

# **Annual Report of the Advisory Board**

**2022-2023**

**Prepared for the IAPSS General Assembly, 19 May 2023**

## **General Overview**

As our 2022-2023 mandate concludes, we acknowledge the commitment and efforts of the Executive Committee in seeking to address the previously identified issues of membership engagement and retention, particularly in the context of rebuilding in a post-pandemic world. Whilst there were changes in posts within the Executive Committee during this mandate, these transitions have been handled swiftly and professionally, ensuring consistency in leadership and management.

IAPSS continues to represent an active and engaged body of students and researchers across the sphere of political studies, and the Association has sought to continue to provide a range of opportunities including in publications, public talks, and volunteer roles to advance the work of its members.

We recognise the important work conducted by all Departments and Regional teams during the 2022-2023 mandate, which has contributed to strong engagement and consistent operations.

As members of the Advisory Board, we are presenting our annual report, which seeks to provide: i) an overview of our work as members of the Advisory Board in the mandate 2022-2023; ii) our assessment of the Association's financial administration, and iii) our recommendations arising from the operation of the Association and its Executive Committee during the mandate.

### **I. Overview of the Advisory Board's Mandate**

During the Board's mandate, there were no matters arising which necessitated the Board's involvement. No alleged violations of the Association's governing rules and procedures which entailed an investigation were reported and no disciplinary action which entailed review was reported.

Notwithstanding the absence of any investigatory or disciplinary matter for the consideration of the Advisory Board, it is advised that the incoming Executive Committee consider its engagement with the Advisory Board, in light of its roles and responsibilities as outlined in the Association's Bylaws and wider policies.

### **II. Assessment of the Association's Financial Management**

An overview of the Association's financial administration was provided to the Board in a timely manner to us by the IAPSS Treasurer, who has been readily available in the event that further information and data was required. The Financial Report was clear, and presented an accurate reflection of the Association's financial position. We would like to acknowledge the work of the current Treasurer in compiling the Financial Report.

Ensuring stability in the Association's financial position and long term financial standing remains of importance. In terms of the current operation of an active financial strategy, we identify a strong need for the development and implementation of a stronger and more proactive fundraising structure in the Association, as well as the establishment of a long term financial goal (s). We advise the incoming Executive Committee as a collective to consider this observation, and work with the incoming Treasurer to support them in the realisation of this suggestion.

### **III. Recommendations**

#### ***Communication***

We advise that the incoming Executive Committee and Advisory Board utilise the full features of the Association's website, including through continuing to update relevant sections with the necessary information, including but not limited to events organised at an international and regional level.

We advise the incoming Executive Committee and Advisory Board continue to avail of the Association's social media channels to help disseminate the work and operations of the Association as a whole, as well as Regional teams.

#### ***Competence of the Advisory Board***

We advise that the incoming Executive Committee and Advisory Board meet at the commencement of the subsequent mandate to clearly define the role and competencies of the Advisory Board. This can ensure a better understanding of the work of the Advisory Board, and how best its members can provide support and guidance to the Executive Committee in a more proactive, organised, and streamlined manner.

#### ***Engagement with the Advisory Board***

We advise that the incoming Executive Committee consider the current means of communication and engagement with the Advisory Board. The current model necessitates contact only in the event of matters arising, such as an investigatory or disciplinary matter for the consideration. In the absence of such, engagement is limited, presenting possible challenges to the work of the Advisory Board in the event of understanding any potential issues etc and advising on same.

#### ***Financial Management***

We recommend the design and implementation of a long-term plan for fundraising, which should include the provision of short term goals to ensure accountability, monitoring, and compliance. The plan should not only include already established fundraising initiatives such as the IAPSS merchandise initiative, but also the willingness to consider and design new approaches and strategies.

**Advisory Board 2022-2023**

Leah Rea

Maheen Shafeeq

Minya Chan