



## **International Association for Political Science Students**

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### **IAPSS President's Report**

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*Prepared for the May 2023 IAPSS General Assembly*

Dear IAPSS members,

IAPSS is back. I am presenting this report at the first in-person World Congress since 2019. Almost all of our current volunteers have never even been to an IAPSS event, and for many of our current Congress participants it is the first political science conference in their life. We are once again providing essential service to Association's members – the place where they can meet and present their research. Of course, IAPSS is much more than World Congress, and we will continue to build our organization so it is set up for success in the post-pandemic world.

As usual, this report has two parts: our accomplishments and achievements, and the current issues the association is facing. The challenges have largely remained the same since the last General Assembly in December 2022. The upcoming mandate will be devoted to resolving them through various measures, such as more in-person conferences, different hiring methods, and creating new opportunities for our members.

### **Accomplishments**

#### **1. World Congress in Montreal**

Largely a success. We have attracted an international audience, and organized five days of panels, alongside with in-person activities, finished by the hybrid General Assembly. Given that there were no one here since the pre-pandemic time, we did not have expertise in event

management. Nevertheless, the conference was organized well, and hopefully it will be seen as a turning point in the Association's history.

## **2. Finances, bureaucracy, and digital infrastructure**

IAPSS still does not have any debt, and there is a cushion of cash that keeps us safe from unforeseen emergencies. The Association's credit card allows us to pay bills without relying on personal funds of our volunteers that would have to be reimbursed later. The Canadian bureaucracy has been proven to work well, as we are able to submit necessary documents online at little cost. The digital infrastructure of IAPSS is also resilient, allowing us to easily onboard new volunteers and share needed information across the network of websites that we use to run the organization. During the pandemic we have adapted and became better at running our internal affairs in the fully online mode.

## **3. Academic Department**

A lot of effort has been done to rebuild the Academic Department, thanks to the work of Eyrin Kyriakidi, her deputy Ruben Pretorius, and countless volunteers. The Think Tank can be considered a highly successful initiative that attracted brilliant student scholars. Politikon has a new Editor-in-Chief; new articles are being published in the A Different View Blog; and all current Student Research Committees are active once again. The Academic Program of this World Congress has been well-organized, which is a result of many hours of work done by Eyrin. As IAPSS is first and foremost an academic association, we will continue to focus on maintaining a strong academic component of the organization.

## **4. New (and improved old) partnerships**

Concordia University has given us the office for our new HQ; International Political Science Association helped us with organizing this World Congress and sending our delegation to their own Congress in Buenos Aires; we remain in continuous contact with other international student associations through Global Student Government; and we continue to attract new Associate

Members into IAPSS. Overall, IAPSS has a working partnership strategy that will continue to pay dividends in the future.

## **Current Issues**

### **1. Communication**

Our volunteers have reported lack of communication between the ExCom and the rest of the Association, which is something that need to be addressed in the upcoming mandate.

### **2. High turnover of volunteers**

The ExCom is a highly demanding work environment, and volunteers typically burn out rather soon during their mandate. IAPSS sets many ambitious goals, and often achieves them, but at a cost of a high turnover rate.

### **3. Regions**

Although regions remain somewhat active, they fall short from the original purpose of having dynamic regional chapters of IAPSS on each inhabited continent. This past mandate we did not have enough resources to grow the regions, and likely some hard decisions will have to be made regarding the regions in the next mandate.

### **4. Accessibility**

IAPSS is accessible to people with the means to obtain higher education, learn English, and travel to conferences abroad. We need ways to include people from less fortunate backgrounds who live in the countries with small political science communities. This Congress included a virtual component, but it is not enough to help political science students from the Global South. IAPSS needs to attract more funding that would be devoted specifically to helping students to attend our events and staying involved after returning home.

The issues listed above stem from multi-layered problems, so there may not be simple solutions to all of them. I welcome your comments and feedback on how we can improve IAPSS for all.

Best regards,

*Aleksii Zakheba*