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POLITIKON- THE IAPSS JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Final Annual Report

2004/2005

The 2004/2005 mandate proved to be successful in many ways. The work itself was a challenge, as the members of the Editorial Board were for the first time of different nationalities and residing in different parts of the world. However, the team managed to overcome the obstacles that appeared along the way and ensure the continuity and progress of the program.

Achievements

The objectives set were quite ambitious. The team however succeeded in achieving many of them. Issues 9 and 10 were published online and Issue 10 was also presented in printed form.

One of the main concerns was that of ensuring the quality of the journal and increasing the number of contributions. This was very well achieved, with the creation of an international board of reviewers, composed of professionals- doctorate students and professors. The promotion strategy for the Journal and its topic resulted in bringing the biggest number of submissions to the Journal up to that moment.

The first steps towards the creation of a large distribution system were made. Libraries all over the world were offered the possibility of subscribing to the Journal. In this sense, an explanatory letter and a subscription form were created.

The team tried to find and consolidate international opportunities concerning the administrative development of Politikon. As a result, collaboration with the International Political Science Association,

International Studies Association or the European Political Science Network was established.

Obstacles

The lack of funds for the distribution of the issue printed or even for printing one of the issues published was one of the main obstacles experienced by the Editorial Board. Politikon did not manage to become a self-sustained program and continued to rely on the assistance of the ExCom.

On a different level, communication within the core team proved at times very difficult. A meeting was established in Bucharest with all the EB members as well as members of the former EB in the beginning of the mandate . Continuity and transfer of knowledge were thus ensured. However, another similar meeting was not possible and communication among the members lacked efficiency later on. The main obstacle in this regards was physical distance- as already mentioned, all members lived in different parts of the world. The lack of participation and the fact that not all the members were aware of their responsibilities generated quorum problems and caused lower quality of discussions.

Human resources were another problem. The reviewers contacted were not sufficient for the work needed, which had as primary consequences workload and demotivation.

Visibility of Politikon in the larger Political Science community remains very low. Not much has been done in order to overcome this obstacle- which poses Politikon with the question whether it is reaching its public or not. In this respect, a future promotion campaign should be sustained, in order to add to and highlight the potential of the Journal and the achievements of the team.

Conclusions

To conclude, the legacy of this Editorial Board is that of two highly qualitative issues published, a very high number of copies printed, cooperation with important international associations (IPSA, ISA).

The list of problems faced by the team within the mandate is not a short one. A certain in-efficiency of the team itself, combined with external factors as lack of funds may have kept Politikon from reaching its full potential at this point.

However, we should not ignore the larger context: the novelty of the collaboration within an international Editorial Board, that of primarily communication via internet rather than in person, the fact that Politikon itself still has to grow and develop. In this light, the achievements of the 2004/ 2005 Editorial Board have added to the overall progress of this essential IAPSS program. What this team built, with all its shortcomings, was a bridge, one that will lead to a new level for future Editorial Boards. It is up to these future teams to learn from the mistakes of the past and continue to provide the program new ground for development.

Anca Oprisor
Member of the 2004/2005 Politikon Editorial Board