

Dear friends, dear colleagues, dear IAPSS members,

Three and a half years later since joining IAPSS I fulfilled the original purpose of joining the Association — I organized the World Congress. Well, a lot has happened in between: working in a regional chapter, leading the organization's Secretariat, and taking over as the President after the resignation of the previous office holder. It has been exciting three years, and IAPSS has been a cornerstone of my student career.

As I enter my last year of being a student, I would like to make IAPSS an organization that will be resilient and stable for years to come. Many of the planned objectives have been achieved — the relocation of the headquarters from the Netherlands to Canada, the partnership with Concordia University, the new website, and finally, the first in-person World Congress since the pandemic began. IAPSS has also remained financially stable, and has maintained a continuous presence on social media.

There are challenges, however. The impossibility to host in-person events led to an eventual human resources crisis, as there were less people joining the organization. The engagement has been decreasing in the recent year, with the regional chapters becoming more inactive. We hope to reverse this trend with the return to in-person events, but a more structured response will have to be adapted to attract new people into the organization.

There is also the challenge of establishing the permanent Secretariat in Montreal, which would provide the necessary stability for the day-to-day functioning of IAPSS, but should not become an institution that obstructs student democracy. IAPSS is a well-functioning student government, and I hope it will remain a model-organization for other subject-based international student associations around the world.

If elected, the mandate of 2023/24 will be my last one in the IAPSS Executive Committee. As I finish my coursework in my university program this summer, for the next year I will be more focused on applying my knowledge in the political science world by building connections between professional and junior political scientists and making political science discipline more accessible to students in the Global South. IAPSS ExCom and volunteers will work on organizing more events in different parts of the world, create new academic opportunities, and revitalize regions. Our work will continue to be framed by three pillars of IAPSS — events, academics, and professional opportunities — on a global scale.

Thank you,

*Oleksii Zahreba*