Nick thanked everyone for all their efforts over the past three months in these troubling times and wished health and well-being for all GC members and officers.

The GC approved a set of procedures for approving new awards and renaming old awards. In an effort to increase diversity within the current ISPP award names, this same committee was tasked with the goal of renaming current ISPP awards to better reflect our diversity efforts. The committee discussed which awards they can change without causing conflict. Given the lack of information on Erikson and lack of knowledge on his impact or work with ISPP, this seemed to be the most obvious award name to change. There was a motion to rename the Erik Erikson Award after a new individual. The qualifications of this individual were discussed. The GC approved this recommendation and the individual will be approached to determine if they are willing to accept this honor.

The Summer Academy (SA) was moved to a virtual format this year. To accommodate this new format, instructors recorded their lectures ahead of time, and online meetings were created for the breakout sessions. This will potentially allow for Q&A and further discussion. Due to the late decision to go virtual, many instructors had to be replaced. Unfortunately, this led to a lowered amount of diversity within the instructor list. Gizem Arikan was welcomed as the new SA Director. Given the fact that the Summer Academy takes place during a time of year that is not Summer for many individuals, it was moved that we rename the Summer Academy the ISPP Academy. This motion was approved. The results of initial fundraising for the Sullivan Award by George Marcus have been much more successful than we had even hoped. The amount placed in the endowment is more than is necessary to raise the $500 needed to fund the award each year.

At the time of the GC meeting, there were 594 participants scheduled in 120 panels for this year’s virtual meeting. This year we will have a panel on Covid-19 which was added later to address the current pandemic. It was noted that the issue of diversity versus time zone accommodation is one of the most challenging aspects of hosting a virtual meeting. Tereza noted that we definitely need to consider the effects of Covid in the future. The pandemic could potentially cause a recession which would affect an individual’s ability to attend conferences and pay online meeting fees.

An update on the 2021 Montreal conference planning was shared. The current strategy is to get one or two indigenous scholars to serve as keynote speakers and recruit those individuals soon in order to encourage participation from others as well. The Program Chairs are Allison Harell and Carla Houkamau. They are working to get feedback on projects that would be useful to them and there is a lot of background work that is currently being done for the 2021 conference. It was noted that we will need to consider the option to move the 2021 Annual Meeting online. This decision will need to be made as soon as possible. The GC determined to hold the ISPP conference in the following destinations: 2022 – Athens, 2023 – Prague, 2024 – Santiago. The list was updated to add Berlin as the 2025 conference destination.

The GC discussed how to handle the recoded conference content. It was determined to host all the conference recordings online for a limited time after the conference and make these recordings
available to conference attendees only. The keynote speakers will be approached to determine if they would support their keynote sessions being made available on the ISPP website.

All emergency funds available for scholars under threat were distributed in January. The Scholars Under Threat (SUT) Committee is recommending we create a donations officer within the committee to oversee the collection of more donations. The committee is currently working on upgrading our twinning program. A one-page twinning program invitation is being created and translated into 5 different languages to try and encourage participation. The GC approved a partnership with the Scholars Rescue Fund (SFR). Fellows of the SRF will receive benefits from ISPP, including a free one-year membership and discounted conference registration rates.

In January we changed ISPP’s fiscal year to run from January to January instead of February to February. We also voted to approve two annual budgets in January 2020. This was done to help us get ahead of the new budget cycle. This will allow us to move to approving our budgets in July where, historically, we have had greater attendance at our GC meetings. This transition is in progress. The move to the virtual conference has changed the budget for this year significantly. We are waiting to update our final numbers until after the virtual meeting.

The GC approved updating the Mentoring Lunch process. Instead of a sit-down luncheon at the conference venue, mentors will meet up with their mentees and attend a luncheon at a restaurant of their choice outside of the meeting venue. ISPP would then reimburse these mentors up to $20 pp ($80 USD). This new Mentoring Lunch format will be implemented at the next in-person ISPP Annual Meeting.