

ISPP Governing Council Meeting

13, 14, 15 January 2025

Virtual

Chris Federico, ISPP President, welcomed the Governing Council (GC) to the January 2025 Virtual GC meeting, expressing gratitude for their service to ISPP. All attendees introduced themselves.

The full and web versions of the July 2024 GC Minutes were approved unanimously.

The GC nominee slate, including candidates for President, Vice President, and ten GC candidate positions, was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. Felicia Pratto has taken over as Chair of the Nominating Committee to move the process forward. The committee is reviewing recent candidates and alternates, with a goal to finalize the slate by the end of January. A second GC meeting will be scheduled to review and vote on the slate.

Following concerns raised at the ISPP 2024 Business Meeting in Santiago, efforts are ongoing to engage with Palestinian scholars. A roundtable at the upcoming conference, co-chaired by Magdalena Bobowik (GC 3rd Year) and colleagues, will focus on experiences with collaboration. The GC discussed potential initiatives for 2026, including targeted funding support, promoting the ISPP Academy, reduced or waived fees, options to join virtually, and more. A virtual keynote address is also being considered.

Program planning is progressing for the 2025 Annual Meeting. Blitz presentation will return and keynote speakers include Chris Federico, Martina Klicperová-Baker, and Anna Kende. Two memorial events are planned: one honoring Dr. James Liu and another celebrating David Sears' 90th birthday. The conference received a record-breaking 1,015 submissions, primarily in paper format. To help with the rejection rate, the Program Chairs plan to reclassify papers as posters or blitz talks, and to look into ways to add more sessions to the program. Registration is expected to open in February 2025. The GC meeting will take place on July 2, 2025, prior to the conference.

Dave Redlawsk (Treasurer) shared the financial report and provided updates on the Society's endowment and proposed a bylaw amendment to allow greater flexibility in utilizing the annual investment yield. Previously, any unused yield at the end of a fiscal year was returned to the endowment. The amendment permits the GC to use a portion of the annual yield through the following fiscal year, enhancing the Society's ability to fund initiatives while ensuring long-term financial health.

A motion to approve the proposed bylaw amendment was made by Dave Redlawsk, seconded by Allison Harrell (GC 2nd Year), and passed unanimously.

Following discussions at the July 2025 GC meeting, the Finance Committee recommended transitioning ISPP's investments to an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)-focused approach. This strategy aligns the Society's investments with its values, emphasizing social responsibility, ethical practices, and active shareholder engagement to influence corporate behavior.

The Finance Committee voted in favor of the transition, and next steps will begin soon, with progress updates to be provided at future meetings.

Dave Redlawsk reviewed the Society's restricted funds and identified opportunities to better align their use with donor intent. Several adjustments were proposed to enhance support for awards and member programs, including: increasing the Dissertation Award; introducing new travel awards for early career scholars; expanding the Sears Book Award to include runner-up recognitions; and utilizing specific funds to support the Society's professional memberships and related activities. A working group will further evaluate the restricted funds and develop proposals for expanded usage in line with donor intent. The GC unanimously approved a motion to establish a new committee to review ISPP's awards and evaluate how best to allocate available funds in support of them. Dave Redlawsk proposed the formation, Catarina Kinnvall seconded, and the committee aims to provide recommendations to the EC in time for changes to be implemented during the current awards cycle.

The revised 2025 budget reflects stronger-than-anticipated revenues and strategic reallocations to support key member programs and operational needs. Notable updates include increased support for member-facing initiatives, adjustments to conference planning funds, and continued investment in the Central Office and operations. A motion to revise and approve the budget, including an amendment to add support for an additional Program Chair, was made by Dave Redlawsk, seconded by Michael Morrell (VP of Initiatives), and unanimously approved. A final vote to approve the revised budget was passed unanimously.

The 2026 budget anticipates steady journal income and moderate conference revenue. A shift toward recording general, unrestricted donations was agreed upon to support long-term funding strategies. Core operations remain the largest expense. Conference expenses are elevated due to required university labor in the Newcastle contract, highlighting the need for earlier planning and deposits in future years. The budget includes reduced discretionary funds for the presidential line, two Program Chairs instead of three, and restored GC travel support. Officer travel is not yet reinstated. A discussion on increasing support for the onsite Mentoring Lunch will be revisited in July 2025.

Michael Morell shared that ISPP membership has stabilized after post-pandemic declines. A proposal is under review to offer one-year complimentary memberships to annual conference registrants to boost engagement. The small research grant program has relaunched, receiving over 100 applications. The initiative supports underrepresented research and international outreach, with plans to expand funding in 2026. The committee is also exploring regional mini-conferences and workshops. Broader concerns about long-term membership trends remain under review.

Tali Mendelberg (VP of Communications) noted that ISPP launched a new Member Spotlight series, now featuring Dr. Chryl Laird. ISPP expanded its presence to Bluesky, Threads, and Instagram, though X (formerly Twitter) engagement remains low. Following a vote by the GC, ISPP will suspend activity on X for the foreseeable future.

Laura Taylor (VP of Conferences) shared an update on future conference planning. The GC approved Mexico City as the host city for ISPP's 2027 Annual Meeting (15 in favor, 1 opposed). The Conference Committee also recommended Central Europe for 2028, with Vienna as a leading option. Other cities under consideration include Split, Dubrovnik, Zagreb, Ljubljana, Bratislava, Sofia, Bucharest, and Budapest. The vote approved the region, not a specific city. A tentative rotation was discussed: Mexico City (2027), Central Europe (2028), and Western Europe (2029). A motion to focus on selecting a highly attractive European location for 2028, with an experimental site for 2029, passed (13 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention).

A new U.S. city rotation was proposed to include Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Seattle to streamline planning and control costs. While cities like San Francisco and New York were considered, budget constraints have made them less feasible. However, New York will remain under consideration due to consistent member interest. The proposal applies only to U.S. cities and does not affect future Canadian locations.

The Academy Director, Gizem Arikan, shared that the 2025 Virtual Academy was a success in terms of participation and revenue, though engagement was lower than past in-person events. Planning is underway for the 2025 Academy in Prague.

With Gizem stepping down as Academy Director, ISPP is in the process of selecting a new director to shadow her during the 2025 Academy. An expedited search is underway, and a nominee will be presented for a formal vote in an upcoming GC meeting.

Liz Suhay and Mark Brandt were welcomed as the new Editors-in-Chief of *Political Psychology*, officially beginning their term in January following the sudden passing of past Editor-in-Chief, James Liu. With support from 15 Associate Editors, they've restructured the Editorial Board to enhance global and career-stage diversity. Their priorities include expanding international outreach, strengthening interdisciplinary ties between political science and political psychology, and advancing open science practices. Operational updates include increased article output, updated submission guidelines, and expanded social media efforts (excluding X). The GC formally thanked the outgoing editorial team, with a motion recognizing their service passed unanimously.

The GC unanimously approved Andrea Correa Chica as the next Editor of ISPPNews. Recommended by the Search Committee for her strong ties to the ISPP community and active involvement in the Early Career Committee, Andrea will begin a transition period on February 1, 2025. Her official term will run from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028. A smooth transition is expected as she steps into the role from the current editorial team.

Tali Mendelberg discussed clarifying the scope of the VP of Communications role, which currently oversees ISPP's website, newsletter, and social media, but not the journal or editorial policies. While this preserves editorial independence, GC members noted it limits communication and alignment. To encourage collaboration, the GC supported informal consultation between journal editors and ISPP

leadership. The discussion also highlighted the need to better align journal promotion with ISPP's broader communications strategy. Further review of the VP role and communications governance is planned.

Chris Federico announced that Alexandra Filindra will step in to complete Hakeem Jefferson's GC term following his resignation.

Additionally, the GC voted unanimously to appoint Paul Nesbitt-Larking as the next ISPP Councilor, following a nomination process in late 2024. A former ISPP President, Paul Nesbitt-Larking brings deep leadership experience and will begin his term after the July 2025 meeting in Prague. The Councilor role plays a key part in advising the Governing Council, Executive Committee (EC), and President on governance issues, with constitutional authority unless overruled by a GC supermajority.

ISPP has launched a publisher search committee to explore options for a new publisher. While the current contract with Wiley runs through 2028 and offers strong royalties and support with promotional funding, ongoing service issues have prompted the formation of a search committee. The committee will first raise concerns with Wiley and, if needed, prepare a formal Request for Proposals (RFP). Any new agreement will maintain *Advances in Political Psychology* and archive access.

The GC was briefed on a proposed U.S. law that could impact nonprofit status for organizations labeled as threats to the U.S. government. Though unlikely to pass, ISPP leadership is monitoring developments closely. ISPP's apolitical charter and cautious funding practices help minimize exposure, but the organization is prepared to act swiftly if needed.

ISPP is considering the adoption of a general Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) for individuals and entities working closely with the organization, such as vendors, GC members, and committees. The goal is to safeguard internal discussions and sensitive information. Further legal guidance is being sought to address GC concerns regarding the NDA.

Following storms in the southeastern U.S. that caused significant damage and communication outages, ISPP recognized the need to strengthen specific aspects of its continuity of operations plan. In response, the EC approved an updated Continuity of Operations Plan. Key updates include the adoption of iDrive, a secure, encrypted cloud-based backup system; shared access for the CO staff, Treasurer, and President; and local redundancy through file storage on staff laptops. Work is ongoing to address remaining gaps, including expanding access to the payroll system, which is currently limited to the Treasurer.

The meeting concluded with thanks from President Chris Federico for everyone's ongoing commitment to ISPP.

ADJOURNED