This report was prepared by Brian Rathbun, DPLST Chair, and was submitted in December 2015.

**FULL REPORT**

**THE COMMITTEE**

The Diplomatic Studies Section (DSS) Committee consists of Brian Rathbun (Chairman), Marcus Holmes (Programme Chair), Antoaneta Vanc (Treasurer), and Susan Harris Rimmer (Secretary), and the following at-large members: J. Simon Rofe (SOAS University of London, Gregory Shtraks (University of Washington) and Hugo Renderos (Keiser University). The programme chair’s term of office expires in 2016.

**SECTION MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in DSS appears to be stable. Membership (which varies month-on-month as members’ memberships expire and they renew or not) as of November 2015 had reached 304, slightly above the December 2014 number of 296.

**PROGRAMME**

Marcus Holmes and Kiron Skinner served as co-program chairs for the 2016 Atlanta convention. The Diplomatic Studies section was allocated 18 panel slots for the 2016 program, an increase of five from the previous year. For context, a total of 1024 panels were allocated to 30 sections and caucuses. The ISA instructs program chairs to work towards a rough 50/50 spit of papers drawn from proposed panels and individual submissions.

We received 20 panel proposals, eight listing diplomatic studies as their first choice and 12 as their second; 72 individual papers listing us as their first choice and 141 as their second; and eight roundtables listing us as their first choice and 5 as their second.

Eight roundtables, 10 panels and 31 papers submitted were selected for the program.

**FINANCES**

The finances of DSS remain robust. As of December 2014, our budget stood at $5,851, up from $5110.06 in September 2014. Our expenses were mostly the approximately $2300 for our share of hosting the joint conference reception with the English School, Historical Studies, and CISS.
AWARDS
The following awards were given at the 2015 annual meeting.

Best Article on Diplomacy, Marcus Holmes, "The Force of Face-to-Face Diplomacy," published in International Organization in Fall 2013.


The award committee was reconstituted at the 2015 annual meeting and includes the winners of the article, book and young scholar’s awards to encourage a future norm of giving back to the section. The members are Antoneta Vanc, Marcus Holmes, Tom Long and Brian Rathbun. We thank former members Roberto Duran (Chairman), Julie Gallagher, Marios Efthymiopoulos and Rhonda Zaharna for their service.

The committee has set out to increase the number of nominations for the book and article award in future years. Because of the low number of submissions in its inaugural year, the section is again holding the competition this year, even though the award is biennial.