MEMORANDUM TO RE-CHARTER A SECTION

TO: International Studies Association Governing Council

FROM: Kurt Mills

DATE: December 16, 2010

RE: Re-charter of the Human Rights Section

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I, the Under-signed, in compliance with Article IV, Section 1(b) of the International Studies Association Constitution with regard to the re-chartering of International Studies Association Sections, do hereby request the re-chartering of the Human Rights Section by the International Studies Association Governing Council for the period of March 2011 – March 2016.

I have attached hereto the following items in support of this request (mark all that are applicable):

- X Annual Report of Section Activities
- X Analysis of Section Membership
- X Analysis of the Section Financial Base
- X Copy of Section Charter
- X List of Section Leadership with Terms of Office

DATED this 16 day of December, 2010.

(Signature of Section Chair) <Electronic signatures are accepted>

Kurt Mills, Chair
Recharting of Human Rights-ISA

Submitted by Kurt Mills, Chair
December 2010

Annual Report of Section Activities

Annual Meeting
The past year’s activities represent its core ongoing activities and indicate a healthy and engaged section. At the annual meeting it sponsored or co-sponsored 49 panels and two poster sessions, which represents a significant presence on the program. Given an initial allotment of 31 panels, this represents good inter-section cooperation.

For the second year in a row the section was awarded the chance to run a working group. The theme in 2010 was “The Real Cost of Recession: Human Rights and the Economic Downturn,” and was considered to be productive by the organizers.

At the annual meeting the section announced the winners of the student and faculty/practitioner paper awards. The winner of the Stephen Poe Best Graduate Student Paper award was Joel Pruce from the University of Denver. Kathleen Staudt, from the University of Texas at El Paso won the best faculty/practitioner award. Each award committee was comprised of two section executive committee members and one other section member. These awards are sponsored by the Journal of Human Rights. The section co-sponsored a reception with ENMISA, International Law, and Peace Studies, and gained the sponsorship of OUP Journals in the name of the International Journal of Transitional Justice and The Journal of Human Rights Practice, as well as Johns Hopkins University Press, on behalf of Human Rights Quarterly, Lynne Rienner Publishers, and Routledge. OUP Journals also sponsored our travel grant for a scholar from the developing world, which was awarded to Elisa Tarnaala of the Universidad Externado de Colombia.

ISA Compendium
The section was well-represented in the ISA Compendium. Kurt Mills and Chandra Sriram acted as co-editors for the section’s contributions. The section reached a 76% completion rate for essay inclusion in the hardbound version, which compared favorably to the overall 60% completion rate.

ISA-APSA-IPSA Joint Conference
The human rights section, along with the human rights sections of APSA and IPSA, co-sponsored a conference at Roosevelt University in Chicago in June 2010. About 25 people presented papers over the course of two days. Initial discussions are underway for the next joint conference, which, it is hoped, will be held in the summer of 2012 at the University of Glasgow to coincide with the joint ISA-BISA conference to be held in Edinburgh.

H-Human-Rights
The section sponsored e-mail discussion list, H-Human-Rights, which is hosted by H-Net, continues to grow. It currently has around 900 members. The membership is global, goes far
beyond the membership of the section and ISA, and encompasses academics, practitioners, and officials from governments and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

ISA Academic Freedom Committee
One other accomplishment for which the section can feel proud is the creation of the ISA Academic Freedom Committee. In 2007 the section created its own academic freedom committee to highlight the plight of scholars at risk worldwide and lobbied ISA to set up an association-wide committee. The first ISA committee was appointed in February 2010.

Change in Leadership
In March 2010, Sylvia Maier took over as Chair of the section. However, because of new work responsibilities she had to leave the position. I was asked to take over as interim Chair, and after a new election, I was elected to carry out the rest of the term (until 2012).

Summary
Overall, I think this past year’s activities indicate a healthy and engaging section which is playing a positive role not only within ISA but outside as well, as it engages with other organizations and individuals in academia and beyond.

Analysis of Section Membership
Section membership has grown significantly since the section was first created in 2006:

March 2006: 63 members
March 2007: 123 members
March 2008: 166 members
March 2009: 316 members
March 2010: 375 members

The section gained several dozen members within weeks of its creation, and then doubled within a year. It then grew steadily and almost doubled again between 2008 and 2009, continuing its growth, although at a slower pace, into 2010. The membership includes around 9% of the membership of ISA, which compares favorably with older, more established sections. On the whole, section membership appears healthy.

Analysis of the Section Financial Base
The financial base of the section is sound. After a couple of years of significant growth in the ongoing balance of the section, it has stayed more or less even from August 2009 to August 2010, the last month for which I have financial data. This represents, on the one hand, the slowing down of membership growth (which would be expected after a few years of significant growth), but also the stability of current membership levels. The section has been able to find outside funders for several section initiatives, including the best student paper and best faculty/professional awards and the travel grant for a scholar from the developing world. We also
bring in the largest share of outside sponsorship for our joint reception which we co-sponsor with ENMISA, International Law, and Peace Studies. Thus, the section’s only significant yearly outlay is our additional share for the reception.

Looking at our finances in comparative perspective, as of August 2010 Human Rights had the 9th largest balance out of 25 sections, which demonstrates significant financial health after less than five years in existence, and compares favorably with some other more established sections.

List of Section Leadership

Chair: Kurt Mills (2010-2012)
Past Chair: Chandra Sriram (2010-2011)
Vice-Chair: Clair Apodaca (2010-2012)
Secretary: Dave O. Benjamin (2010-2012)
Members-At-Large:
   Jennifer Abbassi (2010-1012)
   James O’Higgins Norman (2009-2011)
   Carrie Booth Walling (2009-2011)
   Vacant – one member has just resigned (2010-2012)
2011 Program Chair: Clair Apodaca
Elections Chair: Eric Leonard
H-Human-Rights Lead Editor: Kurt Mills
Charter of the Human Rights Section of the International Studies Association (HR-ISA)  
Passed on March 24, 2006 at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Diego, CA, USA (revised 17 February 2009)

**Article I. Name**
This organization shall be known as the Human Rights Section of the International Studies Association (HR-ISA).

**Article II. Affiliation**
HR-ISA is one of the sections of the International Studies Association and, as such, subscribes to its purposes and supports its activities.

**Article III. Purpose**
The purpose of HR-ISA is to encourage multidisciplinary scholarship and teaching in the area of human rights. This includes those in the disciplines of political science, law, history, philosophy, economics, sociology, anthropology, and other related fields. It will foster discussion and other interaction between members of the ISA as well as those outside of the ISA with view toward enhancing academic research, policy development and teaching in the broad and varied area of human rights and related issues.

**Article IV. Relationships**
HR-ISA will establish relationships, and engage in cooperative ventures, with a variety of related organizations around the world which support the purpose of HR-ISA, including academic and policy organizations, journals, publishers and other entities as appropriate.

**Article V. Membership**
HR-ISA membership is open to all ISA members, subject to payment of yearly section dues. HR-ISA members will be entitled to attend the annual business meeting, vote on amendments to this Charter and other motions at the business meeting, run for section office, and receive section communications, as well as other privileges that may be established by the Section or its Executive Committee.

**Article VI. Officers**
The elected officers shall consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and four Members-At-Large. The Chair shall serve for two years. S/he shall be elected one year before s/he takes office and will serve as Chair-Elect for that year. The outgoing Chair shall hold the position of Past Chair for one year to assist the new Chair. All other members shall serve two year terms. The Members-At-Large positions will be staggered, such that in one year two Members-At-Large will be elected and in the following year two other Members-At-Large will be elected. The Chair shall appoint one of the Members-At-Large as Treasurer. The Chair shall appoint a Program Chair for the Annual Meeting, who may be a member of the Executive Committee or be another member of the Section. The Chair shall appoint an Elections Officer. The Elections Officer will not be eligible to run for elected office during their tenure. Should the Chair resign or be unable to serve, the Vice-Chair will assume the duties of the Chair until a new Chair is chosen in the next election. Should the Vice-Chair resign or be unable to serve, the Secretary will assume the duties of the Vice-Chair until a new Vice-Chair is chosen in the next election. The Chair shall appoint Acting Officers for those positions that cannot be filled or become vacant until such
positions can be filled in the next election. The Lead Editor of H-Human-Rights shall serve on the Executive Committee for the duration of their term as Editor.

**Article VII. Structure**
The Chair shall act as a liaison with the ISA and other organizations. The Vice-Chair shall be responsible for whatever duties the Chair and Vice-Chair deem appropriate. The Secretary shall be responsible for taking minutes at the annual business meeting, distributing information to members, and overseeing, by themselves or in conjunction with other members of the Executive Committee, the Section web page. The Members-At-Large shall assist the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary as necessary. The Program Chair shall be responsible for organizing Section panels for the Annual Meeting. The Elections Officer will conduct officer elections for the coming year.

**Article VIII. Nominations and Elections**
Elections shall be conducted by an Election Officer chosen by the Chair who is not a member of the Executive Committee. Any Section member may be nominated, or may nominate themselves, by a petition signed by at least five current section members presented to the Election Officer. Such nominations should be submitted to the Election Officer by December 15. Elections shall be conducted by electronic ballot, which shall be distributed to the membership by January 15. The deadline for returning ballots shall be February 15 or one week before the start of the Annual Meeting (whichever is earlier in any given year). If not all positions are filled by the electronic election, vacant positions will be filled at the annual business meeting. All positions will be filled by simple plurality.

**Article IX. Special Section Activities**
Special Section activities will be determined by the Executive Committee of HR-ISA in consultation with the Section membership where appropriate. These initiatives will be publicized via the section e-mail list, the ISA newsletter, and other appropriate outlets.

**Article X. Amendments**
Amendments to this Charter may be proposed by the Chair or by petition of five members of HR-ISA. Amendments will be voted on at the annual business meeting and shall be ratified by a 2/3 majority of votes cast.