The 37th General Assembly of the International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS), May 2023
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 in a hybrid format via Zoom from Montréal, Québec, Canada.

Attendance

1. Adebobola Omowon
2. Anne-Marie Paszkowska
3. Anthony Rolando Medina Rivas Plata
4. Augustine Aboh
5. Benjamin
6. Boluwatife Ajibola
7. Chimdinma Chijioke
8. Crystal Staebell
9. Dany Moudallal
10. Dennis Amable
11. Dhruvi Bharat Shah
12. Eby Johny
13. Elizabeth Lee-Abbey
14. Evin Demir
15. Freddy Alpala
16. Irina Shekerova
17. Javid Rahimli
18. João Guilherme Benetti Ramos
19. Laila Abo El-Enein
20. Lawrence King
21. Lisa Carroll
22. Maria Wilkinson
23. Nahum Fernando Hernandez-Gallegos
24. Nestor Aranibar Campero
25. Nofil Sohail Malik
26. Olivia Ifeoma Onyemaenu
27. Oscar Nazario Rocca
28. Phoebe Holt-Reiss
29. Ruben Pretorius
30. Sanet (née Madonsela) Solomon
31. Santiago Andres Ullauri Betancourt
32. Soumyadeep Chowdhury
33. Thiruppathi P
34. Vishavdeep Singh
35. Winston Wee
Agenda

1. Call to order

2. Approval of the Agenda and General Assembly Committee

3. Report of the IAPSS President (needs a vote to approve)

4. Report of the IAPSS Treasurer (needs a vote to approve)
   a. Financial Statement 2022-2023
   b. Draft Budget 2023-2024

5. Report of the IAPSS Advisory Board (needs a vote to approve)

6. Legal Framework Amendments and Motions – click here to access the Motions Package
   a. Motion to amend the by-law on Student Research Committees.

7. Elections – (candidate presentations, questions, and voting)
   a. President
   b. Secretary-General
   c. Treasurer
   d. Vice President for Academic Affairs
   f. Vice President for Programs
   g. Vice President for Public Relations
   h. Advisory Board Members (3)
   i. IAPSS Africa Chair
   j. IAPSS Asia Chair
   k. IAPSS Europe Chair
   l. IAPSS Latin America and the Caribbean Chair
   m. IAPSS Oceania Chair
   n. IAPSS US and Canada Chair

8. Other Business

9. Adjournment
Recording link
https://youtu.be/yN65XmiGPw8

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: We will call this meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. By participating in this process, you are contributing to about a thousand-year tradition of student democracy. It is very important that we come together and make decisions as a group. This is to ensure that the student voice continues to be heard in the future.

2. Approval of the Agenda and General Assembly Committee

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: The first motion we have is the approval of the agenda and the General Assembly Committee. The agenda is on the page, there is an opportunity here to add or change items to the agenda. Additionally, the General Assembly Committee consists of three people: I [Justin Patrick] as the chair, facilitating the meeting, we have Oleksii Zahebra helping with the website, and a secretary assisting with Zoom and live streaming.

I will now invite a motion to approve the General Assembly Committee and mention the names and roles of each member.

Oleksii Zahebra moves the motion to establish Oleksii Zahebra as the website coordinator, Justin Patrick as the chair, and Elizabeth Lee-Abbey as the administrative assistant to the General Assembly Committee. Chimdinma Chijioke seconds the motion.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you. Is there any debate or discussion on this item? Going once, going twice. Seeing none, we can move to a vote. First, all in favor? We will count: nine, ten, eleven. For those online, please raise your hand if you are in favor of approving the General Assembly Committee. I am seeing ten in favor online and eleven in person, for a total of twenty-one. Thank you. Please lower your hands. Now, all opposed. Any opposition? Going once, going twice. Crystal, is that a legacy hand or are you opposed to the General Assembly Committee members?

Alright, no opposition. Any abstentions? Going once, going twice. The General Assembly Committee has been approved.

Next, we move to a motion to approve the agenda. Do we have a mover to approve the agenda? If so, please raise your hand virtually or physically.

Eyrin Kyriakidi moves the motion to approve the agenda. Laila Abo El-Enein seconds the motion.
Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Moved by Eyrin, seconded by Laila. Is there any discussion or debate on the approval of the agenda? Going once, going twice. Laila, do you have a point? No? Thank you. Seeing none, all in favor? If you are in favor online, please raise your virtual hand. Keep your hands up if you are in person. I am seeing fourteen in person and ten online, for a total of twenty-four in favor. Thank you, you can lower your hands. Now, all opposed to approving the agenda. Please raise your hand virtually or physically. Going once, going twice. Any abstentions? Going once, going twice. The agenda has been approved.

3. Report of the IAPSS President (Needs a vote to approve)

[Click here to access the Report of the IAPSS President]

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: This brings us to the next item, which is the report of the IAPSS President. At this point, I will let Oleksii speak and present the report. It is also linked on the page, so if you open it up, you can see it there as well.

Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President: Thank you, Justin. I'll be brief. You can read the report for yourself. I will just do a quick summary and explanation behind my points. It is pretty short, I like to keep it organized with just enough information about what is going on and highlight what is happening at the organization. I presented a report at the December 2022 General Assembly. It's only been half a year, but much of this time was focused on preparing for the World Congress. We were focusing on organizing the World Congress, so there are four main accomplishments. The first one I won't speak too much to that, the fact that you are all here is a testament to the success of the World Congress in Montreal, our first in-person Congress in a while. We were worried about how it would go, but overall, we think it went pretty well. Consider that an accomplishment.

The second one is finances, bureaucracy, and digital infrastructure. Before IAPSS was in the Netherlands, it was a bit of a nightmare in terms of submitting papers, getting bank accounts, adding new directors to the organization. Canada is very different. We moved here two years ago, and it has been much easier to make changes, manage the bank account, and we finally have a credit card. That's a big improvement from where we used to be. We do not have any debt, we are generally in good financial health – the draft budget as well as the current financial statement will be presented by Crystal Staebell, our Treasurer. We are not struggling for money, and we weathered the pandemic, which was really important. Our regular income, primarily from in-person events, is back, and hopefully, we will be able to put that money to use to promote political science among students worldwide.

Finally, digital infrastructure is also much better. We have a new website, which is more informative and detailed, and there are archives of our previous events. We hope that future generations will know much more about what we were doing here.

The next accomplishment is academic departments, and this is a credit to Eyrin Kyriakidi. A lot has been done to revive that department. We have a think tank, student research
committees are active again, new articles are being published in A Different View blog, and there is a new editor-in-chief for Politikon.

Finally, we have partnerships, and these partnerships are really bringing IAPSS a lot of benefits. Specifically, Concordia University has provided us with the venue to hold this Congress. The International Political Science Association (IPSA) is our premium partner, and they are providing us with financial assistance to help our members go to their World Congress. We remain in continuous contact with various student governments around the world and continue to sign new partnerships.

Overall, much to be proud of, much to celebrate. Our members are doing excellent work. There are, of course, challenges and issues. We have received feedback about a lack of communication between ExCom and the rest of the organization. We will try to establish more feedback sessions and more regular meetings to keep the rest of the organization in touch.

IAPSS is quite ambitious with its goals. We do all this work here, hosting multiple events, but unfortunately, we cannot afford to pay people. We run by volunteers and there is not a single person that receives a paycheck. Some are paid, but most are unpaid. We do it because we love political science and love to be part of the student community, but many people join and quit a few months later because the workload is quite heavy.

As for regions, some are active. Unfortunately, when they were created, just the year after the pandemic started, there was never really a chance to host in-person events. There was never a chance to create political science communities in the region. Some are better than others, but most of them are not handling so well and need to be revived or relaunched.

Accessibility is a concern. Many people fly in for this Congress, but it's really not affordable. We try to make it more affordable, but there are still costs of flights and accommodation. We offer scholarships and travel grants, but it would be nice to have funding from NGOs to give back. At the moment, we are self-funded, so all the money that we give to you comes from memberships and events. On top of that, if we want to help other students, we would have to attract external financing.

That is a brief overview of the report. If you have any questions, Justin will facilitate them.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Thank you so much, Oleksii. You have heard the report, hopefully, you have had a chance to read it in advance. Are there any questions or points of discussion regarding the report of the IAPSS President? Going once, going twice… I see a hand up there.

**Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs:** That was my hand, that was me.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Go ahead.
Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs: Oleksii is praising everyone, but we also need to praise him for doing a brilliant job and stepping in when we really needed him to. A round of applause for Oleksii, he needs to take credit for the great job that he has done.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Alright, so are there any other points of discussion on this item? Okay, I'm seeing some applause hands there. Okay.

Alright, seeing there are no further points of discussion, we will move to a vote to approve the report of the IAPSS President. For this item, we have to go to the webpage on the General Assembly, and we have three days to cast votes. As we mentioned, you need to log in with your IAPSS membership and click at the top of the General Assembly page where the voting ballot is located. I encourage you to cast your votes for the report of the IAPSS President. In the meantime, we will move on to the next item on the agenda, which is the report of the IAPSS treasurer.

4. Report of the IAPSS Treasurer (needs a vote to approve)

a. **Financial Statement 2022-2023**

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Now, we will move on to the report of the IAPSS Treasurer. There are two parts to this, so I guess we will start with the financial statement. Crystal, I'll hand things over to you.

Crystal Staebell, IAPSS Treasurer: Hello, everyone. I am also the treasurer because why not? To give a quick summary of what has been going on financially: Given that we have been doing virtual events for the past two years, that has been beneficial financially speaking because we have been able to accumulate our finances while not having to deal with the expenditures that come with an in-person conference. Nevertheless, we are switching over to an in-person format, so that means we are able to offer more scholarships, more funding, and have the finances to fund such opportunities.

The financial statement that we have, as of May 1st, our total assets, which include cash, payments, World Congress tickets (which tend to be our biggest source of financial stability), YouTube, and our bank deposits, have totaled to $19,500, roughly. Our liability totals to $2,400. The statement should be made available, I believe, Oleksii, you can amend that statement if I am incorrect.

Financially speaking, we are in a very strong position. We are expecting, given our estimated budget for the 2023-2024 year, an income of roughly $2,200 Canadian dollars. Our expenses, which include World Congress fees, scholarships, summer/winter schools, and other finances, should lead us to about $15,000 to $19,000. It very much depends, meaning that our total overall budget is going to total to anywhere between $5,000 to $3,000. It's all expected, nevertheless.
Any updates, otherwise, like Oleksii said previously, our greatest and frankly our nearly sole source of income is solely from IAPSS World Congress, which is our biggest financer with all the tickets that we sell. But we are looking to, as per usual, expand the grants, to try to seek external funding that can offer us more of that financial opportunity to build bigger events for all of you.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Okay, thank you so much for that report. At this point, we will do a quick call for any questions or points of discussion on the financial report of the IAPSS Treasurer. Going once, going twice... Okay, just like with the report of the IAPSS President, you can cast your vote on the IAPSS website via that vote ballot link on the General Assembly page.

**Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President:** The votes are added as we progress through the General Assembly, so they will not be visible at the same time. As something is reported or candidacy is presented, then the vote option appears. You will have to refresh the page as we proceed through the assembly.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** That is a good point. If the vote is not appearing immediately, just refresh it a few times and it should show up. That is because they are added one at a time because sometimes amendments are put forward and we have to program them into the website as we go along.

**b. Draft Budget 2023-2024**

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** So, that brings us to the next item here, which is the draft budget for 2023-2024. Crystal, I know we shared the one report, is there anything else you'd like to share regarding the draft budget?

**Crystal Staebell, IAPSS Treasurer:** Any specifics regarding the draft budget: The budget includes our insurance fees, website maintenance, it's accommodating for the summer and winter school, we have our insights for onsite physical materials, whether it be flyers, pens, notebooks, and any financial assistance and finally, scholarships and travel grants now that we're going to be resuming in-person events. Those will be included in our expenses while the income is supposed to be coming from membership fees, we have the various staged memberships based on which country you are coming from and for how long you would like to be a member for, we have the association fees, event fees, and we have merchandise fees.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Alright, well thank you so much. Are there any questions or points of discussion regarding the draft budget for 2023-2024? Going once, going twice... So, there's a vote to approve the draft budget on the IAPSS website as well.

**5. Report of the IAPSS Advisory Board (needs a vote to approve)**

[Click here to access the advisory board report.](#)
Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Now, we move on to the report of the IAPSS Advisory Board. If there's anyone from the Advisory Board who would like to present their report, you're welcome to take the floor.

Leah Rachel Rea, IAPSS Advisory Board Member: I'm happy to do so. I'll give a quick synopsis as I know the report is available online. My name is Leah Ray, and on behalf of the Advisory Board of the 2022-23 mandate, I am delighted to present our report to the conference today.

The report is framed around three provisions: (1) An overview of our work as members in this mandate. (2) Our assessment of the association's financial administration, as just outlined by our outgoing Treasurer. (3) Our recommendations arising from the operation of the association and its executive committee during our mandate.

Regarding our operations in this mandate, I would like to note that we were pleased there were no matters requiring our involvement. There were no issues around violations of our governing rules and procedures, no requirements for investigatory operations, and no concerns regarding disciplinary actions.

The report states that, notwithstanding the absence of any investigatory or disciplinary matters, we advise the incoming executive committee to consider its wider engagement with the Advisory Board, in light of the roles and responsibilities outlined in the association's bylaws and wider policies.

In terms of our assessment of the association's financial management, I would like to state for the record that any provision or documents relating to the financial administration were provided to the board in a timely manner by the outgoing Treasurer. The Treasurer has also been available for any further information or data we required. As we have seen today, the financial reports and other documentation are clear and up-to-date, accurately reflecting the association's financial position. We also acknowledge the work and efforts of our outgoing Treasurer in compiling both the financial report and the draft budget.

For the incoming executive committee, we recommend ensuring the financial stability noted today is maintained and that the long-term financial standing of the association remains a priority.

Lastly, we have a set of recommendations for the incoming executive committee, outlined in more detail in the report, but for the record and for those in attendance today:

1. Communication and Engagement: Make full use of social media channels and the website available to the association.

2. Competence of the Advisory Board: Advise that the incoming executive committee and the Advisory Board meet at the commencement of the mandate to discuss the roles and competencies of the Advisory Board.
3. Ongoing Engagement: Recommend ensuring a proactive engagement and communication channel between the executive committee and the Advisory Board.

4. Financial Management: Recommend designing and implementing a long-term plan for fundraising. This aligns with the interests and observations of the outgoing Advisory Board, as noted in both the President's report and the outgoing Treasurer's report.

I am happy to take any questions and present this report to the conference for your consideration.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** All right, thank you so much. At this point, we'll open it up to any questions or points of discussion regarding the report of the Advisory Board. Going once, going twice... Okay, so the vote to approve the report is also on the link on the IAPSS website.

**6. Legal Framework Amendments and Motions**

[Click here to access the Motions Package](#)

a. Motion to amend the by-law on Student Research Committees.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Next on the agenda, we have legal framework amendments and motions. On the General Assembly page, there is a link to the Motions package. I encourage everyone to read through it.

We have one motion on the agenda: a motion to amend the bylaw on student research committees. I'll ask for a mover and a seconder for this motion.

**Crystal Staebell, IAPSS Treasurer:** I'll move.

_Crystal Staebell moves the motion to amend the bylaw on student research committees._

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Okay, moved by Crystal. Is there a seconder? Please state your name for the record.

**Maria Wilkinson, IAPSS member:** I second.

_Maria Wilkinson seconds the motion to amend the bylaw on student research committees._

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Thank you, Maria. This motion is seconded by Maria Wilkinson. Now, we open the floor to any points of discussion or debate. If anyone would like to speak on this motion, please raise your hand, either virtually or physically.
Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President for Academic Affairs: I can provide an explanation on the motion and the recommended changes, unless everyone has had the time to read through the package. Should I go ahead?

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Yes, please go ahead.

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President for Academic Affairs: This motion incorporates feedback from the chairs of the SRCs (Student Research Committees) and my own experience running an SRC. We've noticed that many people are excited to join SRCs, but they often don't stay active long-term. This has led to very large SRCs with up to 45 members, which is unmanageable. With this motion, we aim to ensure that chairs can work effectively and efficiently.

We recommend that if members are not proactive in their SRCs, the chairs, after following a specified process, can remove them. People can rejoin, but we suggest they be more thoughtful about their commitment when reapplying.

Regarding elections, there are often questions about when they should be held and for how long terms should last. I propose we hold elections in September to have a set date. Holding them earlier in the spring is not ideal as the ExCom is changing, and the new head of academics needs time to acclimate. Additionally, an SRC chair should be able to serve up to three terms to allow more people to gain experience, which aligns with the term limits for ExCom members.

Most importantly, we propose that SRCs adopt semester themes, such as "ancient Greek politics" for the political theory SRC, to focus their work. This topic would be agreed upon by the majority of SRC members who vote on it.

Finally, SRC chairs currently must report their activities during the Winter GA, but the Winter GA does not always take place. We propose moving this to the Semester GA to ensure their work is consistently reported.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you, Eyrin. Are there any other points of discussion on this item? Going once, going twice... Seeing none, I invite you to cast your votes on the IAPSS website for this motion.

7. Elections – (candidate presentations, questions, and voting)

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: We now move to the elections part of the agenda. At this point, we will invite the candidates to provide motivational statements for their nominations, followed by a brief question period after each one.

a. President
Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: First up, we have the election for President. If you scroll to the bottom of the General Assembly page, you can see the candidate CV and platform statements for each person running. I encourage you to read those documents.

We have one candidate for President: Oleksii Zahebra, who is running for re-election. Oleksii, please come up and address the assembly.

Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President: Thank you. You've heard me speak a lot this General Assembly and this conference week in general. My platform statement is brief, just a couple of pages, and my CV is available online. I'm finishing my Master's Degree this year, hopefully by this time in 2024. I've been involved with IAPSS since 2019, which has been a significant part of my student career. This is my first in-person IAPSS event due to the pandemic, and it’s wonderful to finally meet everyone in person.

My main focus for the next year, if re-elected, will be on the three pillars of IAPSS: events, academic opportunities, and volunteer opportunities.

Events: We plan to organize more events outside of Europe and North America. Our goal is to make the association more accessible by hosting events in various regions, including North America and Asia.

Academic Opportunities: We will continue working with our academic team to strengthen the academic component of our association. We focus on research and providing opportunities for students to present and publish their work.

Volunteer Opportunities: We aim to increase volunteer opportunities and establish a Secretariat here in Montreal. This would provide a more professional and stable structure for IAPSS, supporting the Executive Committee while maintaining its independence.

This will be my last mandate, as I believe in passing the torch to the next generation to ensure fresh ideas and continuity. My goal is to prepare the association for future leaders. I’m happy to take your questions.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you, Oleksii. Are there any questions for the candidate? If you have any questions, please raise your hand or use the virtual hand raise feature.

Dhruvi Shah, IAPSS member: Given that this is the first time the Congress is held outside of Europe, how do you plan on working with the regional chairs to grow the association overseas?

Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President: Thank you for the question. The goal is for regions to become autonomous and self-sustaining. We support them by providing financial support, logistical support, and volunteers to help organize events. While we want to aid regions as much as possible, we also respect their independence and cultural context. Our support will
help them develop their own executive committees and organize local conferences, thus fostering regional growth.

**Nahum Hernandez, IAPSS member:** Are you planning any travel or virtual arrangements to attend regional events or conferences outside Canada?

**Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President:** This is the last major event planned in Canada for the foreseeable future. We aim to host more international events, particularly outside Europe and North America, to increase accessibility. Local events in Montreal will be more focused on partnerships with local universities and not targeted at an international audience.

**Anthony Medina Rivas Plata:** How do you plan to improve relations with Concordia University now that IAPSS has an office here?

**Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President:** Building relations with Concordia University is a priority. We've been in touch with graduate and undergraduate political science associations, but it's a slow process, especially since we only moved in March. Establishing a permanent presence here will help, and we aim to sign memorandums of understanding with Concordia to integrate their students into IAPSS as associate members.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Are there any other questions? Going once, going twice… Seeing none, thank you, Oleksii. You can cast your vote for the IAPSS President on the IAPSS website. It’s a yes, no, or abstain vote, as there is only one candidate.

This brings us to the next item on the agenda, which is…

**b. Secretary-General**

Next have the position of Secretary General. We have one candidate running for this position, Soumya Deep Chowdhury. Soumya, please take the floor whenever you're ready to motivate your candidacy.

**Soumyadeep Chowdhury, IAPSS member:** Good day, everyone. I am Soumyadeep Chowdhury from Kolkata, India. I am currently a master's degree student in Political Science, having completed my bachelor's degree with a gold medal from the University of Kolkata. I specialize in Indian politics and have published several book chapters, journal papers, and articles on this topic, including contributions to the London School of Economics and Australian National University blogs.

I have been associated with IAPSS for the last few months, currently serving on the Student Research Committee for Asia and Oceania. I am also a course instructor for an upcoming online course on Indian democracy. My experience with IAPSS may be new, but I have over three years of administrative experience in student events and academic conferences. I have served as the chief editor of my college’s student journal and as the chief convener of events, including international conferences with over 500 participants. These roles have equipped me with the skills to manage financial matters, sponsorships, and budget allocations effectively.
My primary responsibility as Secretary General would be to oversee general administration and IT management. I believe this role aligns with my skills and experience. Post-pandemic, organizations face new challenges, and I am confident that my fresh perspective, combined with the experience of the current board, will help us achieve our goals. Together, we can ensure that political science knowledge transcends barriers and reaches people worldwide. I humbly submit my candidacy for Secretary General and look forward to contributing to the growth of IAPSS.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair**: Thank you, Soumyadeep. Are there any questions for the candidate?

Nahum Hernandez, IAPSS member: I would like to know more about your political experience in international organizations and student associations. Your CV indicates experience mostly within local or national contexts. Could you elaborate on any international involvement you have had?

**Soumyadeep Chowdhury, IAPSS member**: Thank you for the question. As I mentioned, I have been involved in organizing international events and conferences, which required collaboration with various international student associations. Although my direct involvement with organizations like the UN may be limited, my roles in organizing and managing international academic events have given me significant experience in international collaboration and administration. This position will further enhance my exposure and ability to work on a global scale within IAPSS.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair**: Are there any other questions for the candidate? Going once, going twice… Seeing none, thank you, Soumyadeep. Please cast your votes for Secretary General on the IAPSS website.

c. **Treasurer**

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair**: We will now continue with the election for the position of IAPSS Treasurer. We have one candidate running, Soumyadeep Chowdhury. You’re welcome to take the floor and provide a motivation statement for your candidacy.

**Soumyadeep Chowdhury, IAPSS member**: Hello everyone, hope I’m audible. Like I already introduced myself, I'll not venture further but outline my goals as your possible Treasurer. My understanding of IAPSS as an organization goes back at least the last four to five years from friends, associates, and professors who have served as SRC chairs. Pre-pandemic, the flow of funding was far better than now. Searching for new sources of funding is vital for any organization's survival. Fiscal administration and discipline are key. As we evolve into a post-pandemic world where offline events and interactions are becoming a reality, searching for new funding sources will be the priority. As Treasurer, it will be my primary goal to look for new funding sources, collaborate with external organizations, and control current expenditures to make funding efficient. This will ensure more scholarships and funding for events, benefiting the organization and its members. Thank you.
Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you. Are there any questions for the candidate? Please raise your hands and come to the microphone.

Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President: Hello, I just want to ask about your fundraising strategy. How do you plan to establish a strategy involving reaching out or applying for grants?

Soumyadeep Chowdhury, IAPSS member: Increasing membership is a primary source of funds. We will make open calls for funding and consider applications based on the best interest of the organization and its participants. Specifics will be considered after reviewing agreements offered.

Questioner 2: You've applied for two positions, each requiring 20 hours a week. How do you plan to manage the time commitment if you are elected to two positions?

Soumyadeep Chowdhury, IAPSS member: This will be a challenge. Both roles have synchronization, involving general and fiscal administration. As Secretary General, I would act as a link between the president, vice presidents, and other organizations, ensuring democratic processes. As Treasurer, I would ensure fiscal discipline. I believe I can manage both roles.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Just to clarify, if a candidate runs for both positions and is elected to both, they have to pick one.

Dennis Amable, IAPSS member: Did you read the recommendation to apply for one position? Between the two positions, which are you most qualified for, and what are your most outstanding skills?

Soumyadeep Chowdhury, IAPSS member: If you ask for my preference and skills, I feel more qualified for the position of General Secretary, which deals with administration and management. As Treasurer, I have experience in fundraising and managing events. Combining my personal and professional experience, I believe I can effectively handle either role. My preference is the General Secretary role due to my administrative experience.

Crystal Staebell, IAPSS Treasurer: I have a few questions. Firstly, regarding your statement on an open call for funding, what do you mean by that? Secondly, about applying for both positions, do you understand the time commitment? Lastly, what is your past experience with fundraising, especially for international funding?

Soumyadeep Chowdhury, IAPSS member: Regarding the open call, we will reach out to organizations and consider case-by-case funding opportunities. My fundraising experience includes national-level conferences and events, managing thousands of participants, and dealing with various funding sources. For long-term strategy, we need to assess current revenue and expenditure to enhance efficiency.
Lisa Caroll, Chair to the Political Theory Student Research Committee: Following up on Crystal's questions, could you clarify your experience with grant applications and building long-term financial partnerships with organizations?

Soumyadeep Chowdhury, IAPSS member: I have experience applying for personal grants for research projects and have organized funded events. Combining these experiences, I aim to develop a long-term funding strategy that benefits the organization. My experience over the last 3 years would help me as the Secretary General, should you ask for my preference.

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President for Academic Affairs: Could you describe a specific funding strategy you have implemented in a past conference?

Soumyadeep Chowdhury, IAPSS member: Recently, I organized a conference at my university in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Funding was partly from the ministry and partly from local publishers and advertisement agencies. We managed to fund the entire event successfully through these efforts.

Augustine Aboh, IAPSS member: Why didn't you attend the conference in person or at least present a paper, considering the sensitivity of the Secretariat role?

Soumyadeep Chowdhury, IAPSS member: I joined IAPSS in March, after the application deadline for the conference. I chaired two virtual panels and am involved with IAPSS as an SRC member and online course instructor. I am also applying for the editor position for your political journal.

Dennis Amable, IAPSS member: If you get elected to both Treasurer or Secretary and editor, how will you manage all these roles along with other commitments?

Soumyadeep Chowdhury, IAPSS member: My role as editor is yet to be confirmed. However, I have managed similar roles in the past, handling memberships and administrative duties for large organizations. I believe I can manage these commitments effectively due to my experience.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you. Are there any other questions for the candidate? Going once, going twice. All right, the ballot should be available on the IAPSS website. I encourage you to cast your vote there.

d. Vice President for Academic Affairs

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Moving on to the next item on the agenda, which is the election for Vice President for Academic Affairs. I see one candidate, Eyrin, who is rerunning. Eyrin, the floor is yours whenever you're ready.

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President for Academic Affairs: Great, thank you. Hi everyone, good morning, afternoon, or evening, depending on where you are. My name is Eyrin. I may have spoken with some of you who are participating in person. I'll give you a brief overview
of how the department was run in the previous year and focus mostly on my plans for the next mandate.

This year, we focused on restructuring and reinforcing several structures in the IAPSS Academic Department. We have new teams working on all three publications. The SRCs are doing great, with a steady stream of quality output, thanks to the chairs. The think tank is working on its second round of quality papers and working papers. We also resumed in-person activities like the World Congress we just attended and are planning more in-person events for 2023.

Given this background and that the past year was a steep learning curve, here's what I would like to work on for the next mandate:

i. More in-person events, predominantly outside of Europe and North America. We need to engage with other regions without abandoning Europe and North America.

ii. Develop a wider academic administration team. We could use help to run the research part of IAPSS and the administrative part of the academic department, especially with upcoming events.

iii. Launch an education program starting July 2023, comprising master classes and workshops. These workshops aim to be free of charge to all IAPSS members, providing training opportunities regardless of socioeconomic background.

iv. Continue the work of the think tank. The project has been met with enthusiasm and expanding it would benefit both the organization and the analysts.

v. Build stronger SRCs in cooperation with the chairs. There are changes that I believe should be made, and it is my understanding that the chairs agree. We should take their opinions into consideration and work towards supporting them more efficiently.

vi. Establish regular feedback sessions. We held one last week, but it would be best if these sessions were more frequent to understand the needs of both frequent volunteers and more distant members.

Before concluding, I need to thank the people who have made running the academic department possible. You know who you are. Thank you very much for your work. I really appreciate and value it. And to the people in the GA, thank you for participating and for your time.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Thank you. We'll now open the floor to questions for the candidate. Please come up to the microphone.
**Anthony Medina Rivas Plata:** Hi Eyrin, I am Tony. What proposal do you have to increase cooperation between the student research committees and the regional chairs?

**Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President for Academic Affairs:** Nice one. For the student research committees and the regional chairs, it depends on whether there are SRCs that can actually work with the regional chairs. For example, it wouldn't make much sense to enforce the Latin American chair to work with a political theory SRC if there isn't much connection. However, there is always room for participation in our academic events. We are trying to have an event in Latin America, and in that sense, the regional chair and team would be a great help in organizational and academic aspects if they have the expertise to participate.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Thank you. Are there any other questions for the candidate? Going once, going twice. All right, the candidacy for Vice President of Academic Affairs is on the IAPSS website. I encourage you to cast your ballot for that position.

### e. Vice President for Programs

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** That brings us to the next item on the agenda which is Vice President for Programs, and I'm seeing three candidates here. So, the first one, Anne-Marie Paszkowska. The floor is yours to motivate your candidacy.

**Anne-Marie Paszkowska, IAPSS member:** Thank you so much. Dear members of IAPSS, participants of the Congress, and friends, perhaps a new family for me. First, I wanted to address a few things that Crystal said before about grants. I consider it to be highly competitive because I'm working as an analyst and I'm writing grants every day. However, there are specific contests that we can participate in to get the funding. Just a side comment. Then, to address something that Eyrin just said, feedback is very important, and since working at the Swiss-American Startup, I realized that the best method here, which I'm lacking from these just few days that I was observing on how you guys work, is I think the good choice would be an agile system of project management. Perhaps you are using certain elements but hearing that the feedback sessions are rare makes me think that it would be better to implement some other things too. So, a lot of you just met me and I guess most of the things like conferences that I was participating in or certificates that I have, you can just look up in my personal statement or my resume.

I will be short. I think what should be highlighted is that I'm planning to do my PhD here in Canada so it will be easy to work across multiple time zones. Then, I did present my research paper a couple of hours ago. Thank you for those who made comments and those who participated as well as panelists. I think that because I'm new at IAPSS you might have mixed feelings, like why is this girl running, it's been only a week. Seeing the things that should be improved and knowing that I can use the skills that I already have to do it makes me feel needed here but also makes me feel like I am responsible for or helping you because I'm already a member and with this fresh perspective and seeing those small details that might be improved. Also, with this transnational management background I can support the future agenda of nationalization perhaps of the association but also by streamlining and equipping
the organization with the right tools and methods to improve this project management. I was overseeing multiple events and projects, and I am eager to use this knowledge here. Also to wrap up, I think it's important to foster the environment where each member is heard, each member is valued and inspired, and we can bring it to the new level. Thank you.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you. If you're able to, if you have any questions, I'll invite you to come back here when you do your response but I'm seeing some questions in the chat here about so the deadline for candidacies has passed already so there could be a by-election, there will likely be a by-election or another general assembly in the future where the vacant positions, there will be elections for those so folks can run for those at that time. Are there any questions for the candidate? Go ahead.

Anthony Medina Rivas Plata, IAPSS member: Hello, it's me, Tony again. First, I would like to say that even if I only recently know Anne-Marie, that I know this is the first event she's participating in on IAPSS, I know that she has an excellent professional and academic skills and that she has developed here and for me, it was a very good experience to hear her presentation in today's panel and her comments in another panel. I think that because of the professional experience that she has for fundraising and financial managing I think that she could participate in other positions that requires more responsibility because I think her experience is very important for us. So, I would like to propose her as a treasurer for IAPSS.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Alright, I guess that's not really a question, but we can wait, as there are byelections and other items after this.

Dhruv Shah, IAPSS member: Is there any way that we can call a motion to switch to does he like to ask a candidate to move to a different position?

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Unfortunately, our bylaws don't allow it, so I am forced to rule, no, as the chair. However, if you challenge the chair and there is a two-thirds majority vote to overrule my ruling, then it could be possible. There's been a challenge to the chair.

Maria Wilkinson moves to challenge the decision. Dhruv Shah seconds the motion.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, if this passes, Robert's Rules would require two-thirds majority vote of those who are present, in which case you can overrule the decision and we can proceed with the switch of the candidacies. For this I also must step away as the chair.

To be clear, the ruling is that given what the bylaws say, once the deadline for candidacies has passed you cannot switch or change your position. There has been a challenge to the chair to try to change a position after the candidacy deadline. If it passes, the will of the students would be to allow the candidacies to change after the deadline. For this challenge to the chair, I will need someone else to chair the meeting, which would go to the president of IAPSS to chair.
**IAPSS member:** I would like to clarify with if Anne-Marie is interested in the position that has been nominated.

**Anne-Marie Paszkowska, IAPSS member:** I might be 100% devoted when it is 15 hours however I know that the positions mentioned require more time. I would also need more time for consideration and for thinking about this. However, I would leave it for the attendees to decide that I am the right person, and for this I would find time.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** To the Mover and Seconder, does your motion still stand after the candidate’s statement?

*Maria Wilkinson and Dhruvi Shah confirm their motion still stands after Anne-Marie’s statement.*

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Okay, Oleksii, it’s your turn.

**Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President:** We will now vote. First, the motion has been seconded. The chair has been challenged and temporarily removed while we reconsider the decision regarding Anne-Marie’s candidacy switch. She will be running for Treasurer instead of Vice President for Programs. We can now start with questions specific to the Treasurer position. Are there any comments or questions on the motion that was just made?

**Lisa Caroll, Chair, Political Theory Student Research Committee:** Yes, I wanted to make sure that Anne-Marie actually wants to run for this position. It was sprung on her, and while I believe she is a very good candidate, it’s not fair to put her up for a job she did not originally apply for. If she is comfortable and consents to this position, I am for it. She would be a great candidate, but the current proceeding does not seem fair.

**Anne-Marie Paszkowska, IAPSS member:** Thank you. I think we should listen to the other candidates before we make this decision. It would be fairer.

**Lisa Caroll, Chair, Political Theory Student Research Committee:** I agree. You applied for one position, and if you are comfortable being elected to another, that's fine, but you consented to being elected to one position. If it’s okay with you, then I’m fine with proceeding, but it must be your choice.

**Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President:** The rules require that we vote on the challenge to the chair first. We cannot exit this session until we vote on it.

**Dhruvi Shah, IAPSS member:** Can we table the motion until after all the candidates are done with their presentations?

**Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President:** Yes, we can do that.

*Maria Wilkinson moves to table the motion of allowing a candidacy switch until after all other candidates for Vice President of Programs have motivated their candidacies. Dhruvi Shah seconds the motion.*
Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President: We will move this motion and hear the two other presentations, then we will come back to the motion to challenge the chair. I'm not that familiar with Robert's Rules, but we will vote on the motion to table the motion. We will need a simple majority, which will be done by a show of hands. We will not use electronic voting for this. First, the in-person audience will show their hands in support of tabling the motion to challenge the chair. Okay, and now the virtual audience, please vote in favor of tabling the motion. Please continue to raise your hands. Those in favor of this motion to table the motion to challenge the chair, please keep your hands up. Everyone against this motion, put your hands down. Virtual audience, those in favor, please vote.

Okay, anyone against the motion to table the motion? No one in person. I see three people against: Leah, Nofil, and Soumyadeep. We have a simple majority to table the motion. Any abstentions? We have one abstention from the in-person audience. Any abstentions in the virtual audience? None. The motion has passed by a simple majority. Justin comes back as chair.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Now, we will proceed to the next candidate for Vice President for Programs. Let’s welcome Eqbal Nahzat. Eqbal, whenever you're ready, please approach the microphone and present your candidacy.

Eqbal Nahzat, IAPSS member: Thank you. Hi everyone, I'm Eqbal. I'm an international student at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. I came from Afghanistan last year and I'm currently pursuing a master's degree in political science. My passion for student involvement has driven me to engage in various student organizations and initiatives since my undergraduate studies. I've held several leadership roles, including serving as president of my student council, where I organized numerous events to enhance student life.

I also led the Hult Prize competition as a campus director for two years in Afghanistan, which is a social entrepreneurship competition funded by the United Nations and Bill Clinton initiatives. This experience motivated me to further my involvement in student engagement. At Memorial University, I've continued this work by organizing conferences and events as part of the political science graduate student society.

I believe my skills and experiences make me a strong candidate for Vice President for Programs. If elected, I would focus on organizing inclusive events that reflect the diverse backgrounds of our student body. I plan to enhance our outreach and engagement strategies to ensure that students from all regions feel represented and involved in our initiatives. Thank you for listening, and I look forward to the opportunity to serve this community.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you, Eqbal. Now, we will open the floor to questions. Crystal, go ahead.

Crystal Staebell, IAPSS Treasurer: Hi, Eqbal. Thank you for your speech. As VP for Programs, besides supporting other departments, do you have any specific events in mind that you would like to organize?
Eqbal Nahzat, IAPSS member: Thank you for the question, Crystal. Besides the World Congress, which is our main event, I think it's important to also organize social and networking events to foster community and cultural exchange among students. These events would provide opportunities for students to connect on a personal level, complementing the academic focus of the World Congress. At the same time, I think it is important to engage more universities to our events. A lot of our students are not aware of our events, so we need to build a communication strategy to involve our students.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Lisa, you're next.

Lisa Caroll, Chair, Political Theory Student Research Committee: You mentioned the need for regional networking events, but given the challenges of travel and infrastructure, especially in larger continents, how do you plan to facilitate these events?

Eqbal Nahzat, IAPSS member: Thank you, Lisa. I acknowledge the difficulties in organizing regional events due to travel constraints and visa issues. One approach could be to focus on countries with more flexible visa policies for hosting major events. Additionally, we can implement online networking sessions to ensure inclusivity. Coordinating closely with regional chairs and learning from successful practices in other regions will be key to overcoming these challenges.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Are there any other questions for Eqbal?

Lisa Caroll, Chair, Political Theory Student Research Committee: I agree that we should spread out our events as much as possible. You spoke about inclusivity but not necessarily about how outside of major programs we can create networking and social events between IAPSS regions. How would you coordinate with regional chairs?

Eqbal Nahzat, IAPSS member: Thank you for your follow-up question. I think we have options for some online engagements in addition to in-person events. At the same time, we can implement the continent-to-continent strategy for the World Congress in networking events as well. Chairs should also have more coordination for events and share their experiences on their successes for their chapters.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Are there any other questions for the candidate here?

Justin Patrick reads aloud a question posted by Dua in the Zoom chat.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: How would you like to collaborate with IAPSS Africa?

Eqbal Nahzat, IAPSS member: Thank you so much. It's a great question because we have some friends from Africa who are studying in the United States and Canada. We had a chat about this, and they have concerns about the engagement of African countries and IAPSS, and why we don't have that many students involved in IAPSS initiatives and conferences,
especially with Congress. This is an important point to ensure a balance of engagement across different continents. They mentioned that although African students are studying in the US and Canada, there's little chance for students from local and national universities in Africa to engage in these initiatives. Factors like visa restrictions pose challenges, as Africa is vulnerable to Western countries' visa policies.

However, we can build networks within Africa, work on outreach initiatives, and seek support from our members who have local connections in Africa but live elsewhere. They can help us foster engagement within Africa. Thank you so much.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: I think I see Eyrin, please go ahead.

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President for Academic Affairs: I think the response about the engagement of Africa was misguided. It disregards the work that people like Bolu, who has been chair of I Africa, and Sanet, among others, have done to engage Africa. There are lectures, seminars, and workshops regularly. To say that we need to include everyone else overlooks the hundreds of hours of work they've put in. That was unfair.

Eqbal Nahzat, IAPSS member: I apologize if there was a misunderstanding. I wanted to share the experience of our members who attended this World Congress. My comments were not meant to imply that the previous efforts were ineffective. There's always room for improvement, just as there is for Canada, the US, and other regions, including Africa. I'm sorry if my message was not conveyed properly. I appreciate the efforts made, especially given the challenges in engaging students in Africa. I never intended to underestimate their contributions. I'm sorry for any misunderstanding.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Alright, are there any other questions for the candidate? Please come to the speaker.

Dennis Amable, IAPSS member: Thank you very much. It's not a question, just information. I don't think the speaker meant to overlook the work being done in Africa. I'm from Ghana, and I wasn't aware of IAPSS events in Africa until now. He was talking about improving visibility and awareness so everyone, from undergraduates to PhDs, knows about IAPSS. That's what he was trying to say. Thank you.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: I see another virtual hand, please state your name for the minutes, and the floor is yours.

Sanet Solomon, IAPSS Africa Deputy Chair: My name is Solomon. I am the Deputy President of IAPSS Africa. Just because people haven't come across our work doesn't mean it doesn't exist. Africa has 54 countries, making it difficult to reach everyone. We are trying our best with multiple calls and activities. I look forward to collaborating with members from the General Assembly. Thank you.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Okay, please go ahead and walk up to the microphone here.
**Dhruvi Shah, IAPSS member:** My name is Dhruvi Shah. I'm not here with a question but a comment. I've connected with Eqbal and know he didn't mean to underestimate Africa's efforts. I am Kenyan and appreciate the work done. Given Africa's 54 countries, it's challenging to communicate with all in just a year. Kudos for the work done. Eqbal meant that by working together, we can improve connections within Africa. He was not undermining your work but recognizing the continent's size and challenges. Thank you.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** I see a question in the chat there. Sanet, would you like to speak to that?

**Sanet Solomon, IAPSS Africa Deputy Chair:** I would like to say that your point is noted, I agree. However, I would like you to reflect on your comment about not looking African. Africa is diverse with Indian, Chinese, colored people, and many other ethnic and cultural groups. Just something to reflect on. Thank you.

**Dhruvi Shah, IAPSS member:** Thank you for acknowledging that. I am of East African Asian descent, specifically Indian, but I am Kenyan. Thank you.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Okay, Eqbal, you wanted to speak as well?

**Eqbal Nahzat, IAPSS member:** Thank you, Dhruvi and Dennis, for highlighting this issue. I didn't mean to underestimate your work. Africa is a large continent with financial challenges, and you have done a great job. Africa requires significant human and financial resources to engage all regions. I'm optimistic we can work together in the future to engage African regions as we do with other chapters. Thank you.

**Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs:** I'm slightly confused about your focus. You mentioned international programs and regional work, which are different. Which one do you want to focus on? There isn't enough time to do both without burning out.

**Eqbal Nahzat, IAPSS member:** I understand your concern. We may face resource and financial limitations. I think we can have long-term strategies and short-term goals, prioritizing our work. We need to focus on some initiatives first and adopt others as long-term plans. It won't happen in a year or a few months; it's a long process. Thank you.

**Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs:** I still don't understand if you will focus on international events or regions. There's no right or wrong answer; I'm just trying to understand your focus.

**Eqbal Nahzat, IAPSS member:** For now, I would prioritize international events and initiatives. We can't ignore regional work, but we need to prioritize. So, I would focus on the international level first and then work on regional engagement when we have time. Thank you.
Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Are there any other questions for the candidate? If not, thank you, Eqbal, and thank you all for the insightful questions and comments. We'll now move on to our third candidate, João Guilherme Ramos. The floor is yours.

João Guilherme Ramos, IAPSS member: Thank you so much, everyone. It's a pleasure to be speaking here with you. First, I want to begin by thanking you for considering me and the possibility of presenting my candidacy. Thanks to all the colleagues and the members of the board, those present and those listening. My name is João Ramos. I am from Brazil, and I am currently a doctoral candidate at the University of São Paulo. For those who don't know me, I'll share a bit about my relevant experience for this position. I am now engaged in teaching and researching at the University of São Paulo, but I have a broad experience working in the third sector, especially in think tanks, dealing with matters of security and defense in Latin America. During this period, I was responsible for coordinating programs and promoting events, in connection with government agents, international organizations, and other think tanks or NGOs, particularly in Latin America but also elsewhere. I have experience in designing and implementing programs that I believe will be useful as Vice President of Programs. I also have connections with the private sector, management experience, and knowledge of academic demands.

Talking directly about this position and my vision, I believe the Vice President of Programs has the potential, by coordinating with regional chairs and other board members, to enhance the capacity of students and young scholars to have prosperous careers. We should use this capacity to promote networking and to show people how they can see opportunities for a safe space where they can enact change and develop their professional and methodological capabilities.

I propose a program structure focusing on four key initiatives:

1. Enhancing our current capabilities with regular events such as the World Congress, seminars, courses, and other activities that foster engagement and knowledge sharing. This helps build capabilities for students to produce meaningful knowledge and be relevant in their fields.

2. Promoting more activities and courses internationally by coordinating with regional chairs, allowing students to produce more and gain additional capabilities. Cooperation with national and regional organizations for political science and students will open more professional opportunities and help build networks.

3. Creating initiatives to promote students' well-being by collaborating with other institutions and organizations to implement actions that create more favorable conditions for students to pursue their careers.

4. Teaming up with international organizations to promote free speech and special programs, seeking donor support and partnerships with think tanks and other organizations to disseminate academic freedom, especially in regions facing crises.
I am happy to answer any questions or explain any points of this platform further. Thank you for the opportunity to present my candidacy and speak with you. I hope to contribute to IAPSS, and the important work being done here.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Thank you. Are there any questions for the candidate?

**Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs:** I have the same question I asked the last candidate. You mentioned working both in regional and international programs. What will you be focusing on and why?

**João Guilherme Ramos, IAPSS member:** That's a great question, thank you so much for asking. There's so much work to do, and we should make our priorities clear. I believe we should act internationally and coordinate efforts with other IAPSS entities. Concentrating on international events, courses, work programs, and offering methods schools would be the most feasible agenda. I also know that IAPSS has structures to deal with regional issues, so I will cooperate with the regional chairs, but the main focus and energy should be on international initiatives.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Are there any other questions for the candidate? Going once, going twice... After the challenge to the chair vote that was tabled, the VP for Programs ballot will appear online.

### f. Vice President for Public Relations

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** This brings us to the next item on the agenda, which is the election for Vice President for Public Relations. We have one candidate, Keorapetse Modiba, who I would now invite to give a motivation of their candidacy. Whenever you're ready, the floor is yours.

**Keorapetse Modiba, Vice President for Public Relations:** Hello everyone, I hope you can hear me. I will be switching on my video at the end of my presentation as I'm experiencing some connectivity issues. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you today. My name is Gaba. For those who don't know me, I am the current Head of PR. I bring two years of experience in social media management and three years of experience in the IAPSS PR department. I started off as a media coordinator, was then promoted to producer, and recently was elected as Head of PR. I graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa with a triple major in Media Studies, Political Science, and International Relations. I am currently studying towards my joint honors degree in Publishing and Translation.

The progress we have made so far as the PR team includes establishing a visual identity for IAPSS and maintaining a consistent social media presence, which we were struggling with before. Going forward, I plan to continue using strategic communication as a social media strategy. By keeping up with emerging trends while maintaining our visual identity, we will reach our target audiences more effectively.
My goal this mandate is to grow the PR team and diversify the countries our team members come from to improve our interactions on social media. I am hoping that we will have a coordinator available around the clock. Furthermore, I am committed to fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation within the Public Relations department. I firmly believe that the best ideas arise from diverse perspectives and an environment that encourages creativity. By empowering and supporting our talented team, we will harness their expertise and enthusiasm to drive excellence in our communication initiatives.

In conclusion, as Head of Public Relations, I'm committed to leading our organization's communication efforts with dedication, creativity, strategic thinking, and a passion for building strong relationships. Thank you.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Thank you for that statement. Are there any questions for the candidate? Go ahead, come up to the microphone.

**Dhruvi Shah, IAPSS member:** Hello again, my name’s Dhruvi. My question to you is: do you have any strategy or plan in mind to grow the social media of IAPSS overseas through all the regions?

**Keorapetse Modiba, Vice President for Public Relations:** Thank you for the question. I am currently heading the main IAPSS social media pages, so I do not have specific strategies for other regions, but I am hoping we will collaborate more and share ideas on these strategies. Thank you.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Are there any other questions for the candidate? Go ahead.

**Anne-Marie Paszkowska, IAPSS member:** Hi there, my name is Emory. I have a question about the budget for social media. What is the planned budget? How much do you think we should spend on expanding our audience, and is it achievable? How would you measure this, and what are the KPIs you want to achieve in one year?

**Keorapetse Modiba, Vice President for Public Relations:** Thank you for that question. So far, we do not have a budget for social media; we are just doing what we can with the resources we have. But I'm hoping that more money can be allocated to social media so we can reach our goals of reaching more people. Right now, we are using trends and data to try and reach more people strategically. If we can have a budget, I believe we can create better content and reach more people. This is something I will propose to the Treasurer to try and squeeze us in.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** I see some online folks with questions. Eyrin, go ahead.

**Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs:** Hi, it’s not a question for Keorapetse, but a clarification on our social media. The regional chapters and our two national branches have their own social media and their own social media teams. While
Keorapete can, of course, coordinate with them, it is not up to her or anyone else from the ExCom or IAPSS Global to run it. Just clarifying that point because it may not be clear from seeing how IAPSS operates on social media.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Thank you for that clarification. Lisa, you’re next.

**Lisa Caroll, Chair, Political Theory Student Research Committee:** Yes, I wanted to reiterate Eyrin point. The regions and any of the SRCs that are on social media are completely outside of Keorapetse’s control. The only thing I wanted to bring up is that the PR department has experienced a lot of turnover and is seriously understaffed. I understand the delays, but it's difficult when we must provide updates within the first week of the month, and certain events don't get advertised until the third week. This means two-thirds of our events aren't being advertised effectively. I’m curious if you are willing to work with the SRCs and regional chairs to help this process, as our members’ events aren’t being advertised properly.

**Keorapetse Modiba, Vice President for Public Relations:** Thank you, Lisa. Yes, we are willing to work with them. We need all the help we can get. Social media and PR feel new as we have just re-established from the ground up. Any input and help are welcome.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Any other questions for the candidate? Go ahead.

**Nahum Hernandez, IAPSS member:** Hello there, I’d like to know if you have any plans to make organizational changes to have more staff. Social media management for platforms like Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook is difficult if you’re just one person. How do you plan to gather more people for your team?

**Keorapetse Modiba, Vice President for Public Relations:** Thank you for the question. Yes, we will be sending out a call for volunteers for media coordinators to help in those departments. We already have someone for our YouTube channel, but we need more people to join. One issue is getting volunteers. We put out calls but don’t get enough responses. I urge everyone to share our posts and help us get more volunteers. Thank you.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Are there any other questions for the candidate? Lisa, go ahead.

**Lisa Caroll, Chair, Political Theory Student Research Committee:** Sorry, unmuting is a bit difficult on mobile. Given that certain subsections of IAPSS, like the SRCs and regional chapters, are on LinkedIn, would you consider making them subsidiaries of the official IAPSS LinkedIn? This way, we can cross-post more effectively and boost everyone’s profile.

**Keorapetse Modiba, Vice President for Public Relations:** I would have to think about that because we don't want to compromise the security of our social media accounts. If we can have one person from each SRC in charge of cross-posting, I believe that can work. We can't give access to everyone as it might risk posting things not in line with our visual identity. But we can work with one person from each SRC.
Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Any other questions for the candidate? Going once, going twice. All right, so at the end, you'll see the ballot come up for VP for Public Relations as well. As there's only one candidate, it will be a yes, no, or abstain vote.

g. Advisory Board Members (3)

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you, Maria. The next item on the agenda is the Advisory Board, and there are three positions available. I will now invite our first candidate, Maria Wilkinson, to motivate their candidacy. Maria, the floor is yours.

Maria Wilkinson, IAPSS member: Hi, my name is Maria Wilkinson. I am currently a student at National Chengchi University in Taiwan. I am originally from the US and have lived in Taiwan for six years, first for my undergraduate studies and now for my master's in International Studies. This is my first time attending the IAPSS World Congress, and it's also my first year as a member.

Although I am relatively new to IAPSS, I have quickly come to admire the program and the mission set out by the organization. I hope to contribute to ensuring the quality of this mission continues.

During my undergraduate career, I started a scholarly publication at my university, where I served as the founder and chief editor. In addition, I was on the advisory board, working closely with professors to audit the budget and maintain the quality of the publication. In this role, I played a fundamental leadership role, but I also value being a good team member. Given that this position is co-chaired by three members, I believe my organizational skills and teamwork experience make me well-suited for this role. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you, Maria. Are there any questions for the candidate? Going once, going twice... Alright, seeing no questions, we will proceed. Thank you again, Maria. Now, I will invite our next candidate, Leah Rachel Rea. Leah, the floor is yours.

Leah Rachel Rea, IAPSS Advisory Board Member: Thanks very much, Chair, and apologies that my camera is off. It's classic weather here in Northern Ireland, and I'm trying to maintain my connectivity. Thank you very much for the opportunity to present my candidacy. My name is Leah Rachel Rea, and I am a third-year scholarship PhD student in Law and Political Science at the School of Law at Ulster University, where I'm also a teaching assistant in the School of Policy and Social Sciences.

I'm running for re-election to the Advisory Board because, as I outlined previously, my colleagues and I felt there were significant opportunities to enhance the engagement between the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board. We aimed to provide scrutiny, support, and guidance within this busy membership-based organization. I believe the Advisory Board has great potential to ensure that the Executive Committee can follow through with their work pathways and serve our membership to the best of their ability.
In this evolving environment, with its new challenges and opportunities, I recognize the importance of a strong and active governance structure. This structure is essential to understand our responsibilities and deliver on our representative commitments. As such, I am eager to continue serving on the Advisory Board to provide guidance and support as we move forward.

Regarding my experience, I served on the Advisory Board in the last mandate and have other trustee and board member experiences. I have been a board member of two charitable organizations in my neighborhood in Antrim, Northern Ireland, since 2018. I also provide strategic guidance to the Human Rights Centre at the University of Padua, overseeing their annual Model United Nations program. In addition, I have strong experience in student representation and advisory roles within university faculties and departments. I currently serve as the representative for PhD researchers in the School of Law at my university and have been in this role since 2021. Recently, I was appointed to our student panel and have been working with our Student Union to increase engagement and advocacy for postgraduate researchers. My previous roles include being a course representative, a school representative, and a student counselor.

I believe my competencies and experiences will allow me to effectively contribute to the Advisory Board and the Executive Committee, particularly as we expand our engagement and communications across the organization. Thank you for listening, and I am happy to take any questions.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair**: Thank you, Leah. Are there any questions for the candidate? Eyrin, go ahead.

**Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs**: I have a question for both candidates, if that would be alright for Maria to respond as well. ExCom meetings are open to everyone and are posted on Slack with the agenda and timing. Would either of the candidates be open to participating in ExCom meetings, perhaps not every week but regularly, to provide guidance?

**Maria Wilkinson, IAPSS member**: That would be wonderful, so absolutely, yes. Thank you.

**Leah Rachel Rea, IAPSS Advisory Board Member**: Absolutely, yes. I think that is part of the wider communications and engagement I would love to see. I also think there could be more discussion about making the open invitation to meet more expressly clear. I know I'm not receiving that through emails but am seeing it on Slack. Making it a permanent position would be ideal. Thank you for the question and the suggestion.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair**: Thank you both. Eyrin, do you have another question?

**Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs**: Just to mention that all the info is posted regularly on the online meeting channel on Slack, and every member can join at any
time. We've had people join, and there's no need to ask for permission. This is for those who just joined IAPSS through this conference—we would love to have your feedback and opinions.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Thank you for the clarification, Eyrin. Just to clarify for the members at large, IAPSS volunteers and representatives communicate via a Slack workspace. Are there any other questions for the Advisory Board candidates? Going once, going twice... Alright, the ballot will be on the IAPSS website if not now, later on. Thank you.

**h. IAPSS Africa Chair**

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** That brings us to the next item on the agenda, which is the presentation for the IAPSS Africa Chair. We have one candidate, Sanet Solomon. Whenever you're ready, the floor is yours.

**Sanet Solomon, IAPSS Africa Deputy Chair:** Thank you. Hi everyone, and apologies for my weak voice as I just got back from the doctor and haven't had much rest. I'll keep this brief. My name is Sate Solomon, also known as Marella. I'm a doctoral student in the Centre for Gender and Africa Studies at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa, and I work as a lecturer in the Department of Political Sciences at the University of South Africa, one of the largest universities on the African continent. I currently serve as the Deputy Regional Chair of IAPSS Africa and am a Council member of the South African Association of Political Sciences.

I have an extensive background in academia and leadership, being an internationally published author, a double Cum Laude graduate, and a member of the International Golden Key Honor Society. I previously served as the IAPSS Africa Projects and Events Coordinator and as the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the IAPSS Scientific Blog "A Different View."

I am requesting to serve one more mandate as the IAPSS Africa Chair. In this role, I aim to continue the legacy of my predecessor, Mr. Boateng, by maintaining established networks and representing the African continent. My goals include building new partnerships, collaborating with national associations, and increasing our visibility across Africa. We seek to engage new countries in IAPSS Africa events and create a guideline in accordance with the IAPSS bylaws to aid future teams.

I plan to provide strategic vision, increase the number of activities, and recruit new members. We have successfully involved volunteers from both Anglophone and Francophone Africa, and we aim to include more Arab representation in the next mandate. Enhancing our social media engagement is also a priority to reach a wider audience.

Additionally, I am in talks to collaborate with the African Association for Political Science (AAPS), which is holding a conference at the University of Pretoria in October. We aim to work with Professor Chris Landsberg, the current president of AAPS, to bring more national associations on board with IAPSS Africa.
Thank you for considering my candidacy. I apologize for turning off my camera now as I need to rest and will be happy to take any questions with my camera off.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you, Sanet. Are there any questions for the candidate? Going once, going twice... Alright, the regional ballot will be on the IAPSS website at the end of all regional presentations. Please choose the region where you reside and vote for that chair only. The ballot will be accessible for the next 72 hours. Thank you. This concludes the presentation for the IAPSS Africa Chair.

i. IAPSS Asia Chair

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Next up, we have the IAPSS Asia Chair, and we have one candidate, Shrey Maddan. I would invite them to give a motivation statement for their candidacy. Unfortunately, I don't see the candidate here, so they might just be running a bit late due to their time zone. I believe we've had a few people drop off, so I encourage you to read their documents on the IAPSS website. If you're a part of IAPSS Asia, you can cast your regional ballot when it goes online.

j. IAPSS Europe Chair

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Next up, we have the IAPSS Europe Chair. There are no candidacies.

k. IAPSS Latin America and the Caribbean Chair

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: For the IAPSS Latin America and the Caribbean Chair, we have one candidate, Nahum Hernandez. I would invite them to give a motivational statement.

Nahum Hernandez, IAPSS member: All right, thank you, everyone. First of all, it's been exciting to be here with you. This is my first experience in an international congress because in Mexico and in the Latin American region, we've hosted many of these conferences in our universities. I've been involved for the last 18 years, probably in all these congresses, including academic congresses like this one. About me, I did my master's degree in international political science, a joint program between the University of Mexico and the University of Toronto. I completed my master's degree in international regimes, specifically focusing on the anti-corruption regime. For this Latin American chair, I find it exciting because in Latin America, we don't have much presence of international organizations or student government in our region. It will be a challenge to boost this presence of IAPSS in Latin America. I have two or three more events planned, including one in Colombia, and I also have visits scheduled for the rest of the year. It would be awesome to promote the integration of more Latin American students towards IAPSS organization. So, for your consideration, I have a plan for the region. First of all, three priority tasks. The first one is to establish a roadmap for this year, identifying the challenges of the region in terms of organization and the presence of IAPSS in Latin America. Secondly, to conduct a regional collaboration chart, where we can gauge interest in collaborating with IAPSS and
volunteering for the organization. Thirdly, to complete an executive project for Latin America, outlining our mission, vision, and central objectives for the region in the coming years. That would be the first thing to do in the next two or three months. Thank you for listening to me.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** All right, so with that, are there any questions for the candidate? Eyrin, go ahead.

**Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs:** Thank you very much for the presentation and your motivation in participating in setting up the region. We've seen chairs come and do their own thing. However, we have people who currently reside in Latin America and are already members of IAPSS. Do you intend to engage with those people or start completely fresh?

**Nahum Hernandez, IAPSS member:** The first part of the diagnosis would be to assess how many people from the Latin American region are participating actively and how many are part of student governments across Latin America. We need to understand who is already engaging with the organization and then start talking to them to bring them to active participation.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Okay, next up we have Lisa.

**Lisa Caroll, Chair, Political Theory Student Research Committee:** I'm curious because it's something I've come across as an SRC chair. We have a journal that allows publications in Spanish and Portuguese. How much would you be willing to accommodate dual or triple language events, allowing people to present in their own languages?

**Nahum Hernandez, IAPSS member:** In Latin America, we usually publish in both Spanish or Portuguese and then English. It's a common practice to balance languages. We can solve language barriers with simultaneous translations. It might be challenging for some at first, but that's part of the experience. We can survey if people feel more comfortable speaking in Spanish and then provide simultaneous translation, but they will need to commit to presenting in English.

**Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair:** Thank you. Does that address your question, Lisa?

**Lisa Caroll, Chair, Political Theory Student Research Committee:** Somewhat. Maybe it's a point for broader discussion across IAPSS. But I really believe if you speak Spanish or Portuguese, then your lecture should be given in those languages and close-captioned in English. It would be interesting if our regions published in languages common to their continent.

Thank you for your explanation and your passion. It's very hopeful.
Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Are there any other questions for the candidate? Going once, going twice. Alright, stay tuned. It'll be on the ballot if not now, then later.

I. IAPSS Oceania Chair

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: So, the IAPSS Oceania Chair, there were no candidacies for that one.

m. IAPSS US and Canada Chair

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Next up, we have the IAPSS US and Canada Chair. I'm seeing Dhruvi Shah. You're welcome to come up and speak into the microphone.

Dhruvi Shah, IAPSS member: Good morning, evening, afternoon to everybody online and here. My name is Dhruvi Shah, and I am a third-year undergraduate student, which may be surprising, but here I am. I'm majoring in political science and minoring in economics. First, I'd really like to appreciate Eyrin and Crystal because they were the ones I was directly in touch with through email. They reached out to our University, and that's why I'm here. I was also surprised to find out that there was no previous Regional chair for the USA in Canada, or was there? Please correct me if I'm wrong.

Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President: Formally, Elizabeth is the US and Canada Chair.

Dhruvi Shah, IAPSS member: Well, great to meet you. So, I have been here with Elizabeth too. Thank you so much. It's great that the opportunity you've given us by reaching out to our universities has been great. Therefore, here I am, wanting to increase this outreach that you've been doing in the past year or past months. It's been a great opportunity being here, and I'd like to extend this opportunity not only to other Ph.D. students and other Master's students but also undergraduate students, considering the large amount of student population that there is. My policies would deal with reaching out to educational institutes within North America, specifically the USA and Canada. Reaching out to the political science departments of different universities, allowing them to know more about IAPSS and about the regional conferences that we might want to start. I do know that there are regional committees, so I would love to get involved more with my committee and hopefully come up with at least one conference, if not in person, at least online for USA and Canada to get people more involved before the next World Congress. So that there's more involvement with the current people who are already members of IAPSS from the US and Canada region but also allowing these people to be our contact people for the different universities they are in within the US and Canada region. You may ask why I'm standing here. Previously, I was a Secretary-General for the Model United Nations in Kenya, in Mombasa. We held a conference of over 600 high school students. It was a great turnout. It was in the same city, so it might be a little different here because it is across two countries. But yeah, I do believe I have the capability to make this bigger and work with the rest of the regional chairs to help make IAPSS what it deserves to be. Thank you.
Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: So, are there any questions for the candidate? Eyrin, go ahead.

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs: Hello, thank you very much for being willing to coordinate such a huge region. I'm not from the region, so it's a new area for me. I want to focus on what you said about regional conferences. It's something that regions often want to do, which is great as a thought. But how do you view IAPSS coordinating multiple conferences throughout the world? It might saturate the market and exhaust resources. Also, how do you see yourself coordinating that with other regional chairs?

Dhruvi Shah, IAPSS member: Thank you for your question, Eyrin. I remember listening to the current president say that they would like to fund us for the beginning, but then they also want to make us capable of being self-reliant. So, I believe that we would have to work strategically, initially with a little bit of a budget to start up our regional efforts. Then, we would have to work on fundraising or having partnerships locally within the region. I may not be the best person, but I believe that the chair and the committee that comes with this chair, the regional committee, may be able to help look out for those. Does that answer your question?

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs: I was not referring to funds. I was referring to human resources and how, when we try to do an event in a region, we also love to have regional involvement. My question is more about how not to exhaust people while balancing the workload with other regions.

Dhruvi Shah, IAPSS member: I understand now. Having dedicated volunteers within the region may be a good way of dividing the workload between the chair, the committee, and reaching out to the members within the region would be a good strategy to get volunteers to come out and help. Thank you.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Are there any other questions for the candidate? Go ahead.

Olivia Ifeoma Onyemaenu, IAPSS member: Hello, everybody. So far, you have stated that you hosted an event in Kenya for the Model United Nations. What other experiences and qualifications do you have that are transferable to this role?

Dhruvi Shah, IAPSS member: Thank you so much for your question. In the past year, I have been a part of the Arts Faculty Student Council at my University. I was the liaison between the Student Union of the university and the Arts Faculty. I learned how to work with a huge team through that and coordinate volunteer opportunities. I was also the president of the Rotaract Club on campus, a volunteering organization. I learned a lot about teamwork and coordination through that experience as well.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: I see a hand online. Sanet, did you have a question?
Sanet Solomon, IAPSS Africa Deputy Chair: I had a question. The candidate mentioned that she's from Kenya. Would you be collaborating with the incoming African chair?

Dhruvi Shah, IAPSS member: I would love to collaborate. Seeing that I am from Kenya, I do have a couple of connections in universities there. So yes, I would love to collaborate.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Are there any other questions for the candidate? Going once, going twice. Alright, I think we're good. Thank you.

8. Other business

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Back to the agenda, the next item is other business. Are there any points of other business, whether it's announcements or other topics folks would like to discuss or raise? This is a chance to share. Oleksii?

Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President: I just have a point of information and a small announcement. We still have one motion to go through but thank you all for sticking through the General Assembly. This is how IAPPS works, how votes function, the internal organization, and the power lies with you. Hopefully, you've enjoyed the experience, both in person and on Zoom. It's our first hybrid meeting, and it seems to be working well. We may consider purchasing this smart camera for future meetings. Thank you all.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: As a quick point of other business, some of you hold positions or are involved in campus political science associations. IAPPS offers an associate membership option, which could significantly lower costs per student. Encourage your local associations to join IAPPS officially. Now, regarding the motion tabled earlier about the VP for Programs, let's hear from Oleksii. All right, Eyrin?

Eyrin Kyriakidi, Vice President of Academic Affairs: I just wanted to address those who ran for positions today. Some may have faced tough questions, but it's not personal. We all have the association's best interests at heart. I particularly want to encourage Eqbal for the VP for Regions role. That's all from me.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Any other points of other business before we proceed? Okay, thank you, Eyrin.

Oleksii Zahebra, IAPSS President: For all other the candidates today, I don't want to discourage you too much. This is hard work but take it one step at a time. We often see burnout from those with grand plans. Let's focus on achievable goals.

Now, we have a motion to modify the ballot for Treasurer. Let's ensure everyone's vote is heard clearly. If you're in support, please raise your virtual hand on Zoom. Thank you. Now, are there any objections from the in-person audience? And from the virtual audience? It seems the motion passes. The ballots for Treasurer will be amended accordingly.

My duty as chair is done. I pass the chair to Justin.
Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: That was probably the smoothest challenge to the chair I've seen.

9. Adjournment

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: That brings us to the last item on the agenda, adjournment. Since we've exhausted all the items, we don't necessarily need to vote with Robert's Rules. Is there a motion to adjourn? If you'd like to move, please state your name for the record.

Chimdinma Chijioke moves a motion to adjourn the General Assembly. Nahum Hernandez seconds the motion.

Justin Patrick, General Assembly Chair: Thank you all. The meeting is adjourned at 2:10 p.m. EST. This concludes the 37th IAPSS General Assembly. Thank you for attending the World Congress as well, whether in person or virtually. If you'd like to hang out in chat, feel free, but we can stop the recording now. We should be all set.
**General Assembly Zoom Chat Log**

01:17:44 Eyrin Kyriakidi: Go Crystal 😍😂

01:18:10 Laila Abo El-Enein: Reacted to "Go Crystal 😍😂" with 😍

01:18:35 Leah Rea: Reacted to "Go Crystal 😍😂" with 🤖

01:25:54 Leah Rea: Yes, well done Oleksii!

01:27:50 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Slay!

01:35:43 Eyrin Kyriakidi: https://iapss.org/general-assembly/iapss-general-assembly-may-2023/vote/

01:42:12 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Well said

01:48:09 Eyrin Kyriakidi: Justin, could we have the questions repeated by you since you're closer to the mic?

02:10:54 soloms: Which position would you best prefer?

02:11:33 soloms: Would he like both positions?

02:13:04 Eyrin Kyriakidi: Can we have people's names before they ask?

02:13:15 IITS: Reacted to "Can we have people's..." with 👍

02:15:11 Leah Rea: Reacted to "Can we have people's..." with 👍

02:19:01 Keorapetse Modiba: Head of PR candidate will be switching on camera at the end of her presentation. Video lagging due to connectivity issues.

02:35:54 soloms: Anne-Marie, would you be open to the position of Treasurer given your expertise and background? Asking as Soumyadeep is running for two positions?

02:39:06 soloms: Please repeat

02:39:28 soloms: I would like to second

02:39:33 soloms: Sanet Solomon

02:44:37 Leah Rea: Agreed with this from Lisa

02:45:01 soloms: Can we give her time to think and move on with the other candidates while she thinks?

02:46:18 soloms: noted

02:58:22 soloms: Good question

03:01:34 soloms: These may not be possible for us as Africa has 54 countries

03:08:17 soloms: How would you like to collaborate with IAPSS Africa?

03:08:24 Lisa Carroll: Thank you addressing my questions.

03:11:35 soloms: Well said Eyrin

03:16:11 soloms: How do Africans look?

03:20:37 soloms: Thank you for clarifying 🥺

03:21:39 Leah Rea: Request to the chair - may we have a break in proceedings following the presentation of the final candidate for the position of Vice President for Programs? It is approaching 6pm / 7pm across Europe.

03:21:55 Crystal Staebell: Reacted to "Request to the chair..." with 👍

03:22:30 IITS: ok
03:22:38 Leah Rea: Reacted to "ok" with 🍀
03:29:11 soloms: Replying to "Request to the chair..."

May I kindly request we proceed until the end of the IAPSS Africa Chair? I joined the meeting immediately after seeing the Dr and have not had the opportunity to have dinner and take my meds. I apologize for the inconvenience this may cause

03:30:41 Leah Rea: Thank you

03:34:50 Irina Shekerova: I am very sorry, but I need to leave the call! Thank you for your understanding and for providing us the opportunity to participate in this hybrid form of an event!

03:39:59 soloms: Comment: Thank you for the amazing work that you have been doing Kea

03:46:21 Eyrin Kyriakidi: or if the members volunteered themselves <3
03:46:32 soloms: Reacted to "or if the members vo..." with 🍀
03:48:26 Leah Rea: Sorry, what was the point of order?
03:48:31 Leah Rea: We cannot hear clearly
03:48:42 Lisa Carroll: I didn’t hear it either.
03:49:00 soloms: Replying to "I didn’t hear it eit..."

Same

03:50:11 IITS: it was about whether we need to revisit the chair challenge now or at the end. We need to revisit it at the end
03:50:34 Leah Rea: Thank you!
03:50:37 Leah Rea: Reacted to "it was about whether..." with 🍀
03:52:44 soloms: Replying to "it was about whether..."

Could we please continue

03:59:03 Keorapetse Modiba: Replying to "Comment: Thank you f..."

Thank you!

04:02:52 Boluwatife Ajibola: Great plans, Sanet. Confident you will deliver excellently.

04:04:46 soloms: Switching to mobile
04:18:12 Eyrin Kyriakidi: No we had Elizabeth
04:29:31 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Best of luck with your term
04:29:48 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Slay
04:29:54 Eyrin Kyriakidi: Reacted to "Slay" with 🍀
04:34:10 Sanet Madonsela Solomon: Lovely presentations. IAPSS is fortunate to have you all as volunteers
04:35:28 Eyrin Kyriakidi: Is it my issue with the sound or is everyone experiencing the same difficulties?
04:35:46 Lisa Carroll: Mine too
04:35:47   Leah Rea:  I cannot hear, either
04:35:53   Laura Daniela Molina:  mine too
04:35:53   Freddy Alpalá:  Replying to "Is it my issue with ..."
             Yes, me too!
04:39:48   Leah Rea:  Thank you and well done to the organisers!