

## **ISPP Governing Council (GC) Meeting**

July 9-10, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Website Synopsis

ISPP President, Felicia Pratto, welcomed everyone to the July 2021 GC Meeting.

It was pointed out that a correction is needed in the Treasurer's Report section of the January 2021 GC Meeting minutes. It should state that the John Sullivan Award was recently endowed instead of the Jim Sidanius Award. Felicia moved to make this correction in the minutes. This was seconded. All approved.

A meeting for new GC members was held last week to introduce them to the structure and process of the GC. It was a good way for new GC members to get acquainted and we would like to continue having this meeting and induction session each year.

It was shared that the organization is currently in a good financial position after the efforts made to reserve funds and build up our endowment. These efforts will continue. Stabilizing the organization's funds to the point where we could become independent (primarily from the support of our journal royalties) would be a huge step for the organization. A new Long-term Financial Planning Committee has been formed. It overlaps somewhat with our current Finance Committee. The committee was formed to enable some members to get together and focus on the long-term financial planning for the organization. They have discussed many ideas, including how to make the conference profitable and accessible. There are no formal proposals at this time, but the committee is an opportunity for the organization to think outside the box in regards to ISPP's financial future.

The recommended rates for membership and conference registration for 2022 were approved. There was some concern that the lowest income registration category for the conference is too broad. It was discussed whether or not to split this income category in half. Due to the potential ramifications of this step, it was decided to have Executive Director, Sev Bennett, and Treasurer, Melinda Jackson, consider ways to split the lower-income tier for 2023, with more information from GC members. There was a discussion around adjusting the rates to add an incentive for individuals to join as members before registering for the conference. There was a concern for this since some people can be reimbursed for conference registration, but not membership. Melinda plans to consider ways to combine membership and conference rates in the future to assist with this issue, keeping in mind this would be a regressive move since the rates used to be combined, but were split to stabilize membership numbers.

In January we had discussed the understanding that if someone has a conflict of interest regarding a vote that has come to the GC, they must abstain. A By-law draft was proposed to formally address this as an operating procedure. There was concern that some sections of the By-law are not specific enough. Felicia will send Councilor, Leonie Huddy, the proposed By-law for review and edits based on the recommendations discussed during the 2021 ISPP July GC Meeting. The revised By-law will be brought back to the GC for vote at the January 2022 GC Meeting.

The ISPP Constitution outlines clearly what is needed for an official statement to be approved, but there is not a procedure for members to request that ISPP make a statement on their behalf or on behalf of an issue they propose. The Membership/Internationalization/Initiatives Committee is working on creating a procedure that would provide a coherent set of informative details for the GC to review to consider a

statement. The focus on any statement should be in cases where our members' academic freedom is in question.

The Diversity and Internationalization Subcommittee reviewed details regarding the recent membership survey. Overall, the survey suggests that ISPP serves diversity on many dimensions, but each with its own challenges for inclusion. Due to reports in the survey, the Membership and Internationalization Committee plans to work on creating a process for reporting inappropriate behavior at ISPP events, or by members of ISPP, to include behavior within the leadership.

The Ambassador Program is a new program to engage handpicked ambassadors for ISPP from around the world. Felicia noted there seems to be comradery and support from each of the new ambassadors.

There is currently a huge interest in submitting to the journal. We have increased the number of papers we are publishing, which will have a negative reflection on the impact factor. Of the papers going through the review process, around two-thirds are making it through the process. *Political Psychology* Editor-in-Chief, Orla Muldoon, wanted to recognize the incredible amount of work that is done on a pro-bono basis for the journal. It was pointed out that, with Covid, we know there has been a disproportionate impact on females, mainly mothers. Currently, there is no quota or other method of addressing this issue, although Orla is aware of it.

We now have a new Eastern Hemisphere Virtual Seminars Series. GC member, Ying-yi Hong, shared that they have already conducted six seminar talks since January. To be more inclusive, the name Eastern Hemisphere Seminars Series will be changed to ISPP Seminar Series with the region listed afterward, if needed.

Because they were not able to award travel awards this year, the ECC Travel Awards were re-allocated to fund 26 applicants with free registration to the virtual meeting. The ECC continues to do amazing work and there continues to be a large need for more ECC events and mentorship.

The Scholars Under Threat committee is working to find more long-term ways to support scholars with a particular focus on the new Twinning Program. President-elect, Tereza Capelos, pointed out that because of these efforts, we can be recipients of a lot of frustration and anger if we are asking about things we cannot provide. She would like to add to the 2022 January GC Meeting agenda a discussion on giving and receiving help for those who are involved in SUT.

The New Initiatives Committee will work with appropriate members of the GC and in consultation with ISPP's attorney (via the Central Office) on establishing an ethics code and related policies for ISPP.

The process for the 2021 ISPP Academy was quite smooth this year. It was much easier knowing in advance that this was going to be a virtual event. The ISPP Academy Director was encouraged to work on diversifying the Academy speakers. Different ideas of how to address a larger ISPP Academy were discussed, such as a parallel Academy which would have the same amount of instructors who would share twice. So, everyone would experience the same content at different times.

This year the Program Chairs focused on improving social interaction at the 2021 ISPP Virtual Annual Conference. One of the things they did to improve that was a chat feature during panels. They also implemented 14 different social sessions, hoping to give people the social networking that they normally don't get during virtual meetings. There was still some concern about the lack of interaction during the

regular paper panels. As of today, we have 879 persons registered for the conference. This is the largest number of registrants in ISPP's history.

Over the past few months ISPP received two different letters about the situation in Palestine. One of them Felicia mentioned in her newsletter. Felicia described the letters for the GC and a discussion was held regarding the implications of these. The second letter seems to be claiming that the 2021 conference theme, "Reclaiming spaces for marginalized and colonized people", seems to be inadequate. The letter writers seem to have concluded that we have considered Palestine as being exempt from this, and they have specifically asked the Executive Committee to make a public statement that our theme has been inadequate because it singled them out. Both letters propose that we take steps, but both require us to say that we singled out the Palestinian situation as a separate treatment. There was concern that ISPP has not shied away from public statements in the past that addressed U.S.-based politics. If ISPP is making comments on things that need to change in the U.S., it should also be the case elsewhere in the world. There was discussion as to which were official statements from ISPP, and which were merely expressions of personal opinions. There was agreement that we should be consistent with what we address in an official capacity. This points out the need for a clear policy on how we make official statements as an organization, which must be in line with the legal requirements of ISPP's status as a non-profit organization. It was decided to involve Leonie and work towards drafting policies regarding official statements by ISPP.