intending to stay here forever in this position. I want to do my best, but at the same time, I realize that in the future, someone else with fresh ideas should take over. To that goal, I will do my best to organize a good World Congress and attract new people to continue IAPSS.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, and are there any comments or questions for Oleksii? Bolu, go ahead.

Boluwatife Ajibola, IAPSS Africa Chair: Thank you very much, Oleksii. First of all, I really appreciate and commend your efforts, particularly standing in during moments when it was most important and needed. You've committed yourself to the cause of IAPSS over time.

My question, rather than asking about your plans or what you intend to do—I'm quite confident in your abilities to deliver—is about what kinds of specific help or support you anticipate from the regions in pursuit of your overall agenda and strategy for IAPSS. What would be your expectations from the regions? Just looking at how we could provide support for you in pursuit of those objectives, rather than focusing on what we can receive. So, that's my question regarding the regions.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: I understand you asked a couple of questions here. The first question was about specific action items. To that, I would say the goal is to make some progress in the few months I have here on the current issues mentioned in the President's Report. One of them is the regions. I really hope to do whatever I can to revise the regions or perhaps restructure them to help them fulfill their role of outreach and promote IAPSS in their areas.

Whatever challenges you have, I'm willing to tackle them. However, we also have to understand that my role involves overseeing the International Cooperation Department, and right now, I will be mostly involved with the World Congress in Montreal. So, I may not have as much time to devote to the regions. This is why we're launching this debate right now—I want to hear what's happening and what issues you are facing to help you out.

This is an ongoing discussion on how we can help. I'm committed to assisting in any way I can, but that requires cooperation. You know you can reach me anytime on Slack, as you already do.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, thank you. Bolu, does that answer your question?

Boluwatife Ajibola, IAPSS Africa Chair: Yes, quite excellently. It's just very important to understand what your expectations really would be. One thing that stands out would be the cooperation and being able to integrate very quickly with your primary objectives from this point going forward. We're very happy to support [you].

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Next up we have Sanet, the floor is yours.

Sanet Solomon: Thanks so much, Justin. I think mine is just a follow-up to the question that Bolu asked. I just wanted to find out, you mentioned that you wanted to restructure the regions. Can you briefly explain what that would entail so that we're just aware of the implications that such a decision may have?

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: there are no plans and no decisions yet you know I haven't well I thought about it extensively but I will not be proposing anything major so this is why there's a debate there's a talking discussion point at the end of the GA: how do we see the future regions I myself not suggesting anything at the moment I just want to hear people's

opinions and see what we can do within these six months and introduce legislative changes at the next general assembly that will make changes to by-laws and perhaps restructure regions but at the moment I don't have any calculated ideas which are why we will be launching the discussion at this GA.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Sanet, does that answer your question? Okay, thank you. Any other questions or comments for Oleksii? Going once, going twice. So, folks can cast their ballots online on the voting page and that will be open, as with all elected positions for three days.

b. Vice-President for Academic Affairs

That brings us to the next position that's open in these By-Elections, which is Vice-President for Academic Affairs. We have one candidate – Eyrin. Eyrin, you can have the three minutes, you're welcome to motivate your candidacy if you like.

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Interim VP for Academic Affairs: Thank you, Justin. Hi, everyone. I think since you're here, you probably have heard about my appointment and I won't go into detail about that. Instead, I would like to mention what we have done from September until today and why I would like to remain in this position, so we can wrap this up nicely and even do more projects for the team that we already have.

We have tried, as Oleksii said, to revive SRCs. We are introducing a new format for SRCs based on past experience. People, when they join, want to have a tangible concept to which they want to be introduced, so they will be able to follow a certain path and work on it.

We have created a think tank, Research Observatory Think Tank, which is planning to publish its first collection of briefs in mid-January. The briefs are actually already submitted and they are in editing right now, so please keep an eye out for that. We are very proud of everyone's work.

SRCs are still a bit complicated because we have to incorporate people all the time and whoever applies, we need to accept them because these are the IAPSS by-laws. But we are seeing fluctuations regarding what people want to see. For example, we have Lisa here from *Political Theory SRC* who compiled a brilliant report regarding what they have been doing in *Political Theory*. The *Political Theory SRC* is more inclined to do presentations and lectures where everyone is free to attend. Another SRC that compiled a report is *Asia and Oceania*, and they are more into writing academic papers and submitting them to journals and conferences.

In that vein, what we are trying to do as the Academic Department, and what we would like to do, is not just me, myself, and I, but we use everyone within the academic department, especially Reuben, who is the Deputy Head. We intend to keep supporting them understanding the different needs that people have and supporting them in that way.

We also are planning with Anna Diaz a summer school in Vienna under the topic of democratic backsliding in Europe. So, we would like some more time to keep working on that if everyone

agrees. For future cooperation with the regions, we would ideally like some participation on their part in events we are planning, but we are still open to discussions and recommendations. Thank you.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Alright, thank you so much. Are there any questions for Eryn? Going once, going twice. Alright, so I encourage you again, you can your ballot on the voting page.

c. Vice-President for Public Relations

And that brings us to the next position which is open in these By-Elections, which is the Vice-President for Public Relations. And we do have one candidate again, so that would be Keorapetse Modiba. So, Keo, you're welcome to motivate your candidacy and I'll give you three minutes just like the other candidate. Whenever you are ready.

Keorapetse Modiba, Interim VP for Public Relations: Okay, hello everyone. My name is Keorapetse Modiba, and I'm an international relations, political sciences, and media studies graduate at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa. I believe in using media as a political tool, one that continues to evolve feelings and drive change, along with long-standing practices of periodic expression. I believe that social change can be achieved through the use of the powerful media tool that we call social media.

I'm pretty sure a lot of you have noticed that our social media platform is not as present as we would want it to be, and our engagement is quite low. So, I'm hoping to increase that, marrying the two: arts and social media. IAPSS cannot only be a platform for networking with political science students but also invoke inspiring thoughts to our international community.

I call on every member, especially the political science students, to contribute to the media content. No matter how small the contribution is, whether it's caricatures, a short poem, or a song, we as members of IAPSS have the ability to inspire the minds of others to be drawn towards political change. A world of thinkers can be created from our media platform, and that is what I hope to achieve in my term as head of public relations.

My goal for the IAPSS community is to bridge the gap between the young and the old, the professors and the students, by nurturing the growth of both groups and exposing them to different perspectives, which is very important in politics. Creating access to these networks by promoting the hosting of public lectures will allow for a two-way conversation between the two.

Also, we have our very informative Digital Library. The YouTube space can be used as a source of reference in the future. I call on our students to join these conversations and benefit from these opportunities. Therefore, I believe in IAPSS reaching a social status where we can be proudly identified as a vibrant cohesive community that unites scholars and professionals and empowers the global community at large to engage in politics through the use of media and arts of info. Thank you.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you so much do we have any questions for Keorapetse? We have a comment [in the chat], “looking forward to seeing IAPSS on TikTok”. Going once, going twice. So, again, you can cast your ballot on the voting page on the website. I have decided to maybe do a five-minute break as we have been one hour into the General Assembly, so we are making pretty good progress. So we can perhaps take a five-minute break and reconvene... it will probably be at fourteen (14) in terms of the minutes after the hour in your time zone there. So, I will see you all in five minutes.

A five-minute break takes place.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Alright, so we are at our five-minute break here. I hope everyone was able to you know walk around, perhaps get some water or something. We have some good discussion here about social media as well in the chat, I invite folks to take a look at it.

7. Debate on the Future of Regions

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: And this brings us to our next item on the agenda which is just discussions or debates. So, no real motions but just talking about stuff. So, first up we have ve debate on the future of regions. So, Oleksii, I believe this is your point. If you'd like to start the discussion now, go ahead.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim IAPSS President: I have talked quite a bit already, so as I mentioned in the President's report, our regions have been facing issues partially due to the pandemic, and perhaps we have not done enough on our end from the ExCom to support and encourage growth. We are approaching a point next year where it will be five years since we started regionalization. However, the reality is that most of the regions are currently inactive.

We are also seeing more effort and interest in creating national associations. However, this approach is not necessarily beneficial because it leads to the creation of more associations on top of existing ones. This effectively means we have regions that are not active and we are branching out into even more associations before we manage to support the existing ones. While we welcome the creation of national associations when there is genuine motivation among current IAPSS members, at the moment we need to figure out how to proceed with the regions.

I will stop talking here because I want to hear from the representatives of the regions and other people's views. We can discuss this as much as needed. This is a space to further discuss any ideas. I will start the discussion by suggesting that we could perhaps have regional outreach officers under the VP for Programs. This way, there is no pressure for regions to create their own teams and maintain a whole regional chapter when they don't have the resources for it. If they are capable, they can grow into a regional chapter. So there's that idea, but if anyone has any points, we can proceed from here.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, so would anyone like to add to this discussion? You're welcome to raise your hand if you'd like to contribute, or you can also mention your ideas in the chat. Bolu, go ahead.

Boluwatife Ajibola, IAPSS Africa Chair: Okay, yeah, a good question. I think, well, it's quite the reality at the moment that some regions might not be achieving as much or performing as expected. But one thing I have come to realize over time is that a consistent challenge is getting a set of committed individuals who can drive the objectives at the regional level. If one is [not] able to achieve that goal of assembling a team of strong and effective committed individuals, there's actually not much that can't be achieved, to be honest.

For instance, speaking for Africa now. UIn that, we have struggled with individual commitments. But I can say that for the first time in a while, we've got a number of people who have really been committed to our objectives. What we have been trying to do is to ensure we put together a sustainable structure that can last some time and be something for subsequent administrations and tenures to build upon. The major point again is just being able to assemble a very strong committed team and not totally ignore the value of the regional chapter or the importance of strengthening regions. They can still go a long way in granting IAPSS visibility in every region. It's about seeing how we can further strengthen what they are doing and supporting the teams on the ground.

So, that's just the point for me. Even if things are going to be adjusted a bit, it wouldn't be good for us to eliminate the regional part of the structure because I think it's very fundamental to extending the global objectives of IAPSS at regional levels. If you know what I mean. For Africa, we just want to draft responsible teams that can work towards increasing visibility. One challenge we've had over time has been, for instance, language and time differences, which impede our ability to meet as often as we want to. Also, not being able to get representation from people who speak other languages commonly spoken in the region confines us to certain parts of the continent.

For the first time, we've got some members on the regional team who are bilingual and even some who speak more than two or three languages. So, one of our objectives is to see how we can further translate some of our content for these audiences. For us, I think we are in a good ape and we're hoping that in the coming months, we can really consolidate what we've been doing and get more responsiveness going forward.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, thank you. And next up we have Roberto, the floor is yours.

Roberto has connection problems and is inaudible. Justin invites him to write his comments in the chat.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Elizabeth, the floor is yours.

Elizabeth Lee-Abbey: Thank you, Justin. I just wanted to mention that I do appreciate the idea of having Regional Outreach coordinators or officers. I think this would minimize the difficulty regions have in trying to restart a regional chapter and also give the active regions an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment and efforts to growing their regions.

I see this particularly because as Regional Outreach officers, I assume that officers would be working more closely with the IAPSS Executive Committee as well, which would be beneficial for both parties to just remain updated on how regions are doing. This would aid in moving forward, I think, with knowing how regions should proceed to be structured, specifically if they should continue as Outreach coordinators.

I would also add that I believe beforehand, regions used to be able to meet weekly to provide updates on exactly how each region is doing and to have a sort of round table understanding of what other regions, not just our own, are progressing on. I think this would also aid in understanding how regions are doing and how they should be structured moving forward.

So, I just wanted to mention that I do appreciate the idea of having Regional Outreach coordinators or officers. Thank you.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, thank you. And Roberto, I see that you've rejoined. If you want to try speaking again, you can go ahead, or you're welcome to type your point in the chat, whatever you prefer.

Roberto Nugnes, Chair of IAPSS Europe: I just would like to briefly present this strategic plan that we had for IAPSS Europe and these short comments that we had identified with the regional branch and the opportunities that we have seen. Our experience is mostly based on our task experience at IAPSS Italy, as many people of IAPSS Europe have a background in IAPSS Italy or have participated in the project of IAPSS Italy.

When we got to IAPSS Europe, we thought that there were three main problems with the regions: there was no identity, no coordination, and no ambition. No identity, because IAPSS Europe did not have a social media presence, no ongoing independent projects, and no clear role inside IAPSS as a whole. On Instagram, which can be argued as the most important social network for the organization, IAPSS Europe has like 290 followers, which means literally half of what we have at IAPSS Italy, which haawa started like 10 months ago, while IAPSS Europe was created four years ago. That's just a clear problem that we have with the regions.

The other national branch in Europe is IAPSS Ukraine, which, despite its different status, works on its own. They are still like a national branch and they are by far the most active and most prolific association that we have at IAPSS. So in Europe, we have two national associations, IAPSS Italy and IAPSS Ukraine, and they both performed better than IAPSS Europe. And as I said, there is no social media engagement because there was no one that could use the so media.

There was no coordination, because, as I said, the two national branches have been able to organize events on their own and offer their members real value, which then explains the

larger and deserved social media following they both have. When I started working, there were no open channels of communication between IAPSS Europe and the branches, no form of cooperation in the region, and only the mentality of operating independently. This mentality obviously does not impact the national branches as they have a limited scope. When I raised my first motion, I did not receive any help from IAPSS Europe or IAPSS Global. All that we did, we did on our own and we have been extremely successful doing that. This mentality, however, is not the right mentality. It is not what a regional branch like IAPSS Europe should be [like].

Finally, there is no ambition. The final concept is just the result of these three points that I have just explained. With no real identity and ability to operate and with national branches that are more successful than the continental one, IAPSS Europe found itself in a limbo in which there are no reasons for its members and partners to remain part of the branch and even pay a fee for it, as what IAPSS Europe offers can be found more efficiently in national branches.

Just to give an example. In January, we are going to have the first event at IAPSS Europe, which is going to be with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This event with the FAO is only possible because we had already implemented the FAO collaboration with IAPSS Italy. We could get in touch with them just because we had a connection with IAPSS Italy. With IAPSS Europe, we could not have never done it. Also, with IAPSS Italy, we have had the possibility to involve many high-profile speakers, including members of parliament, directors of the FAO, and members of the Atlantic Council and Chatham House. I find myself struggling to find people as important as the ones I could get access to with IAPSS Italy because I don't have the tools for doing it with IAPSS Europe.

I am speaking as both President of IAPSS Europe and IAPSS Italy, so I personally know what is going on with both associations. IAPSS Italy at this stage is going a hundred times better than IAPSS Europe and with everything that I can do with IAPSS Italy, there is no sense in doing it with IAPSS Europe, because I don't have the tools for doing it with IAPSS Europe. And this is a real problem. This is why I decided in the first place to become the President to replicate the Italian experience elsewhere in Europe.

As I said to Oleksii and we have long argued about this, IAPSS Europe should be understood as a coordinating branch, focusing on the coordination of regional branches that should not be created by members of IAPSS Europe but by expanding the reach and scope of IAPSS Europe's activities through the network that we students can create. For example, if students in Spain are doing good things, they should be able to get in touch with IAPSS Europe to see what I can do. IAPSS Europe should then just supervise the creation of these branches and offer support, rather than being the sole organizer.

As I mentioned, I was leading the creation of IAPSS UK. I did not force those people to create IAPSS UK. I was just casually speaking with one of those and briefly mentioning IAPSS Italy and how well it was going. He said, "Wow, that's a nice idea, we should try to do this thing in the UK." So, then I was... [inaudible] I mean, I have been seeing the same problems with IAPSS Poland and IAPSS France. Both national branches, I mean, the people that would found both national branches are people that I don't know, but they're just not with me in the touch, got

in touch with me because they saw what we were doing and they were very interested in it. So, IAPSS Europe should then just supervise the creation. It would be nice if plenty of them would be successful. It's naive, maybe 10 will be successful, but still, 10! [inaudible]. I will just submit the entire strategy plan here, so everyone can read it.

Crystal Staebell, Treasurer: Hi there, thank you, Roberto, for that explanation. Please tell me if I am understanding you properly. Your proposal is given that IAPSS Europe is unable to coordinate to what you think is operational, you are proposing instead to have these European nation-level organizations to which you or other people are organizing, and then IAPSS Europe ends up taking a supervisory position instead of organizing any events itself and has limited operational control over these country-level institutions. Am I correct in what I am saying?

Roberto Nugnes, Chair of IAPSS Europe: It is more or less this in this way. IAPSS Europe would still keep doing its activities, projects, and social media pages. But IAPSS Europe should try to work with the national branches, events being done any collaboration, and everything should be done in collaboration. So that Europeans actually see the part of the movement which is [inaudible].

Crystal Staebell, Treasurer: I'm afraid I can't really hear what you're saying right now.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Maybe try typing it in the chat, if that'll help. Oleksii, I see your hand up, go ahead.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: Roberto, if I understood you correctly you're describing the model of ELSA, the European Law Students Association. The last time I checked on their website, that is kind of the model they follow. There is an overall association, the ELSA itself, that oversees local Associations, and it acts in a coordinating role. But I think every country in Europe has its Local Law Students Association, but they are left to their own devices and they're free to do whatever they want. So, I understand that is the model you're proposing. Okay, so there is the answer in the chat.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: What I guess folks can do is take a look at the European Law Students Association website if they'd like to explore that. Eyrin, go ahead.

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Interim VP for Academic Affairs: I also have a question regarding the comment that Roberto made about the membership fee. You said that there is no reason for members to pay a fee to IAPSS Europe. However, fees are not paid to IAPSS Europe, IAPSS Asia, or IAPSS Africa. They are paid directly to IAPSS Global if you will.

So, by someone in Europe, like you and myself, paying this fee, we automatically have access to everything within IAPSS, not just Europe or Italy, but everything within the Academic Department, everything within the PR Department, everything within the Programs Department that we're currently trying to run without a VP.

In any case, the fee is not paid for someone to participate in Europe; it is paid for someone to participate in everything. And hopefully, people know that. If not, we should really clarify it.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Are there any other points of discussion on this item? Going once, going twice.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: Am I understanding correctly that if there are no other people speaking, we finish the discussion point on regions?

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Yes, we move on to the next discussion in that case.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: Okay, well, then I will provide more insights because given that it's only time we really get together to speak, we could spend a little more time on it. So, I will answer the point about membership fees. Basically, I have spoken at length about diversifying the revenue for IAPSS, but as it stands right now, we primarily make money from membership fees and events. Events and membership fees have really kept us going these last few years, especially with two big virtual World Congresses. In any association, be it a professional association or a student association, it's maintained by people paying fees.

Again, there's a point in making them lower for certain countries, and we will work on that in January; I will make that a priority. But ultimately, it's pretty difficult for an organization like ours to have other sources of income outside of this. We really focus on getting grants, but non-profits typically have full-time paid roles focused on obtaining grants, and we have not been very successful in that regard so far. So, the membership [fees] really provide for the budget and allow us to have activities and pay for the infrastructure. I really do not see how that could be different because that's just the nature of an association: paying membership fees.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: I see Roberto has posted a strategic plan in the chat. so I invite folks to take a look at that. I am going to do another last call for points on this discussion. Eyrin, go ahead.

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Interim VP for Academic Affairs: I have another question since we're talking about National branches. Does that mean that someone who wants to become a member of IAPSS should, from day one, belong to a national branch? Or is it just for anyone who might want to participate? Because I really don't understand how this is supposed to work, and I would really like clarification.

For example, there are a bunch of us from many different associations within the academic department. We live in Germany, and none of us wants to have IAPSS Germany because this is not what we are in IAPSS to do, which is like studying, discussing, and writing, you know, all of that. So, how much room is left for us who do not want to do outreach for regions, who do not want to run social media, but just want to be in an academic environment with others and have no interest in national associations?

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Would anyone like to add to this or perhaps provide some clarification? I know that document might provide some details as well, we can perhaps include that as an appendix in the minutes, that might be a good way to go about that procedurally. Oleksii, go ahead.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: Another point, since I started speaking about ELSA, is that such a federal structure is certainly possible. Theoretically, we could have IAPSS Europe overseeing different countries in Europe, which would be IAPSS UK, IAPSS Poland, IAPSS France, whatever. Or we could apply the same model to Latin America or Africa, where Boluwatife would be overseeing IAPSS South Africa, IAPSS Nigeria, but he would be in kind of an advisory slash coordinating role. But what that means is that we really leave the performance aspect to local associations.

The last time I checked ELSA's website, for example, many of those divisions were inactive. The last updates were in 2016 to 2017, so there was very little, as I understand—I haven't worked at ELSA—but there didn't seem to be much accountability. So their national associations were doing whatever they wanted, and the quality of services delivered at the local level was actually lower. And perhaps it could have been better if ELSA A was a central authority, I don't know. But at the moment, IAPSS Global is accountable for the services we provide, and IAPSS regions are accountable to IAPSS Global. If you leave regions or national stations themselves, whatever IAPSS offers at the moment may deteriorate in those countries.

Sanet Solomon: Thanks so much. I just wanted to say that I don't think it would work in the African context. For example, in South Africa, we have the South African Association for Political Scientists, which consists of four political scientists in the country. So, whether you're a student or a senior professor, it doesn't really matter. You would just join different committees or research groups, and so on.

So, I think that while it may be applicable to other regions or may be able to work in other regions, I would not advise trying that in Africa because I know even Nigeria has its own Association, and so on. And I feel like in that sense, IAPSS would then be competing with the national associations, which is not something that we actually want to do.

So, I would say maybe for the African region, keep it as is and then encourage the people who work in those regions, because we have country coordinators for IAPSS Africa to then join or recruit people from those different countries, and that works for us. But if you are going to work at a national level, it's going to compete with the national associations, and I think that's not something we really want.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you. I encourage folks to keep an eye on the chat as well in case there are any questions there, you can type stuff in the chat. I am going do another last call for points on this discussion topic, and if we are good to move on we can move on to the next discussion topic. So, going once, going twice. You can obviously keep chatting in the chat about this.

8. Debate on the Future of IAPSS

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: We can move on to the next discussion topic which is debate on the future of IAPSS. So, I believe Okeksii has also added this to the agenda, you are welcome to start the discussion if you like.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: I'll make a short opening statement. The future of IAPSS is about how we want to structure the governance of our association. The by-laws, as we have written, have been tested with time, and evidently, some things worked and some did not. Actually, now we are talking about these national associations. IAPSS used to be an association of associations; there used to be no individual members. Members of IAPSS were associations, and that didn't work. They decided to depart from that and move to a different model that we have right now.

But in any case, the association is evolving and changing. What the pattern is and what we have seen so far, what I have seen so far, is a significant problem with people quitting at really the wrong moments, wrong time, when it is in the middle of the mandate, and that things have to be done, but people get all around when they quit.

There's actually a story of a chairperson, and we did interviews with her. Her name was Lana, I think, and her entire ExCom quit on her. There's the other one that I don't know which one exactly, but there were three secretary-generals that just changed one after another. So, what happens is very few people have to pick up, so there are like multiple times in history we can see that a couple of people picked up this and kept it going. Like now we have the core group at ExCom who does a lot of work, but this is not sustainable. I mean, we did have a President quit this year, and in a way, the safeguards worked. We're still around, you know, nothing collapsed because the President quit. But I'm seeing this, I'm feeling this, because I have to do a lot of work at the moment.

And if there is perhaps under other circumstances or with other people, there was a significant chance that the Association could collapse. And we should not take anything for granted that we have built. So, my opening question is, I don't know if there's a better model than the current Executive Committee consisting of six people, and General Assembly, and an Advisory Board. But howdoo resolve this problem of high turnover and frequent resignations, I would like to hear input on that.

Sanet Solomon: I just have a brief input. I think that a lot of the time people feel, especially if you have a position where you don't have a deputy, then you end up being burned out. But what I have noticed is it helps when you have tag teams, where you have a president for the region but you also have a deputy chair, because then they can help the chair, and then they rotate. That way each person gets to prioritize what they need in terms of the day-to-day responsibilities and so on.

So, I think that I would definitely say maybe not encouraging working in silos, having people team up, and then having your team rotate so that the same people aren't working all the

time so that they can tend to the other things in their life. Because if you have one person trying to drive something, then it might not work. The other thing I would say is maybe something that we can consider is just having ad hoc members who can help us out with certain tasks. I don't know if that is a thing, but I think it would be nice for each person to just have like one or two adult people in their portfolio. That can just help them run the day-to-day tasks for their portfolio. And then they also have like more time to spend in terms of other tasks and stuff. Okay, that was my input. Thanks so much.

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Interim VP for Academic Affairs: I want to say that I couldn't agree more with Sanet. Having a deputy is life-saving for all of us, and when there is no deputy, I think we can also feel the extra pressure. Props to Ruben here, he is not attending, but he's awesome. But even having a deputy doesn't guarantee that someone will pick up the position. For example, now Oleksii is doing the job of three people, four even: himself, his deputy secretary-general, and a secretary-general deputy. Even if there is a deputy, we cannot guarantee that this person would really want to step up and take even more responsibility within the portfolio. So, that is a problem that we are actually facing.

For some tasks within smaller things like an SRC, for example, or for certain tasks in regions, I see how that would work, how you can have a bunch of people cooperating on different topics, and you know, you could have ad hoc members helping out. But for the ExCom, this is slightly different. And I believe that there is a sort of disconnect, perhaps, between the ExCom and the larger pool of volunteers that we can try to bridge. I do believe that this may also have happened because of COVID and because, as Oleksii says, beforehand there haven't been any in-person events where people could meet. Even though I also appreciate a lot of the online work. But yeah, that's a really big issue that we're facing right now, [inaudible].

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: The point of deputies is highly valid, and we have seen people running in elections after their supervisor or the main ExCom member decided not to continue, but their Deputy continued. They ran in the election and replaced the ExCom member. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't – having deputies as a safeguard against resignations. Oftentimes deputies do not really expect anything bad to happen; they have not been around IAPSS long enough to know that people sometimes randomly resign. When I was Secretary-General and I had to become President, my deputy just resigned because she said she would not be able to handle the workload. So that's a real story that happened a couple of months ago.

Perhaps, this is the issue that could resolve itself once we start meeting. Having more in-person events. There will be a lot more interested people who want to hold new positions and keep things going. Also, the problem that Eyrin mentioned with the connection between the ExCom and everyone else will also, in a way, disappear because people will just start meeting each other more. But yeah, having a deputy is a 50-50 chance, a 50-50 safeguard.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Would anyone else like to speak? I have been informed that I can speak too.

I guess at this point, our strategy a few years ago in terms of the long-term stuff was to try to bring IAPSS to a point where we would have organizational stability, to the point where we could transition volunteers to paid staff. So people could be compensated for their work in IAPSS. Obviously, this is still a very long-term goal, but maybe there is potential with various grant opportunities and other things that we looked at when we were moving the association to Montreal that might be available in future years. I know it's still a long shot, but that is what a number of student governments around the world are able to do. They do have a much better record in terms of retaining team members.

With the previous discussion, I guess it would be important to never underestimate the potential of in-person events, especially after COVID-19. Through some of my other involvements, I have had some in-person events, and there's been a lot of engagement even among graduate students who aren't very active in extracurricular activities. So, there is obviously this professional need to present at a conference and stuff, which will always be there for students who are looking to go to the next level of education or even looking at academia or relevant professional fields. But there's also that social element, which should not be underestimated either. During the most challenging times in IAPSS' history, those events have kept people together. And it has got engagement to keep going from those.

I know before COVID, we were trying to do a regional event, one region every year, and we tried to alternate that. It didn't happen as planned. We did do some online ones during COVID. But yeah, it might be interesting to just even if you have a conference and send out a call for papers to different universities in your region, you might be surprised at how much engagement you receive. That might lead to discussions about national associations, about people running for various positions, or volunteering. So building that community at the grassroots level was very important.

I see we have some more stuff in the chat as well. Yeah, I guess obviously we're looking to the future, right? So it's, I think as long as we keep making progress, then yeah, you never know. But just to keep that in mind that potential that, you know, if IAPSS had all the political science students as members, it would be much different in terms of organizational capacity.

But would anyone else like to contribute to the discussion? Going once, going twice.

9. Other Business

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, so this brings us to other business. Are there any announcements or other business that folks would like to raise?

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Interim VP for Academic Affairs: I would like to take a moment to show some special appreciation to certain people who are here and to some who could not attend today. Except for the exponent, who has been doing a lot of work these past few months, Lisa is here, and she has been vital to my personal mental health for the past couple of years I have been at IAPSS. But I mean, she is also doing amazing work, and she is also helping out a little bit with the World Congress. Elizabeth is also rather amazing in the way that she keeps helping

everyone with work. Sanet and Bolu are doing such a good job with all of the events that they are planning and organizing in Africa. Two more people, Reuben, would not join today because he has some personal things he has to deal with. He is my deputy, and he has been planning so many things within the academic environment. Overall, a great person to have. And [inaudible], who was the previous chair of the Political Theory SOC, has been terrific at managing people within the team.

Oleksii Zahreba, Interim President: Two points. First, I also want to express appreciation for the ExCom. We have stuck together through many challenges in the last six months. I really hope the next six months will be somewhat less challenging, and we will show the results of our work. I want to thank Crystal and Eyrin for sticking it through. Keo just joined us recently, but I also thank her for her commitment. She has been learning a lot recently about running things, and she is learning really quickly. So, we do have a good team.

Second point, we are organizing the World Congress, and I will be sharing that in the General Slack channel. Please promote the Call for Papers in your universities, share it with your teammates, friends, and anyone else who is doing political science research. It's a good opportunity to participate in such a conference. We tend to be quite open in terms of how we accept abstracts. It is not too hard to get accepted as long as you are trying, and we try to give a chance to everyone. So please promote the Call for Papers for the World Congress.

We are considering having virtual panels and virtual components for the Congress. It would not be hybrid, but it would just run virtually to allow greater participation. So, not everyone must come to Canada, given it's quite far. The World Congress tends to attract more people from the local area, so we will have people from the United States and Canada this time.

Thank you so much for coming today.

Sanet Solomon: I was planning not to send an abstract for IAPSS because I thought, what's the point? But now that I know they will allow for virtual [presentations], I will ask if I could... Yeah, then I will submit an abstract because then it will be part of the conference.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: We definitely encourage folks to submit abstracts for the conference, even if folks are tuning in on the live stream. Yeah, and also, you know, it's good to reach out to your school. If you have a local Political Science Student Association, you can get them involved as an association member, which gives all of the students in political science at your school a discount when they sign up.

10. Adjournment

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Alright, so I guess we can move on to the next point on the agenda, which I think is adjournment. So, as we have exhausted all the items on the agenda here, we can conclude the meeting at two hours and four minutes after the starting point. Yeah, we see some stuff from the chat about National associations. It'd definitely be great to get them involved as a Partner Association member.

Alright, thank you, everyone, for joining us, and we hope that you have a good rest of the year. And if there's anything you need, the ExCom is available. Their emails are on the website there. And I imagine many of you are on Slack as well. So, stay in communication, that is one of the most important things when it comes to running an international organization.

So, it is good that we're having these discussions about the future and how to move forward. So thank you, everyone, for your thoughts on this and for participating in student democracy here. Take care and have a great rest of your day.

The 36th IAPSS General Assembly adjourned at 9:58 EST, (15:58 CET).

General Assembly Zoom Chat Log

00:11:02 IAPSS: The General Assembly Committee nominees: Oleksii Zahreba, Justin Patrick, Crystal Staebell

00:11:30 Crystal Staebell: I'll give the financial report.

00:12:06 Eyrin Kyriakidi: Second

00:28:10 Oleksii Zahreba: Voting ballot:
<https://iapss.org/general-assembly/december-2022/vote-ballot-of-the-36th-iapss-general-assembly/>

00:30:09 Oleksii Zahreba: Please note that you have to log in to the website to be able to vote.

00:30:16 Roberto Nugnes: I can't vote, but for honesty, i won't vote for this motion

00:30:18 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: That makes sense

00:30:23 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Thanks so much

00:35:43 Oleksii Zahreba: Second the motion to approve the minutes

01:08:32 Justin Patrick: 30 seconds

01:12:17 Justin Patrick: 30 seconds

01:12:25 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Looking forward to seeing IAPSS on Tiktok

01:12:37 Eyrin Kyriakidi: 😊

01:13:30 Keorapetse Modiba: That is the goal ! To reach the students 😊😊

01:14:34 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Please! Let us retire FB

01:14:44 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: The youth isn't there anymore

01:14:59 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Plus reels, shorts and Tiktok videos are so fun

01:16:37 Keorapetse Modiba: FB will definitely bring in the Professors 🤝 we are not leaving anyone out but we definitely need to branch into short video content we will definitely see more students engaging with IAPSS

01:17:38 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: LinkedIn should not be overlooked. More senior academics are there.

01:21:18 Crystal Staebell: agreed

01:21:43 Crystal Staebell: to Bolu's statement

01:22:00 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Totally agree

01:41:05 Roberto Nugnes: i honestly don't know if this model is closer to the one of Elsa 😊

01:42:36 Roberto Nugnes: people know that, and people still think it's too much

01:43:57 Roberto Nugnes: wrong file

01:43:58 Roberto Nugnes: sorry

01:45:56 Crystal Staebell: I concur with that sentiment.

01:47:52 Roberto Nugnes: eyrin what was your question?

01:49:33 Crystal Staebell: I agree on the competition point.

01:50:04 Eyrin Kyriakidi: @Roberto: Whether members would have to belong to a national association in order to be in IAPSS, and if yes, what about those of us who have no interest in national associations, outreach, PR etc.

- 01:51:19 Roberto Nugnes: the goal is not the one of creating competition, please do read the strategic plan
- 01:52:57 Roberto Nugnes: you can be member of IAPSS without being a member of the national branch, when we created IAPSS Italy we saw that there were already a few italians in the association, we reached out to them and they did not want to join IAPSS Italy
- 01:53:10 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: This unfortunately won't work for our region (Africa) as we have national associations
- 01:54:47 Roberto Nugnes: Africa is different from Europe and Europe is different than both Africa and Asia, we should have a different strategy for each region. every region present its challenges and opportunities and this requires different strategies
- 01:55:03 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: I agree
- 01:55:07 Roberto Nugnes: I'm not here to say what Africa or Asia need, i'm just saying what Europe needs
- 01:57:28 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Historical hand
- 02:01:13 Oleksii Zahreba: The paid positions are such a long-term goal that it always seems out of reach, at any given point in time. Looking at previous statements and balance sheets IAPSS tends to have very high ups and very low downs in financial teams.
- 02:02:11 Oleksii Zahreba: terms, not teams*
- 02:06:11 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Virtual is greaf
- 02:06:15 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Great
- 02:07:50 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: If we are allowing hybrid, I would love to encourage our national association
- 02:08:59 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Bye!!!!
- 02:09:00 Elizabeth Lee-Abbey: Thank you!

Appendix 1, IAPSS Europe Strategic Plan 2022/23

IAPSS EUROPE STRATEGIC PLAN 2022/2023

INTRODUCTION: THE STATE OF IAPSS EUROPE

In September 2022 the new board of IAPSS Europe (hereinafter IEU), coordinated by the elected Roberto Nugnes, met for the first time in order to set the goals and objectives for this term, to discuss roles and responsibilities of each member and to define a unified way of working. But before the board could start working to reach those goals it had to come to terms with the state of IAPSS Europe which can be condensed with three key concepts: *no identity*, *no coordination*, and *no ambition*.

1. No Identity: at the time this report is being written, IEU has no social media presence, no ongoing independent projects and as the board realized, no clear role inside IAPSS as a whole. On Instagram, which can be argued as the most important social network for organizations such as ours, IEU has a following of circa two hundred and eighty, almost half of the Italian national branch and a fifth of the Ukrainian branch, the most recent activity on the page is dated April 30, circa five months prior to the institution of the new and current board. This lack of social media presence and of reach ensures that IEU has no space of its own to operate, even for the smallest of projects, thus making it a failing organization.

2. No Coordination: as briefly mentioned above, in Europe, there are currently two national branches that are incredibly and admirably more successful than IEU, IAPSS Italy and IAPSS Ukraine, which have been able to organize events on their own and offer their members real value, which then explains the larger and deserved social media following. Now, when the board started working there were no open channels of communication between IEU and the branches, no form of cooperation in the region, but only a mentality of operating independently. This mentality obviously does not impact the national branches as they have a limited scope and thus will not overstep the competences of their European counterparts, but for a *continental* branch, or one that aims to be, the lack of coordination and cooperation is the recipe for incredible inefficiency based on competition, with the national branches, that IEU would most certainly lose.

3. No Ambition: this final concept is a result of the two points priorly explained, with no real identity and ability to operate and with national branches more successful than the

continental one, IEU found itself in limbo, in which there are no reasons for its members and partners to remain part of the branch and even pay a fee for it, as what IEU offers can be found more efficiently in national branches. Hence, leaving the organization in a state of uncertainty, with undefined goals and projects, but rather working just for the next day, which to be bluntly said would have not lasted for long.

RESTRUCTURING

The board, yet has decided to take part of this project, to take up responsibilities and to give its time, resources, and efforts to IAPSS Europe. In terms of *modus operandi*, there are two future scenarios that can be followed to decide how the board will work in the term to come. The first is simply to maintain the status quo, to operate as it has been done so far, to continue on this path of mediocrity, without initiative and ambition, which would most likely end up in the failure of any events that IEU will launch independently due to its non-existing reach and ability to operate. The second scenario, and the one that the board is keen on following, is about restructuring and reshaping. Understanding the branch's limits but also working to achieve its potential, using its resources towards limited but fruitful projects and taking inspiration from the success of IAPS Italy and Ukraine.

GOALS AND AMBITIONS

This report will follow with the ways the board has designed in order to adhere to the second and more positive path of action.

1. REBRANDING AND REVITALIZING

Reformulating, IAPSS Europe has no following as such no independent events can be thought of as being done successfully due to the inability to promote them, without events IEU cannot offer to its current members and partners anything that would allow the continuation of the relationship with them or attract new ones. At the same time, in the continent, there are very successful branches that are able to organize their own events and attract new members, much more successfully than IEU has ever done.

As such IEU must change its role, it should not compete with national branches nor limit them. It should aid them in their success and allow for further improvement and growth. IEU should be a platform that allows cooperation between national branches, enable communication with them and sponsor events among them. More practically this means managing contacts and working as a coordinator between branches, offering new ideas

and inputs for cooperation to the national boards and even become a channel for cooperation with IAPSS Global or branches from different continents. For example, in the case that IAPSS Italy and IAPSS Ukraine, as said before the most successful branches in the organization, intend to make a joint event, IEU would be the tool through which this can be done successfully by supporting in all the phases of the process, from allowing the communication between the two to contacting guests and partners as a sole entity of bigger influence.

If this is achieved it would also mean that in the as of the need, from IAPSS Global, to organize a European event, such as the winter school, IEU would also have the tools necessary to use the already working national branches to organize said event, such as using their social media influence to promote it and having their members as participants.

2. GROWING

If we were to stop IEU's activity to this first initial paragraph there would still be no initiative from the regional branch, it would only be based on the activity of national branches, hence no real ambition would still be found. That's why the board has set as long term objective the transition of IAPSS Europe into a platform for the birth, development, and support of new national branches in the continent, which have shown to be the powerhouse of the whole institution.

This idea has been misinterpreted before as being IEU the founder of new branches, this is not the intention of the board. The board sets its vision to create an environment in which new and *independent* branches can foster, by spreading the word in new countries, by showing what the association has to offer and how it can be achieved. It would also mean providing the concrete tools through which a branch can develop, and coming back to what has been said before, IEU can make sure that new branches are known and recognized by the others already existing by enabling communication channels between them, in order to seek advice or simply inspiration.

As we have nothing new to offer (independent events) we shouldn't look for our own students members, the members should be the national branches (concept of hierarchy) whom are able to offer to the students real value

With this change of action and identity, there would be no need for IAPSS Europe to have student members, especially if they are paying a membership fee, as IEU would no longer offer them any real "products". With this scenario in mind, the members of IEU are the national branches, whom will receive benefits from their "membership" (no fee

intended) which will allow them to reach more paying members that will actually receive something in return.

3. STABILIZING

Not relating to IAPSS, but any successful board of any organization knows that part of their job is to ensure continuity, and this is also part of the goals set by IEU's board.

The board knows that not everything will be achieved in a term, and most importantly the support to the new branches must not change from one board to another as such the current board must provide the next the tools and instructions for future development and progress. It must allow them to work with a stable base that enables them to aim for new projects, improvements and expansions, rather than having to waste time and resources on fixing new problems and inefficiency. In terms of time scheduling this will be of course part of the final goals of the board but there have already been proposals on how to achieve them based on the difficulties that the board has found in the beginning of its new operations, for example:

- define clear role and responsibilities in order that when a new person joins there are no uncertainties on what his or her tasks should be,
- set up, update, and pass on contacts of the different branches in the region and outside, of partners and institutions collaborating with the association
- establish guidelines that channel the boards activity in order to ensure continuity not only in the results but also in the methodology, allowing for a stable and organized environment

THE ROLE OF IAPSS GLOBAL AND THE NATIONAL BRANCHES

Of course, the board knows that it does not operate alone, there are different levels in the association as a whole, and a such a change in IEU might require a change in also the different levels, as such the board would like to conclude by directly addressing IAPSS Global and the national branches

- IAPSS Global needs to understand that the transformation and the new goals are for the benefit of the institution as a whole. More functioning branches means more student members, granting more influence and stronger network to the entire association thus allowing for more and better events

- The national branches need to be open for collaborations by adopting an international mindset, their ambitions should not be limited to their national boundaries, they need to realize that in their work they have access to a whole continent and to colleagues all over the world whom are following the same interests and objectives