

ISPP Governing Council Meeting
July 2, 2025
Prague University of Economics and Business
Room: Lounge AK

Chris Federico, President of ISPP had all attendees introduced themselves. He then conveyed the results of elections and appointments. These include Michał Bilewicz (President-Elect), Martijn van Zomeren (VP Initiatives), Paul Nesbitt-Larking (Councilor), Kostas Papaioannou (Early Career Committee (ECC) Chair), Andrea Correa-Chica (ISPPNews Editor), Monica Gerber (ISPP Academy Director), Maria Chayinska (GC at-large), Barbara Lášticová (GC at-large), Rosa Rodriguez-Bailon (GC at-large), Felipe Vilanova (GC at-large), and Christopher Weber (GC at-large). He then thanked members whose service is ending, including Catarina Kinnvall (Past President), Michael Morrell (VP Initiatives), Boglarka Nyul (ECC Chair), Leonie Huddy (Councilor), Magdalena Bobowik (GC at-large), Hector Carvacho (GC at-large), Elif Erisen (GC at-large), Agustín Espinosa (GC at-large), Mike Quayle (GC at-large), Elaine Smith (ISPPNews Editor), and Gizem Arikan (ISPP Academy Director). The Council applauded the departees' service.

Chris explained the transition in the Central Office with the resignations of Executive Director (ED) Sev Bennett and Executive Administrator (EA) Minnie Chappell. The Executive Committee (EC) dealt with the emergency situation and chose Conference Direct to assist with this year's Annual Meeting and Capitol Hill Management Services (CHMS) to provide Central Office functions through July 2026. The GC then discussed the process for soliciting RFPs and deciding how we are going forward after the next year under CHMS.

The GC approved the full and web versions of the minutes of the January 2025 GC Meeting as corrected by unanimous voice vote.

Christina Farhart, one of the 2025 Annual Meeting Program Co-chairs (PCs), reported on the Prague meeting. Due to a large number of submissions, the PCs reduced sessions to 75 minutes, which allowed the largest ISPP ever, with approximately 880 registered in-person attendees and 173 sessions. She highlighted the keynote presentations, special sessions, and ECC events, and that we are hosting a "virtual" component of the conference. She suggested that ISPP should consider options for hybrid and/or virtual options in future conferences. Because there were not hybrid capabilities at our Prague site, we gave the option for virtual attendees to record their presentations. She made other recommendations regarding section chairs. Chris expressed the Society's thanks to the PCs and VP Conferences Laura Taylor; Laura thanked the Conferences Committee. Chris conveyed the thoughts provided by former ED Sev Bennett regarding scheduling requests and deadlines. The GC discussed these issues and also how we may want to limit submissions to one presentation per author.

Treasurer David Redlawsk presented information on the 2025 and 2026 budgets. He explained that in the CO transition, there may be some delays regarding reimbursements and refunds. There was no Finance Committee (FC) report this year given all the challenges associated with

the CO transition. The EC recommended approval of the 2026 budget. The FC approved and created a plan to transition to an ESG investment strategy as recommended by the GC. This will take place over a period of time to smooth out fluctuations in markets, and we anticipate moving fully to this over the next few months. Journal and Membership income has performed better than expected, but conference costs have also been increasing. One of the biggest changes to our 2025 budget was that we had to charge VAT for registration fees for this year; ISPP covered half of the VAT and raised the registration fees so that attendees covered half. Dave explained costs associated with the CO transition; all indications are that costs will not increase or decrease significantly in this area. He presented information on the endowment and other restricted funds, all of which are in a healthy position. The GC discussed the budget, especially in relation to the change in the CO. Some suggested that we can consider whether we want to revise our membership structure. Going forward, Dave said that the EC will develop an RFP and consult with CHMS to look at various costs and expenses. All indications are that the CO costs will be roughly similar under the new model. Dave noted that the budget proposal includes \$60k for new initiatives in 2026. The GC passed the proposed 2026 budget unanimously. The GC then discussed a proposed new Membership and Conference Registration fee schedule proposed by Dave. After some discussion and adjustments, the GC unanimously approved the new fee structures.

Director of the ISPP Academy Gizem Arikan reported that the 2025 Academy had gone well even with the transition in the CO. The GC thanked Gizem for all her hard work on the Academy over the last several years.

Pazit Ben-Nun Bloom and Marco Steenbergen, co-editors of *Advances in Political Psychology*, presented updates on their work. The first issue under the new editorial team is ready. Upcoming issues are already planned. The University of Zurich is helping with administration. They highlighted different initiatives they are undertaking. Chris thanked Pazit and Marco for taking over *Advances* and all their hard work going forward. The GC discussed various issues about the future of *Advances*.

Liz Suhay and Mark Brandt, co-editors of *Political Psychology*, updated the GC on the journal. Liz explained the current workings of the journal in the transition. The former editorial team is continuing to finish the articles that began under them. The new team is making some changes regarding the process, including disclosures about pre-registration and, especially, AI. She discussed the transition from ScholarOne to Wiley's new submission system, which has caused a few issues, but they are working with this. They are creating a few new submission options such as Dialogues and Registered Reports. Dialogues will be replacing Book Reviews. They are also several new actions under development: developing reviewer guidelines, moving toward a better process for transfers to other journals, and working on internationalization, among

others. Mark discussed some of the metrics in the report. We are on pace to match publications and submissions for prior years. Improvements continue on turnaround and processing times. He then presented data on countries of submission, review times, readership, full text views, and citation trends. There has been a drop in the citation trends from a peak in 2021; he speculated that perhaps the pandemic increased citations. The GC then discussed several items with the editors, including AI reviews, distribution of submissions from political science and social psychology, submissions from the Global South, the place conceptual or theoretical pieces have in the journal, and special issues.

Early Career Committee (ECC) Chair Boglarka Nyul presented her report. She highlighted struggles in recruiting new ECC officers, especially finding political scientists and Global South scholars willing to serve. She then presented information on travel awards and ECC Newsletter impressions and engagements on LinkedIn and Facebook. She suggested that the Society should consider adding Bluesky to our social media channels. She then discussed the mentoring lunch and the professional development activities, including workshops and roundtables. The ECC recommended shifting the Mentoring Luncheon back to on-site at the 2026 Conference in Newcastle. The ECC believes this will promote inclusivity, professionalism, and punctuality. The GC discussed this issue and the ECC will come back with a proposal at the January GC Meeting for what to do at the 2026 Newcastle Conference, including whether to rename the activity to Mentoring Lunch. Discussion indicated that the ECC has control over their own officers and can rename Web Resources Coordinator to Social Media and Outreach Coordinator to better reflect responsibilities and attract candidates. Boglarka then discussed the need to democratize ECC Elections. Incoming President Joanne Miller will work the ECC to bring a bylaw change proposal to the January GC Meeting to address this issue.

Chris reminded the GC about the advice from our attorney that we discussed in January regarding a Non-Disclosure Agreement/Confidentiality Policy (NDA). Chris indicated that the EC would like to consult with the attorney further and CHMS given the CO transition. We are also discussing with CHMS whether to incorporate in a state other than California. The EC will come back with a proposal on this issue for the January 2026 GC Meeting. The GC discussed the implications of this issue for GC members and our insurance policies. The EC will report back on these issues at the January 2026 GC Meeting.

Vice-President Conferences Laura Taylor presented her report. She explained changes that became necessary due to the costs associated with our choice to go to Mexico City in 2027, which were prohibitive. The Conference Committee went back to the top options for 2028 of the Netherlands and Spain. She presented the information the Society received from Conference Direct on Amsterdam and Barcelona. The two best options are in Amsterdam, and The Postillion Hotel & Convention Center seems to be the best choice. The GC then discussed

this as a location, including the availability of other lodging locations nearby, restaurants, available space, the Food & Beverage Minimum, and overall costs. The GC unanimously voted that we go forward with a conference in Amsterdam in 2027 and authorize negotiations at the Postillion Hotel. Laura also noted that the GC should continue to consider the role of a hybrid/online option in future conferences. The GC discussed the rising costs associated with our conferences and what they might be able to do about it. For the 2028 conference, the GC approved a motion for the Conference Committee to investigate Vienna and another city to bring to the January 2026 GC Meeting.

Vice-President Initiatives Michael Morrell presented his report. He thanked the Initiatives Committee members over the last three years for all their hard work. He presented the results of the 2025 Small Grant Program. We received 112 proposals, of which we were ultimately able to fund six. Two-thirds of proposers were scholars based in North America and Western Europe, although some of these scholars originated in other areas. The Society ended up awarding \$30,401.83 to scholars in Chile, Cyprus, Norway, Nigeria, South Africa, Turkey, Austria, India, and Indonesia; the scholars in Western Europe were engaged in joint research projects with scholars from other areas of the world. He highlighted challenges in the review process and suggested several considerations for future competitions. Michael indicated that membership increased this year, from 670 to 837; anecdotal evidence suggests that this is likely due to a popular conference the Small Grant Competition. Incoming VP Initiatives Martijn van Zomeren will work with the Committee to continue to consider alternatives to our membership fees and structure. He then presented the Initiatives Committee proposal for the 2026 Small Grant Competition. The Committee proposed that for 2026, the Society use \$60,000 of the Society's investment returns to fund a Small Grant Program that will allow proposals for either 1) research grants or 2) to host research networks, workshops or conferences. The GC discussed this proposal and metrics that might help the GC understand if it is achieving its goals. Boglarka asked the GC to consider using some the Society's investment returns for initiatives of the ECC. After discussion and amendment, the GC unanimously approved allocating \$50k for the Small Grant Competition and \$10k for a new initiative to be determined by the ECC.

Vice-President Communications Tali Mendelberg presented her report. She engaged the GC in a discussion of our X account and our presence on other social media. The general sense was that the Society will continue with a freeze on our X account and return to the issue at the January 2026 GC Meeting. Tali explained a By-law change proposal from the Communications Committee. The GC engaged in an extensive discussion of the proposal. Without objection, the GC struck the section of the proposal affecting Chapter X and asked the Communications Committee to work to address the concerns we raised and bring a new proposal to the January 2026 GC Meeting. The GC approved unanimously to adopt the proposed change for Chapter VIII that clarifies the VP Communications' role on the editor search committees.

Scholars Under Threat Hector Carvacho presented his report. He discussed the financial support the Committee provided for the 2025 Conference to scholars from Ukraine and Turkey. He then discussed the Committee's likely plans for the 2026 Conference. He highlighted concerns about limiting activities to people who have a clear connection to ISPP and engaging in online meetings with threatened scholars. He recommended that the Society investigate how to provide safe spaces for people who are worried about their activities online. The Committee is working on updates to the web site and forms given that they are still mostly rooted in the emergency in Turkey several years ago.

Treasurer David Redlawsk and Councilor Leonie Huddy gave an update on the Publisher Search Committee. The GC engaged in an extensive discussion of the Society's relationship with Wiley, the role of *Advances* in the Society's publication strategy, and Open Access. The general sense of the GC was that we should go forward with an RFP for a publisher. GC members made several suggestions on what to include as part of the RFP process. The Committee will aim to complete a review of the RFP so that candidates can present at the January 2026 GC Meeting.

Chris ended the meeting by urging that Society members who agree to take on responsibilities ensure that consider the responsibilities clearly and fully before agreeing to do them, and if something arises, please let the leadership know as soon as possible so that we can reallocate tasks. While there were some things that did not always run smoothly under the previous CO system, previous CO staff had legitimate concerns and frustrations. One of these involved timely and respectful communication. We also need to be aware that our academic knowledge does not always translate to other areas that the organization involves. We can certainly ask for things, but we have to be careful about what we expect or how we treat those with whom we work.

Without objection, the Chris adjourned the meeting at 4:42PM.