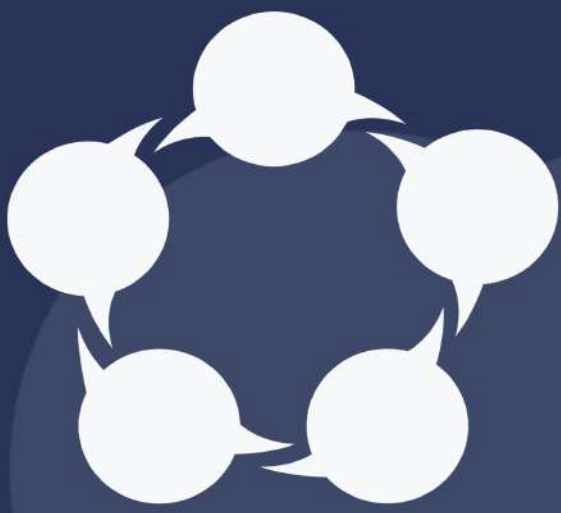




Political Science Students Without Borders



The Mission Statement and Strategic Plan
as an Outcome of the Vision 2022 Project
of the International Association for Political Science
Students (IAPSS)



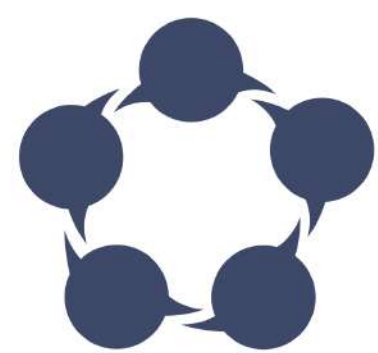


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Introduction

Dear Reader,

Charles de Gaulle's words, "Politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians" seems to ring more truly than ever before. Whether we look at the tremendous acceleration of human technological advancement, new challenges towards mobility under globalization, or at growing complexities and challenges to ideas like justice, equality, or freedom, the world needs experts. As the International Association for Political Science Students we should go a step further and claim: we need a new generation of experts who are equipped to meet these challenges.

Our vision for 2022 depicts a well-negotiated and representative summary of our key goals, values, and actions for the association. As an association representing political science students around the world, we recognize and appreciate that those who study today will soon be known as the leaders, scholars, activists, and public policymakers of tomorrow, as well as those new in their careers who are effecting change in the present. We strive to unite all of these voices not only by providing a platform to connect, but also offering a unique set of academic and other professional opportunities within our association. The 2022 Vision offers a clear and passionate insight into what we are working on and how we are reaching our goals.

Since the first European student associations came together in the late fall of 1998, IAPSS has seen incredible development while always maintaining the core of its identity: financial and political independence. This has enabled IAPSS to maintain its role as fully democratic and transparent association with full accountability. For our more than 600 individual members we continuously develop established and new academic opportunities, thereby encouraging academic excellence as a key to find new solutions to the pressing questions of today and tomorrow. One of those challenges that remains is global student access to academic discourse. IAPSS advocates full academic freedom and equal access to knowledge for students now as well as in the future. Having this in mind, it is crucial to us to contribute to the empowerment of underrepresented and marginalized groups based on socioeconomic status, ethnicity, gender, and any other basis of discrimination.

The vision represents a new chapter in terms of professionalizing and standardizing our relations with members, volunteers, and partners. We are convinced that this well-negotiated and balanced vision will transform IAPSS into a more responsible, sustainable, and outstanding student association and look forward to continuously nurturing and amending this vision.

On behalf of the Association,



Tobias Scholz
President



Jennifer Yi
Vice President

Mission Statement

Our Mission

IAPSS is a global community of political science students and junior scholars advocating and enhancing the voice of our members to strengthen the capacity of future thinkers, policy makers, and civil society leaders in finding sustainable and innovative policy solutions and expanding the limits of knowledge.

Our Vision

IAPSS will be a thriving globally inclusive platform promoting and representing our student generation's sincere belief in democracy, cooperation and international understanding.

Goals

Nurturing a Global Community

Establish communications with political science students and student associations in all global regions and connect them to the IAPSS network.

Shaping a Participatory and Regional Spirit

Develop regional networks to provide support to local political science professional development events and initiatives.

Establishing Global Recognition

Establish partnerships with key organizations in the field and create quality content that expands the limits of knowledge.

Creating Opportunities

Establish partnerships with key organizations in the field and create quality content that expands the limits of knowledge.

Values

Emancipation and Empowerment

Support efforts to overcome obstacles facing students around the world and empower them to become the next generation of experts.

Academic Excellence

Support the continual enhancement of political science education and help political science students across the world excel in their studies.

Academic Freedom

Support all political science students' access to full participation in academic discourse.

Democratic & Transparent Governance

Maintain an organizational praxis that reflects the kind of democracy and transparency we want to see in global society.



Goals

1. Nurturing a Global Community

Actions

- Identify and report on data trends to assist membership recruitment initiatives and help with membership recruitment campaigns.
- Create incentives for participation and encourage active membership.
- Utilize insights from Google Analytics to aid our membership campaigns.
- Implement a thriving alumni network.
- Maintain independence from financial and political influence.
- Demonstrate reliability and efficiency to our professional partners.

Objectives

- Increase number of individual members by 10% per year.
- Increase number of IAPSS association partners by 20% per year.
- Increase number of participants in IAPSS events by 10% per year.
- Publish an internal evaluation of partnership efforts by the end of each year.
- Reach out to 20% more faculty/departments by the end of each year.
- Increase the outreach of event promotion by 5% per year.

2. Shaping a Participatory and Regional Spirit

Actions

- Increase on-the-ground initiatives through regional networks.
- Establish strong, long-term partnerships in each IAPSS region.
- Develop sustainable networks of political science students, academics, etc.
- Implement a regional structure with a more direct-democratic, innovative and target-oriented body.
- Diversify activities in line with IAPSS vision and mission in each region.
- Pursue activities and programs in all six regions by 2022.

Objectives

- Increase the number of IAPSS-affiliated events by 5 by the end of each year.
- Increase the number of universities with at least with 1 IAPSS representative (ambassadors) by 15 globally by the end of each year.
- Increase the number of national student associations affiliated with IAPSS by five annually.
- Establish 3 reliable partners in each region by the end of 2022.
- Launch at least two annual recruitment campaigns per region until 2022.
- Develop a structure for regional democracy by 2020 and refine it each year.

3. Becoming a Visible Actor in the Field

Actions

- Develop long-term communications infrastructure to establish a dialogue with as many relevant organizations as possible.
- Offer opportunities to recognize student work through partnerships in dialogue with IAPSS' main partners.
- Establish, maintain and further develop productive and mutually beneficial partnerships.
- Use analytics to exhibit long-term trends to assess the capacity of recruitment, communications, and other trends.
- Cooperate with senior scholars and partner organizations.
- Create more public impact through more joint ventures with partners.

Objectives

- Publish annual internal reports including data on the size and specific targets of email lists and overall communications infrastructure based on analytics of long-term trends.
- Initiate at least four collaborative projects with senior scholars by the end of the year.
- Create at least two new opportunities recognizing the work of students, in cooperation with a partner by the end of the year.
- Introduce a higher engagement on social media including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.
- Create a structure for an Advisory Committee by the end of the year.
- Develop resources to help empower member associations to establish local partnerships by 2021.

4. Creating Opportunities

4.1 Creating opportunities for volunteers

Actions

- Generate interdepartmental and inter-branch networks for empowering members of other branches of IAPSS in their professional efforts.
- Cultivate a more friendly and open environment for everyone involved.
- Maintain supply and demand balance in all activities.
- Encourage academic creativity, freedom, and innovation.
- Introduce webinars, workshops, and presentations for board members and as educational materials.
- Create an internal communications strategy to foster a strong internal network.

Objectives

- Establish a formal platform and have a regular series of webinars, workshops, and presentations for board members by the end of 2022.
- Introduce a regular 'meet the editors' style meeting (incl. online form) or a webinar series on academic publishing specifically tailored to Politikon by the end of 2022.
- Create interactive and direct channels for volunteers to learn on non-profit management, leadership skills, and other organizational training useful to the volunteer and to the association.
- Develop manuals for all rules and procedures including a comprehensive starter kit.
- Introduce obligatory and standardized volunteer agreements for every position.
- Create holistic certificates for each volunteer at the end of the mandate and further develop other direct benefits for IAPSS involvement.

4.2 Creating opportunities for members / activities

Actions

- Make the SRC membership less bureaucratic and more inclusive.
- Offer more publishing possibilities for and through SRC members.
- Empower members through presenting and connecting them online and offline.
- Systematize and consolidate the procedure for offering letters of recommendations to the best-performing Board members and academic affiliates.
- Position IAPSS as a key player between universities, workplaces and political organizations.
- Conduct member surveys on all programs.

Objectives

- Increase SRC membership by 50% by 2022.
- Professionalize and increase publishing formats by 2022.
- Introduce recognition mechanisms by 2022.
- Introduce structured certificates for reviewers by 2022.
- Establish an abstract management system, which harbors abstract and paper archives for the IAPSS conferences (all within MyIAPSS) by 2022.
- Implement online opportunities of communication for all members by 2022.





Values

1. Emancipation & Empowerment

Actions

- Increase the diversity of members, ensuring equitable gender ratios and regional representation.
- Promote academic freedom.
- Increase the diversity of speakers and guests.
- Institute funding, particularly for marginalized and underrepresented student groups.
- Develop fundraising strategies to support underrepresented student groups.
- Advocate for increasing accessibility and quality of political science education for all.

Indicators:

- Internal publication of Diversity and Equality Report.
- Developing a Funding Report indicating how many students are supported by the end of the mandate.
- Developing an advocacy strategy by the end of the year and update it each year.
- Developing a fundraising strategy to support underrepresented student groups within IAPSS by the end of 2021.
- Developing a comprehensive report on the challenges currently facing academic freedom and outline possible solutions by 2022.

2. Academic Excellence

Actions:

- Promote the academic exchange of research.
- Develop an Open Journal System (OJS) for IAPSS publications.
- Introduce new publishing formats including review essays and response articles.
- Standardize the Academic Excellence Award procedure through the IAPSS Academic Committee.
- Strengthen and promote the SRCs as the easiest way for IAPSS members to get involved.
- Indexing – Crucial for the standing of the journal. The website transfer slowed it down significantly but as soon as the OJS is on, the next steps to be taken are: completion of the Advisory Committee, submission of applications (roughly in this order) to DOAJ (assistance of the website team needed due to high technical demands of this database), IBSS, Scopus, Web of Science (ESCI). Significant time investment and hence assistance would be needed, so possibly an 'indexing specialist' (senior editorial assistant or editor) can be considered.
- Cooperate with senior scholars in the Advisory Committee, partner organizations and elsewhere.
- Position IAPSS as a facilitator of knowledge not taught in universities.
- Oppose censorship and raise awareness on the issue.

Indicators:

- Reporting and evaluations of delegations.
- Increasing active SRC members by 10% per year.
- Ensuring the submission rate, rejection rate, indexing, referencing to the journal, and access statistics gradually increases rather than decrease.
- Developing and implementing an author satisfaction survey.



3. Academic Freedom

Actions

- Encourage research on academic freedom.
- Publish statements when academic freedom is threatened.
- Publish statements highlighting positive political development for academic freedom.
- Publish an annual summary on the status of academic freedom around the world.

Indicators

- Establishing a line of communication between the Council of Regions and the Board for updates on academic freedom.
- The IAPSS Regions are assigned to report about academic freedom in their regions to Board.

4. Democratic & Transparent Governance

Actions

- Use existing knowledge of student government systems to provide ideas on how to help IAPSS develop as a financially sustainable, robust democratic organization that continually improves upon itself in the long term.
- Implement regular mechanisms for IAPSS members to provide feedback on the organization.
- Review the efforts of Diversity and Equality Committee.
- Implement accountability structures for people in their positions // non-response protocol.
- Foster an inclusive atmosphere for the participation for all active members.
- Prevent internal politicization.
- Make decision making and finances publicly accessible.
- Strive for financial stability.
- Keep the board compact and functional.
- Maintain SupCom as an advisory body.
- Professionalize accounting of the organisation.
- Move toward financial sustainability through structural funding.
- Diversify sources of income.
- Professionalization as creating paid positions.
- Implement quality and evaluation management.
- Publish ethical guidelines and values.

Indicators:

- Maintain a zero budget or surplus.
- Well-working, easily accessible and informing website.
- Implementation of well-working Online Gas.
- Substantial annual reports of 2018, 2019 and 2020 finished, including financial administration (a balance sheet and the turnover).
- Functioning reviewing mechanisms for self-evaluation in all areas.
- Inclusiveness, participation, transparency and accountability, competence division.
- Publish financial reports and audits on the IAPSS website.
- Publish meeting minutes save for in camera meetings on the IAPSS website.