

## **ISPP Governing Council Meeting**

8 July 2023

Omni Môt-Royal, Montréal, Québec, Canada

Room: Salon Été (2nd Floor)

Roberto Gonzalez, ISPP President, welcomed the Governing Council (GC) to the meeting in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, expressing gratitude for the GC's service to ISPP. He introduced new appointees, including Christopher Federico as the President-elect, Tali Mendelberg as VP of Communications, David Redlawsk as the incoming Treasurer, and Myrto Pantazi as the new ECC Chair. New GC members Bert Bakker, Allison Harell, Matthew Hayes, Hakeem Jefferson, and Mirra Noor Milla were also acknowledged. The GC recognized the conclusion of terms for Melinda Jackson (Treasurer), Tereza Capelos (Past President), and Joanne Miller (VP of Communications). Departing GC members Eric Groenendyk, Ying Yi Hong, Maja Kutlaca, Elif Sandal Onal, and Elizabeth Suhay were applauded for their contributions.

The full and web versions of the January 2023 GC minutes received unanimous approval.

The ISPP Program Chairs, Amanda Friesen, Tania Gosselin, and Rosa Rodriguez-Bailon, announced this year's statistics: 585 submissions and over 400 registered participants. Despite accepting 10%-15% over the scheduled capacity, adjustments had to be made due to non-registrants, necessitating panel reorganization. The Chairs highlighted the importance of adhering to deadlines to ease the workload for Program Chairs and the ISPP Central Office. A suggestion was made to exclude the blitz format, allowing only paper, poster, roundtable, and full panel submissions. The Program Chairs received applause for their dedication and work to ISPP.

Sev Bennett (Executive Director) presented a proposal initially introduced to the GC in July 2022, aimed at enhancing clarity within the By-laws regarding VP roles by defining their responsibilities. A motion was raised and passed by the GC to approve the proposal.

The election process and outcomes were discussed based on a January 2023 conversation. It was clarified that there is only one candidate for President available for selection. Joanne Miller (VP of Communications) explained that ISPP's Constitution and By-laws do not involve voting for a President, as the nomination is carried out by a committee, which then goes through GC approval, allowing for potential concerns to be expressed. Once approved by the GC, the slate goes for election, with two of the positions being uncontested (President and Vice President). A motion was proposed and carried with positive votes, leading to the approval of the By-law.

James Liu (Co-Editor-in-Chief of POPS) mentioned that he and Orla Muldoon (Co-Editor-in-Chief of POPS) are in their final year as editors and faced challenges finding successors. He emphasized the journal's struggle to expand its presence in Asia and Eastern Europe. To tackle this, POPS is directing efforts toward generating additional special issues to diversify its content range, including a multi-journal special issue; an announcement will be posted on the ISPP website and updated regularly.

Tijana Karic, Chair of the Early Career Committee (ECC), reported minimal applications for ECC officer roles, raising concerns about the committee's sustainability. Despite this, there was a consensus in favor of the ECC and recognition of its significance. Suggestions were discussed to enhance future application processes.

Maja Kutlaca, Scholars Under Threat Committee (SUT) Chair, emphasized the scholarly significance of the roundtable and Twinning Program. She informed the GC that the recorded SUT webinar is available on the ISPP website and YouTube Channel and encouraged members to share the video. Maja introduced two new additions to the Twinning Program and expressed a vision for connecting scholars under threat through a dedicated network.

Gizem Arikan (Academy Director) provided an update on the Academy's status. Out of the initial 45 registrants, 38 fellows attended this year's program. Participants are at an earlier stage in their careers. The goal is to enhance future participation. Addressing the expense of travel and ensuring fair pricing, given funding disparities, was acknowledged. A suggestion emerged for pre-recorded bilingual lectures leading up to the Santiago conference.

Starting in August 2024, there will be a new *Advances* Editor serving a five-year term. Catarina Kinnvall (President-elect) will be appointing a search committee to find new Editors for POPS, whose selection will be approved by the Executive Committee (EC).

There has been a membership decline to just over 600 members. Michael Morrell (VP of Initiatives) discussed a potential new fee structure and membership benefits.

Melinda Jackson (Treasurer) presented the financial report, discussing the Finance Committee and Long-term Financial Planning Committee merger. It was mentioned that ISPP manages two primary funds: the Annual Operating Budget and the Endowment. The endowment is the surplus from the operating budget, reinvested earnings, and donations for specific purposes (ex., awards). Expenses related to the endowment include awards, ISPP Academy subsidy, new initiatives such as small grants, and reinvestment for growth. The operating budget derives income from journal royalties, membership dues, conference registration fees, and unrestricted donations. Expenses in this budget cover various operational aspects such as staff salaries, professional services, insurance, bank fees, etc. There is a small deficit projected for 2023; additionally, there are concerns about the projected deficit for 2024. Due to these concerns, a motion was made to postpone the budget vote to January 2024 or earlier, and the Finance Committee was tasked with reducing or eliminating the deficit. The vote received unanimous approval.

There was a discussion about the appointment of an Acting Treasurer in the case of a Treasurer's short-term leave. If the Treasurer is unavailable, the past Treasurer is appointed by the President as Acting Treasurer. An Amendment was proposed to clarify 'short leave' as temporary. A motion was made to

have the President appoint an Acting Treasurer during the Treasurer's short-term leave and passed unanimously. The GC expressed their gratitude to Melinda for her five years of service as Treasurer.

The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held in Santiago at the Hotel Intercontinental. Concerns were raised about the 2025 venue due to challenges in finding a suitable location in Prague. Berlin is being explored as an alternative. The GC discussed reevaluating conference locations for cost, visas, and diversity enhancement.

The discussion shifted to standby statuses for conference acceptances, which has led to confusion due to changes across the years. This year, standby status meant acceptance with uncertainty about the presentation format, while in 2022, it was not an acceptance, but indicated potential placement in the program after the author registration. This caused chaos, workload increase, and upset emails for the Athens conference. The GC chose to let Program Chairs decide standby status, given varying conference contexts.

Roberto González (President) thanked outgoing GC members and the Central Office.

**ADJOURNED**