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Editorial Board: Politikon- The IAPSS Journal of Political Science Preliminary Activity Report

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Introduction

The aim of the current Editorial Board is to ensure the continuity and consolidation of the Journal, to help it reach full growth and maturity.

At the end of this first half of the mandate, the results are starting to show, especially since the initial period of accommodation and planning is giving room for deeper, more concrete action. Initial communication problems, as well as lack of funds have caused some obstacles and delay, but the team keeps its vitality and the project is progressing.

Goals for this mandate

The goals for this mandate are rather ambitious: finalizing the work of the previous mandate by printing the 10th, anniversary issue of Politikon, already published; preparing and printing a highly qualitative issue 11; keeping the attained qualitative standards of POLITIKON; starting work on creating a large scale, viable distribution system; ensuring the visibility of the Journal; finding the necessary funds to attain the proposed objectives.

Achievements

As already mentioned, the work of the Politikon EB was concentrated on two levels. The first was consolidation, the other was improvement and growth.

In the first sense, efforts were made to strengthen the Editorial Board itself. It is barely the second year in which the members of the Editorial Board reside in different parts of the world. Therefore, one of the main issues was increasing cohesion within its members and creating efficient communication strategies.

Furthermore, it is the merit of the current Editorial Board to have finalized the work of the former team by printing the 10th, anniversary issue of Politikon. Thus Politikon 10 was also offered in concrete material form to IAPSS members, after previously being presented online.

Regarding the most recent issue of the Journal, the work of the Editorial Board has focused on delivering a qualitative journal, a valuable academic tool for its readers and authors, as well as a distinctive mark for IAPSS in the academic world. For this purpose, a team of experienced reviewers has been selected, allowing the high quality and professionalism of the reviewing process.

We have tried to maintain a high number of submissions, by making *Politikon* visible and attractive to Political Science students all over the world. Even so, there is still the necessity of a stronger and more sustained PR campaign.

Also, in an effort to connect IAPSS projects and bring some novelty in its work the team decided to prepare a special issue in the second part of its mandate, with papers from the *Old, New, Future Europe* conferences to take place in April and May.

Obstacles

As every developing program, *Politikon* too has faced its obstacles.

One aspect that needs attention is communication within the Editorial Board. As it was the case with the previous team, this year again distance created difficulties in the sense that the EB was not able to meet face to face, and online meetings lacked efficiency at times.

The team grew with the coming of a volunteer: Florin Marin from APSS Bucharest. This has eased work within the Editorial Board and ensured an efficient distribution of tasks.

However, the fact remains that the current structure of the EB makes information flow and decision making rather difficult to handle and future obstacles in this area can be foreseen. It is essential therefore that attention is given to facilitating the process of communication within the team and further motivating its members.

Another past problem that has not yet been resolved is connected to funds. The narrow scope and target of *Politikon*- destined solely for the Political Science community- makes it difficult for the Editorial Board to address private sources. Even further, institutional sources are limited, thus making fundraising one of the most difficult issues on the agenda of successive Editorial Boards, the current one included.

Visibility remains still a problematic issue. In this regard, a sustained PR campaign would ensure greater awareness for the journal in the academic world and bring more supporters- whether potential authors or partners.

Large scale distribution and worldwide promotion are other aspects that have not been covered, but which have the potential of bringing *Politikon* to a higher degree of professionalism, as well as ensuring its greater prestige and utility for its readers and authors.

Conclusions

Politikon is an important landmark in the history of IAPSS and proof of its evolution. It represents an important point of departure for Political Science students all over the world who are in need of recognition and waiting to be discovered. We must therefore understand its place and perspectives by looking at its potential to consolidate an academic community around IAPSS itself.

Politikon should now look into the future and seek new ways to grow and add to the very evolution of IAPSS. Its importance and contribution to the association depend on the Editorial Board's capacity to overcome obstacles and work together for the success of the program.

Apart from the obstacles already mentioned, the work of the Editorial Board has proved successful. The potential of this project for IAPSS is well understood by its members and the overall impression is quite positive. I am confident in the capacity of the present team to override their obstacles and contribute to the development of their common project.

Anca Oprisor
IAPSS Vice Chairperson