This report was prepared by Mark Gibney, acting as the chair of the ISA Academic Freedom Committee (members include Alison Brysk, Marie Breen-Smith, Anthony Lang, Louis Goodman, Swati Parashar, and Virginia Tilley, with ex-officios Mark A. Boyer and Paul Diehl). The report was submitted December 17, 2015 for the 2016 Governing Council meeting in Atlanta.

FULL REPORT

In a continuing effort to publicize the broader issue of academic freedom, the AFC sponsored a roundtable panel at last year’s annual meeting and it will co-sponsor two at the upcoming meeting in Atlanta.

In terms of demands for “action,” the committee took up the issue of Manuela Picq who had been arrested and detained during the course of a demonstration. Eventually, Professor Picq was released. In addition to the substance of this case, one thing that emerged was the need to streamline the process so that ISA in general, and the AFC in particular, can react more quickly to situations such as this. The need for a more rapid response mechanism will be discussed further in Atlanta.

Finally, the ISA is in the process of joining and/or becoming a partner in the Scholars at Risk program.