



IAPSS President's Report

March 29, 2021

Prepared for the May 2021 IAPSS General Assembly

Dear IAPSS Members,

The 2020-2021 mandate marks one of the most difficult periods in IAPSS' history, with the global pandemic making in-person events infeasible. As these events have long been a key source of IAPSS' revenue, the organization has striven to adapt to the new reality by developing the capacities to organizing its conferences in online formats. However, lingering non-pandemic issues from previous years provide additional difficulties. I have decided to divide this update into two sections to be as clear as possible: successes and challenges.

Successes

- IAPSS has developed online event capacities this mandate in preparation for organizing conferences like the World Congress and other ticketed events online. While there may be challenges in convincing students to buy tickets for an online event, other academic associations have been adapting to online formats without changing their ticket prices. Based on discussions with IAPSS team members, it seems that the new IAPSS Zoom account, which can accommodate up to 500 people in a single room, would allow for a larger participant number than in previous years, which would allow us to lower the price to around 35 Euros for an early bird ticket and 45 Euros for a regular ticket instead of the usual 80+ Euros and still be able to garner significant revenue to keep the organization going. The May 2021 Virtual World Congress is expected to have over 250 participants and at the time of writing has led to IAPSS generating more revenue so far in 2021 than we made at the same point in 2020.
- IAPSS' relations with the United Nations have improved over the course of this mandate. Through collaborations with UN bodies like the UN75 and UN2020 campaigns, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as continued relations with UNESCO, doors have been opened such as promotional boosts, partnership opportunities, and connections with experts to help with online events.
- Online IAPSS events organized this mandate have increased in frequency thanks to the collaborative efforts of IAPSS Global, the IAPSS Regions, IAPSS publications, and the Student Research Committees. Dozens of these events have taken place, with over 30 registered as official UN75 youth consultations. We even managed to implement a 24-hour telethon on the politics of homelessness in November 2020 that we livestreamed on Facebook and cross-posted to all IAPSS pages plus the pages of a host of partner organizations. Most of these events have been recorded and can be viewed on the IAPSS Global and Regional Facebook pages, as well as the IAPSS YouTube account.

Collectively, these events have reached tens of thousands of viewers across all IAPSS platforms. I would go as far as to say that IAPSS has entered a new golden age of online events, and I hope that the precedents we have established in terms of online event frequency can continue in future years. Given the success of the World Congress and the capacities we developed this mandate, IAPSS will be able to hold more ticketed online events in the future if the pandemic persists. Even after in-person events become possible again, the work we have done this mandate lays the groundwork for future events that allow for both virtual and in-person participation so those who cannot afford or are not able to travel to conference locations can still present their research and take part.

- Efforts to develop the IAPSS YouTube account have continued over the course of the 2020-2021 mandate. While the YouTube network is still modest, with a little over 620 subscribers at the time of writing, subscribers have increased around 1000% since January 2020 when we started posting regular videos and have almost doubled since the last update provided at the December 12, 2020 General Assembly. If this trend continues, we may reach 1000 subscribers by 2023 if we keep posting content at the same rate, which is one of the criteria for being able to earn revenue from YouTube through its Partners Program.
- IAPSS has renewed relations with organizations like the European Consortium for Political Research, the International Political Science Association, and the International Studies Association, and is in the process of creating new partnerships with these organizations where relevant. In addition, IAPSS has formed new partnerships or renewed existing partnerships with the following organizations so far this mandate:
 - Advent Group (Access MBA and Access Masters)
 - Algoma University Students' Union (AUSU)
 - Art Beyond Sight
 - ASEAN Youth Organisation
 - Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)
 - Canadian Political Science Students' Association (CPSSA)
 - Circle of Sustainable Europe (CoSE)
 - Disability Unite
 - European Academy of Diplomacy (EAD)
 - Global Campus of Human Rights
 - Global Cultural Adventures
 - Global Policy Insights (GPI)
 - International Studies Association (ISA)
 - National Model Organization of Islamic Cooperation Pakistan
 - Politico
 - Pressto
 - The Peterloo Institute
 - The World is Watching

- The World with MNR
- University of Calgary Political Science Association
- Voters Without Borders
- Women in Foreign Policy

These new networks will help us reach more students and deliver higher quality events. These new partnerships have long term models that automatically renew each year, so relations shall hopefully remain strong in future years and there will be less chance that IAPSS falls out of contact with them as it has done with partnerships in the past.

- In addition to UN spaces, IAPSS has entered new networks of NGOs that provide us with new partnership, promotion, and advocacy opportunities. These networks include YOUNGA; YOUNGO; US Youth, Peace, and Security Coalition, BridgingTheGap® Alliance, and Civicus. A number of IAPSS team members are receiving updates from these networks, so both they and their successors can share relevant opportunities with members or get IAPSS involved in relevant initiatives.
- The new IAPSS Association Membership model passed at the last General Assembly has been implemented in practice. Though the re-negotiation process is slow, each association that enters an agreement under the new Association Membership model not only joins as a group, but all of their students, or at least all who consent in countries with applicable data protection laws, become IAPSS members. So far, we have signed new agreements with the following organizations:
 - Burman University International Studies Program – Lacombe, Canada
 - IAPSS Ukraine – Kyiv Ukraine
 - Montenegrin Association of Political Science Students (MAPSS) – Podgorica, Montenegro
 - Politistes Sorbonne – Paris, France
 - Responsibility to Protect Student Coalition – Brisbane, Australia
 - Studievereniging Ismus – Nijmegen, The Netherlands
 - Studievereniging Machiavelli – Amsterdam, The Netherlands
 - Universidad Nacional Micaela Bastidas de Apurímac (UNAMBA) – Abancay, Peru

While IAPSS has historically experienced challenges integrating its loose network of over 200,000 students and young faculty around the world into a cohesive and standardized membership structure, these new association memberships are promising, increasing the number of standardized individual members to over 950 at the time of writing as opposed to around 370 at the start of the mandate, which is an increase of about 139%. I am optimistic that if we are able to continue our rate of association integration, and if the associations send their payments and new student lists to trigger the renewal of the agreements in future years in a timely fashion, we may be able to slowly standardize more of the remaining over 199,000 students across IAPSS' networks.

- Due to member demand, there are two new Student Research Committees, one for space politics and one for disability politics. I hope that these SRCs accumulate active followings in 2021 and begin implementing exciting new projects. These new SRCs are also being championed by key personnel of current and potential partner organizations who joined IAPSS as well. There is also interest in creating SRCs for each region that does not already have one, so there may be more new SRC announcements soon.
- Two new initiatives are underway. The first is the IAPSS Press Corps, which is an attempt to get student newspapers to report on IAPSS' democracy and activities, as well as those of other student governments IAPSS collaborates with. It is my hope that by the end of the mandate, this initiative will be up and running to a point where IAPSS can draw from a global network of student journalists to spread awareness about its existence, activities, and advocacy.
- The Global Student Government initiative continues with IAPSS taking on a leading role. We met with the coalition in 2021 and have a draft set of guiding documents. We need to have one more meeting to ratify these documents and elect the first GSG Executive Committee. IAPSS may be able to host the GSG at its office in Canada following the relocation.
- The relocation to Canada has gone faster than expected following the December 2020 General Assembly, since we will be able to start operating under the new Canadian non-profit in the next mandate if the Dutch association is liquidated and the new guiding documents are ratified by the May 2021 General Assembly. This would expedite the process of negotiating with Concordia University to establish a physical office to store IAPSS' supplies and maybe even hire office staff to assist with things like fundraising and grant applications.

Challenges

- While IAPSS has enough funds to continue operating, there are serious issues preventing current Executive Committee members from accessing IAPSS' bank accounts. This is because in previous mandates, bank account access was generally restricted to one individual, which made transitioning accounts difficult. The ING, RaboBank, and PayPal accounts currently cannot be accessed to their full capacities by the current Executive Committee, and multiple generations of IAPSS Executives are currently working together to try and overcome this issue. To make matters worse, the ING account stopped processing bill payments in the fall despite having sufficient funds within it. To keep the organization running, some of us have had to front the costs personally in the hope that we will be able to be reimbursed. These issues have also prevented IAPSS from making payments to expand its infrastructure directly from the accounts. For instance, I have personally fronted over 2000 Euros in IAPSS bills this mandate to keep the organization afloat. If this situation cannot be ameliorated, IAPSS will be at significant financial risk, as the current workaround is not sustainable. We believe that ensuring at least two

individuals are added as signatories on each bank account will help prevent this situation from happening in future years. We also hope the relocation will ameliorate these issues as we create new business bank accounts that are easier to transfer year to year.

- Resignations have been common in IAPSS given that team members are volunteers. This year was no exception. The resignation of the Vice President for Regional Affairs less than two months in led to the December 2020 General Assembly voting to remove the position entirely, as the Regional Chairs have expressed interest in carrying on their affairs more autonomously. The International Cooperation Department team and I have been attending Council of Regions meetings to ensure there is a dialogue between the IAPSS Regions and IAPSS Global. This model has led to a substantial increase in the frequency of online events where regional and global teams work together. While things went smoothly for a while, the treasurer and secretary general resigned in November 2020 due to reasons unrelated to IAPSS. It seems that the pandemic has stretched many of us thin. While we were able to fill two Executive Committee vacancies in the by-election, the Deputy Secretary General has had to take over for the Secretary General since the Secretary General's resignation occurred after the deadline for candidacies had passed. A motion was passed at the December 2020 General Assembly that would enable online by-elections between General Assemblies to help elect replacements to vacated positions more quickly.
- There have been two major setbacks in terms of advocacy.
 - The first involved an initiative IAPSS was working on with the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity (Education Commission) and number of students appointed from private organizations and interest groups to create a white paper on education financing went sour when IAPSS' contributions to the white paper were rejected. It turned out that the Education Commission only wanted IAPSS present for tokenistic support like making TikToks as opposed to actually contributing meaningful policy recommendations. Furthermore, the white paper draft we saw focused on increasing private investment in education and did not pay much attention to student issues, which both we and a number of UNESCO-affiliated NGOs and UNESCO personnel we are in contact with determined was not the best focus. We withdrew from the initiative and while we considered going public with a campaign to oppose the white paper, we decided that our efforts were best spent on more positive advocacy efforts, though the mention of what happened in this report will remain publicly available on the IAPSS website after the General Assembly voting period concludes.
 - The second involved the political crisis in Belarus. A contact we had there was providing us with information on the status of political science students on the ground, many of whom were involved in protests against government corruption. We offered to provide them with assistance, but following a government

crackdown in which a number of students were arrested and some were beaten to death in the streets, the political science students there decided to keep a low profile and not engage in advocacy action through IAPSS. The situation got so bad that our contact had to leave the country. Though we did post some graphics on social media informing students around the world about the situation in Belarus, I wish we were able to do more to help. However, without the interest of students on the ground, and with online communications apparently being monitored by the Belarussian government, it seems that there are few options we can take that would not put political science students in Belarus in immediate danger.

2020 Platform Evaluation

Here is a review of my platform from the 2020 IAPSS Elections. I indicate the result of each platform point below in a subpoint directly underneath. Successful points have green subpoints, while unsuccessful points have red subpoints.

Proposed Solutions to the Problems Outlined Above

1. A Massive Membership Promotion Campaign

- Send membership proposals to as many campuses as possible
 - We reached out to hundreds of campuses. Renegotiation is slow, but we were able to bring association memberships to a similar level as before the May 2020 General Assembly vote to change the association membership model, only now each of their students are now signed up as individual members. This has allowed us to increase standardized memberships from 370 to over 950.
- For each campus, contact the political science department, political science student association, campus-level student government, student newspaper, and the university administration
 - This was implemented, leading to various agreements with student associations and with universities directly. For student newspapers, we did not receive much feedback, but we created an IAPSS Press Corps to try to attract student journalists who may want to receive IAPSS press releases. We partnered with Pressto, an organization that helps students create student newspapers, in case students from campuses that do not yet have student newspapers want to get involved.
- Work with regional teams and existing IAPSS members on each campus
 - We included regional teams as much as possible in relevant partnership and association membership negotiations. We worked with IAPSS members on various campuses and countries to establish partnerships and association memberships with organizations within those jurisdictions.
- Form IAPSS Embassies on as many campuses as possible in the form of official clubs and societies affiliated with campus student governments to leverage campus-level funding opportunities and foster local membership recruitment
 - We discovered that it was more practical to work with existing student organizations and that it was important to establish country coordinators in the Regions first, as well as

supporting the development of national organizations like IAPSS Ukraine, the Canadian Political Science Students' Association, and the Montenegrin Association of Political Science Students. When these national level networks are more established, we may have more success at establishing campus IAPSS chapters where no political science student association currently exists.

- Develop new association membership status that ensures all members of the association become automatic IAPSS members
 - We implemented this.
- In countries where it is possible, work to integrate IAPSS memberships fees into yearly levies political science students pay for their campus student governments and political science student associations to ensure an automatically renewing membership base
 - We worked this into association membership agreements, though we gave flexibility to political science student associations who generate funds through other means such as funding from their universities.

2. Diversifying Revenue

- Focus on establishing external partnerships and commit to sending partnership, grant, and/or sponsorship proposals to organizations including academic associations, universities, non-profits, student associations, for-profit companies, and governments
 - We were able to build the capacity to do these things, including developing a sponsorships package and applying for grants. While we have not gained any revenue yet, the systems we have established can be used in future years to continue this area of focus we have developed.
- Develop detailed partnership and sponsorship kits that can be circulated with potential partners and sponsors
 - We now have standardized templates for partnership agreements that have allowed us to establish more partnerships than in previous years. We created a sponsorships kit that can be used in future years.
- Develop and sell IAPSS-branded merchandise
 - Global and regional merchandise has been created and is operational. It can be used in future years and does not require any maintenance fees or shipping on IAPSS' part, as Spreadshirt, the platform that IAPSS sells its merchandise on, oversees purchases, manufacturing, and shipping, with IAPSS receiving a portion of the revenue.
- Further develop the IAPSS YouTube account and develop presences on similar platforms so a regular content creation schedule can be achieved to promote IAPSS products and one day maybe gain ad revenue
 - A regular content creation schedule has been achieved. Subscribers increased from about 60 in January 2020 when regular posting started to over 620 at the time of writing, an increase of about 1000%, with over 1000 watch hours in the past year. To start gaining revenue, IAPSS needs 1000 subscribers and 4000 annual watch hours. If IAPSS' YouTube following continues to increase at the same rate, it may be able to start gaining revenue by 2023.
- Develop the IAPSS Alumni Network and have a fundraising gala at a future IAPSS event where alumni and current members can meet and exchange ideas
 - This was tasked to the treasurer elected in May 2020. This treasurer resigned in November 2020, leaving this project incomplete. The pandemic and EU data protection

laws raised additional complications. It would probably be best that this be continued after IAPSS relocates to Canada.

3. A Path to Paid Employment with IAPSS

- Work towards an hourly wage for elected representatives and staff that is the minimum hourly rate of the country where IAPSS is located. In the 2020-21 mandate, this will involve planning the ideal payment processes and figuring out deductions, taxes, Legal Framework amendments, and other requirements so all IAPSS will need is to increase its revenue. While it is unlikely that this will be realized in the 2020-21 mandate, the goal will be to have a plan in place and a foundation from which perhaps this could begin to be implemented in 2021-22 or 2022-23 if revenue is sufficient.

- We have a plan in place to relocate IAPSS to Canada and benefit from funding and in-kind opportunities, as well as register IAPSS as an employer and one day hire staff.

4. Improving IAPSS Democracy

- Relocate IAPSS to a country where IAPSS can amend its guiding documents in the language it operates in and without needing to pay a notary every time a statute amendment is passed.

- Give every executive member legal representative status as opposed to just the president, treasurer, and secretary general so power is not concentrated in three positions. In past years, if one of the three current legal representative positions became inactive or vacant, the entire organization suffered and projects stalled across the board. Its current structure also means that the other executive positions have little to no real decision-making power and can be easily overruled from a legal perspective.

- Canada was proposed as the country for relocation, which the General Assembly approved in December 2020. IAPSS is ahead of schedule in terms of relocation, with the possibility of the 2021-2022 mandate starting under the new Canadian non-profit corporation.

Other Platform Points

As the position of President involves coordinating executive committee operations, I believe the President needs a vision for each executive portfolio. I have thus provided such a vision for each IAPSS department, focusing on the aspects that overlap with the President portfolio.

International Cooperation Department (the President oversees this directly)

- significantly expand the department to accommodate a team of IAPSS external affairs staff/diplomats to engage campuses, as well as potential partners and sponsors

- This was achieved with the introduction of three volunteer positions in addition to the existing position deputy of the department.

- develop aforementioned partnership and sponsorship kits

- Partnership templates and an IAPSS sponsorship kit were developed.

- liaise with other student organizations around the world to lead the Global Student Government initiative

- This was successful and the Global Student Government initiative is on track to having the first GSG elections in 2021.

- advocate for more student representation in the UNESCO Education NGO Consultation Group and actively contribute to UNESCO initiatives
 - We made the case for more student representation to our UNESCO contacts and have raised awareness about student issues at UNESCO-related meetings and initiatives. UNESCO has made clear that it is here to support IAPSS however it can.
- work to build or rebuild partnerships where possible with international governing bodies indicated as partners in the [2009 IAPSS slideshow](#)
 - We have begun rebuilding alliances with student associations and other organizations.
- develop an active IAPSS presence in the Informal Forum for International Student Organisations (IFISO) and advocate for making IFISO a more formal organization for student representation and activism
 - IAPSS actively participated in IFISO meetings and discussions. I believe IAPSS was a guiding factor in convincing IFISO to develop a proposal to create guiding documents for itself so member organizations can move motions and direct IFISO to take action on things instead of having it just be a discussion forum.

Financial Administration Department

- encourage monthly financial reports to the executive committee that outline IAPSS' financial situation and breakdowns of revenue and expenses
 - Issues involving access to the bank accounts made this a challenge. Progress has been made to regain access, which will hopefully allow for greater financial transparency in the future.
- oversee relocation process
 - The Financial Administration Department is involved in discussions with IAPSS' legal counsel about how to liquidate the Dutch association and ensure bank accounts are transferred to
- secure a credit card for IAPSS
 - Issues involving access to the bank accounts made this a challenge. It would likely be more feasible to register a credit card in Canada as part of the relocation.
- add financial information to the IAPSS Spreadshirt account to complete the implementation of IAPSS' merchandise project
 - This was completed.
- encourage innovative approaches to revenue generation like those mentioned in the above sections
 - Plans were put in place for grants, sponsorships, in-kind contributions like office space and paid internships, and YouTube revenue

Secretariat

- implement option to join Student Research Committees (SRCs) when signing up to be an IAPSS member
 - The resignation of the Secretary General in November 2020 posed challenges to achieving this goal. However, SRC subcommittees were formed so members can join via a signup link. Members can also get involved by emailing SRC chairs, whose email addresses are listed on the IAPSS website.
- create online discussion forums for SRCs on the IAPSS website or work with the Public Relations Department to create online SRC forums on another digital platform

- The resignation of the Secretary General in November 2020 posed challenges to achieving this goal. SRCs organize themselves in a variety of ways that vary with each group. However, SRC chairs are now on the IAPSS Slack platform so they can more easily interact with the IAPSS Academic Department and other IAPSS team members.
- integrate IAPSS merchandise into IAPSS' online store
 - This was completed.
- review existing website plugins to see what is essential and non-essential
 - This was completed by the Secretariat team and some non-essential plugins were removed while others were added for things like the merchandise integration on the website.
- continue adding data from the old IAPSS website about the history of IAPSS
 - This was continued. Most of the old website data that IAPSS still has access to should be available on the current website.
- integrate feeds to IAPSS social media and YouTube accounts on the IAPSS website
 - The resignation of the Secretary General in November 2020 posed challenges to achieving this goal. Attempts were made to integrate website articles with Facebook, but the website does not have enough traffic to meet Facebook's standards despite receiving about 50,000 views per month. Facebook's criteria are not entirely clear, as their article syncing initiative seems to be fairly new.

Department for Regional Affairs

- allow elected IAPSS Regional Chairs to appoint their own regional teams and positions in addition to those outlined in the IAPSS Legal Framework
 - This was implemented.
- help IAPSS Regions become non-profit organizations in their own right so they can apply to region-specific grants and funding opportunities. Explore the possibility of establishing the regions as subsidiaries of IAPSS Global
 - IAPSS Oceania has its own bank account in Australia and is able to operate more autonomously. While none of the regions have achieved non-profit status yet, progress is being made toward this goal and it will likely occur in phases over the next 5-10 years or so if all goes well.
- grant regions a percentage of membership revenue from their respective region to use for regional projects and initiatives.
 - This has been implemented for IAPSS Oceania since it has its own bank account. Other regions' funds are in the IAPSS Global accounts and can be accessed if needed.
- encourage Regional teams to form an official club or society in at least one school in their region to receive funding from the school and have an active headquarters
 - Priority was placed on recruiting country coordinators and building or rebuilding national political science student associations instead of the local level.
- work with the International Cooperation Department to reach out to campuses around the world
 - This was implemented, as Regions conducted outreach and participated in relevant negotiations with external organizations
- encourage regional teams to create digital content like blog posts and videos to provide updates to members

- This was implemented, as a number of regions created videos, and some used the blog function on the website to make posts. Some regions have developed their own email newsletters.

Academic Department

- help get Politikon (IAPSS' main journal) indexed
 - Politikon has achieved additional indexing, allowing the journal to be circulated more widely.
- develop a system similar to the International Political Science Association and the American Political Science Association where new members can automatically join IAPSS' Student Research Committees (SRCs) when they sign up so SRCs can increase their numbers
 - The resignation of the Secretary General in November 2020 posed challenges to achieving this goal. However, SRC subcommittees were formed so members can join via a signup link. Members can also get involved by emailing SRC chairs, whose email addresses are listed on the IAPSS website.
- continue revitalization of ADV
 - ADV has been revitalized and has resumed publishing.
- encourage SRCs to create academic content in a multitude of digital mediums
 - Multiple SRCs have organized online events and webinars that have been recorded in video format and are publicly available on IAPSS' online platforms.
- explore the possibility of reviving other IAPSS publications and academic initiatives that have since fallen to the wayside
 - Progress has been made to revitalize Encuentro Latinoamericano through the recruitment of a new editorial team.

Public Relations Department

- create IAPSS accounts on hiring and volunteer recruitment websites to maximize access to talent, and explore other options for increasing IAPSS' ability to recruit
 - This was implemented, which helped IAPSS recruit team members for key positions
- develop email lists for IAPSS alumni, each IAPSS region, and each SRC
 - An IAPSS alumni list has been postponed following considerations about EU data protection laws. Some IAPSS regions have email lists while SRCs do not have email lists beyond core team members.
- strategic sharing of posts between social media accounts of IAPSS Global, IAPSS Regions, and IAPSS publications
 - This has been implemented in practice.
- regular cross-posting on all IAPSS social media platforms
 - This has been implemented in practice.
- regular sharing of each newly uploaded IAPSS YouTube video on all IAPSS social media platforms
 - This has been implemented in practice.
- explore possible expansion onto more video uploading sites and uploading videos on these sites in addition to YouTube
 - Videos have been livestreamed to Facebook. This may be able to be expanded further in future years if IAPSS is able to expand the Public Relations Department's capacities.
- promote merchandise on social media and in YouTube videos

- This has been implemented on social media. With YouTube videos, it looks like IAPSS may have to wait until it becomes part of the YouTube Partners program, but this may need to be explored further.
- ensure at least a bi-weekly video upload schedule (the same rate of uploading IAPSS has done for most of 2020 thus far)
- This has been implemented and has increased to a weekly upload schedule.
- assist all other departments with video editing
- This has been implemented.
- I would be interested in providing video updates on IAPSS' operations in collaboration with the Public Relations Department
- This took the form of interviews with IAPSS team members to provide information about different roles within IAPSS and share team members' experiences for future years who may look back to see how IAPSS adapted to meet the challenges posed by COVID-19.
- ensure regular communication with IAPSS Alumni
- Alumni operations were tasked to the treasurer elected in May 2020. This treasurer resigned in November 2020, leaving this project incomplete. The pandemic and EU data protection laws raised additional complications. It would probably be best that this be continued after IAPSS relocates to Canada. IAPSS has some alumni social media groups but these are not comprehensive.

Programs Department

- provide guidance on all IAPSS events, including events in the regions, at all phases of events
- The Programs Department was revitalized in fall 2020 and has begun providing guidance on IAPSS events as well as planning events.
- proactively taking the lead on event sponsorships and logistics from the initial phase of event planning
- Sponsorship capabilities were developed and online events were planned that could generate revenue for IAPSS in the future
- encourage innovative strategies to make travel and accommodation costs as affordable for members as possible
- Grant opportunities were explored, but shifting to online events saved money in travel and accommodation because they were no longer necessary.
- encourage innovative strategies to make event revenue sufficient enough to ensure IAPSS' survival for the foreseeable future
- Grants, sponsorships, and new ticketed event ideas were explored.

Conclusion

I would like to thank all IAPSS team members who helped make this year's achievements possible. Despite a global pandemic, we found ways to innovate and continue to grow the organization. We have also made IAPSS a role model for student governments around the world through IFISO, UNESCO, and the Global Student Government initiative. These achievements will lay the groundwork for future success that will allow IAPSS to reach its long-term goals and become a more effective and inclusive student government. Through these efforts we have made history and have demonstrated that student government is a worthwhile endeavour.



While the end of the pandemic may be in sight, IAPSS will in any case be able to thrive in the years ahead. With the online event capacities that we have developed this year, IAPSS will be poised to have events with both in-person and online components so those who cannot travel to event locations can still participate virtually. For future IAPSS members and team members, there is a lot to look forward to.

IAPSS will need to continue to innovate and be a role model for student governments in future years. Student government retrenchment and collapse across the globe still poses substantial challenges to the future of student democracies, making student advocacy and increasing necessity to ensure that countries pass laws that are conducive to student government operations and academic freedom. The Global Student Government's rival organization, the Global Student Forum, may put IAPSS in the midst of a cold war situation where the GSG and GSF compete for student government allegiances across the world. IAPSS helped form the GSG because we believe that student government at the international level should not be reserved to the hands of the few, but should be as inclusive as possible, and through online voting technology, allow for direct elections to ensure that students at grassroots levels are informed of student politics at the global level and of how important it is to get involved. IAPSS' continued leadership in the GSG coalition would likely be integral to the GSG's successful creation and enduring survival.

One day, hopefully there will be a Global Student Government that represents all students and provides support to student governments like IAPSS, which would help IAPSS find more stability and be more in touch with the total political science student population. Such a vision for student government is a future well worth striving for.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Patrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justin Patrick,
IAPSS President 2020-2021