FULL REPORT

The Long-range Planning Committee (LRPC) took up four items this year for consideration. Please see the recommendations below. Two of those were referrals by the Governing Council from its meeting at New Orleans in February 2015.

I: CREATION OF NEW SECTIONS

The LRPC conducted deliberations electronically during April/May 2015 on the GC’s referral to it regarding the proposals for setting up of two sections devoted to China and India. A majority of LRPC members opposed the creation of new sections based on countries. The possibility of placing such proposals under *regions* and *caucuses* was also considered. However, since the ISA constitution only allows membership in a *region* to members living in that geographic region, this was considered not feasible. It may be possible to create a new category called ‘World Regions,’ but this will require a constitutional amendment.

*Resolution IA:* ISA shall allow large geographical areas that are not properly represented at ISA (in terms of both program and governance) to offer proposals for setting up Sections under the existing rules. The regions such as East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Middle East may be the first priority of ISA. Smaller sub-regions may not be considered at this point.

Potential section proposals from regions should identify the comparative aspects and the larger themes they are able to focus beyond the foreign policies of specific countries. The sections should strive to attract wide membership from within and outside the region and offer a portion of leadership roles and any awards they create to scholars who live in the concerned region so as to enhance ISA’s global mission.

*Rationale:* The new Sections will help foster ISA’s global mission and the promotion of IR in regions where the discipline is starting to emerge as a serious subject. The larger IR membership also will benefit by knowing more about these regions, their intellectual contributions and the challenges they face within a changing global context.

II. PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE:

*Resolution:* A Presidential Task Force shall be constituted on the larger issue of the state of international studies in the Global South (GS) and what ISA can do to help improve the challenges faced by IR scholars in the relevant countries. This Task Force shall be comprised of scholars and knowledgeable individuals from the Global South and elsewhere.

The Task Force shall consider topics including:
• How to help capacity building in the Global South, taking into account the structural and financial constraints scholars face in these countries.
• How more scholars from Global South countries can attend ISA and affiliated conferences, publish in ISA journals, network among themselves and with colleagues from advanced countries, and participate in ISA governing bodies more effectively.
• How ISA can work toward building better links between the scholars from the North and the South and help shape international agenda for a peaceful world order.

A one-day workshop (with ISA’s financial support) may be held in summer 2017 to finalize the report. Depending on the financial availability, this meeting may consist of only sub-group leaders and key ISA functionaries.

Note 1: The proposed presidential task force is convened under Article VIII.2.H of the ISA constitution, which enshrines the President to: Propose programs and policies designed to advance the best interests of the Association. The issues facing the Global South at ISA involve almost all segments of the Association. Hence the need for a pan-ISA taskforce in which the voices of all constituent units, especially members of the Global South Caucus, will be adequately represented.

Note 2: Please see the addendum on operational details of the proposed taskforce. This was prepared in consultation with the Global South Caucus.

III: Increasing Funding Levels for Scholars from Global South Countries

This topic generated considerable debate among the members. An overwhelming majority of members including the current president, president-elect, and immediate past-president supported the idea of creating a special fund for encouraging more participation of scholars from the Global South so that they will gain networking opportunities as well as exposure to different scholarships in the field. The current practice of awarding a maximum $750 was deemed to be too low an amount for scholars to attend these conferences (since $1500 minimum is needed for an air ticket to North America from most regions). Anecdotal evidence by an LRPC sub-committee on this issue found that very few scholars bother to apply or submit panel proposals. The president-elect also noticed the reluctance of nominees from the Global South Countries to serve on various committees as they are unsure of attending the annual convention.

Resolution: An additional $25,000 be allocated to the travel funds for the 2017 Baltimore convention and make some subsidy increases to Global South applicants [in particular those from Africa, Latin America, South Asia, Southeast Asia (except Singapore), Middle East (except high per capita income countries of the region) and Central Asia] in order to see if we can attract more scholars to the 2017 convention. This allocation shall not result in the reduction of the usual amount of funding given to Global South participants.

Additional concrete steps for increased funding may be taken after the Global South taskforce submits its recommendations.

Rationale: Several Committee members felt that although about 50% ISA’s membership now come from outside North America, the relative attendance level of scholars from Global South countries is still very limited¹. More revealing is the absence of scholars from these regions on ISA committees and ISA journals (by way of submissions, published articles and editorial board memberships). Suggested remedies include: creation of a special fund with contributions by individuals, foundations and ISA itself. A small increase to conference registration fee for this purpose was also

¹ ISA HQ will provide data on attendance of scholars from institutions in Global South countries for New Orleans and Atlanta conventions prior to the Governing Council Meeting.
recommended. The recipients of increased funding shall be encouraged to register for special journal workshops similar to what the two editors proposed (see item 5) as well as junior scholar symposium without making it a condition of support.

IV. PROPOSAL BY JOURNAL EDITORS

The second item that was referred to the LRPC was a proposal by ISQ and ISR journal editors on conducting specialized workshops in selected countries in the Global South to encourage scholars from the relevant countries to submit articles to ISA journals. All committee members felt that the two editors identity a genuine problem and they have done an excellent job in analyzing a complex issue with appropriate data. However, a majority thought the proposed solution may not be the most suitable for reasons such as the resources needed, the uncertainty of likely returns, the political sensitivities involved, and the suggested procedure for selection of the team. Some members also expressed the opinion that the proposed amount of allocation for the workshops could be better utilized by attracting more scholars from the Global South countries and encouraging them to attend specialized workshops at ISA conventions, Section/Region, and Caucus meetings or affiliated group meetings. In addition, if the Governing Council approves the proposal for creating new sections based on regions, they could plan training workshops as well in their respective regions. The funds available through workshop grants may be made available for this purpose.
Note: The LRPC proposal for a Presidential Taskforce on ISA’s Relations with the Global South is on the Governing Council’s agenda. After consultations with the Global South Caucus (GSC), the following topics have been identified as some starting points that might be considered by the Task Force. However, the Task Force itself will develop a firmer agenda once it begins meeting, so the following should not be considered as an exhaustive lists of topics for deliberation.

**Short-term/Medium-term Issues:**
1. Greater number of participants from GS countries at ISA annual and other conferences organized by sections, regions, caucuses and affiliated organizations.
2. Travel grants, generating travel resources through other sources, e.g., endowments, private donors; national and international; regional groupings.
3. Improving journal submission and acceptance rates for scholars from the Global South.
4. Training programs by ISA and affiliated sections/caucuses, including using existing training programs (e.g. OUP’s programs).
5. Improving representation in governing bodies.
6. Other issues to be identified by the Taskforce membership.

**Longer-term Issues:**
1. Achieving greater cooperation among Northern and Southern scholars. Publishing in Southern journals and through Southern presses; joint publications- What can ISA do to promote this type of interaction?
2. Scholarship, paradigms, pedagogy etc. How to frame and engage beyond one or two dominant paradigms such as post-colonialism or critical theories.
3. How to draw in more scholars who work on Global South issues within and beyond ISA memberships and Caucuses.
4. Bridging language barriers.
5. Providing greater networking opportunities.
6. How to make ISA more globally-oriented, e.g. by seeking more affiliations.

Please note that the division between short-term, medium and long-term issues, and the timeline indicated here are not firm and final; once constituted, the taskforce will discuss and decide on topics and on its rules and procedures.

**Global South Task Force: Proposed Composition**
2 Co-Chairs: (one each nominated by ISA President and Global South Caucus).

**3 Subcommittees:**

**Subcommittee 1:** Dealing with Issues of ISA membership, participation in ISA Conferences, journal participation, funding issues, and workshops. Coordinator plus 4 members, two of which should be from the GS. Members would likely including: one ISA journal editor, one previous program chair, one scholar with ideas about/experience in training/publication strategies.

**Subcommittee 2:** Specific Regional/Country Challenges, Possible Contributions. Coordinator plus 5 members: One each from Latin America & the Caribbean, South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Middle East/North Africa, and developing Eurasia and/or North-South.
Subcommittee 3: Long-range Issues: Scholarship, scholarly engagement and mutual understanding of scholars from Global South and Global North. Coordinator plus 4 members (could be ISA-active scholars from both the Global South & the Global North – 2 from each of these two groups of countries).

Ex-Officio Members: President, President-Elect, Immediate Past-President; GS Caucus Chair, Executive Director, Andrea Gerlak and Lembe Tiky.

This would mean a total of 16 members plus 7 ex-officio members. Since much of the work is done electronically, this shouldn’t pose a big hurdle. It is important that we have representation from key regions of the world as well as other major components of ISA. If funding is limited, the July 2017 meeting can be only of the co-chairs, coordinators of subcommittees and the ex-officio members.

Global South Caucus (GSC) may nominate two members to each of the subcommittees in consultation with their membership. In addition to the co-chair, GSC may nominate a coordinator for one of the subcommittees. GSC chair is also an ex-officio member. The President shall seek nominations from all sections/caucuses of ISA. Some members selected through this process are likely to be members of the GSC. The President and GSC chair shall coordinate names of nominees before submission to GC.

Proposed Timeline:

- March 2016: GC consideration/approval of the Taskforce Proposal
- March 2016-Fall 2016: Seeking names and selection of proposed members and agenda.
- February 2017: Submission and approval by GC of the Taskforce members and agenda.
- June 2017: Taskforce submits its preliminary report.
- July 2017: Possible meeting of co-chairs, subcommittee coordinators and ex-officio members.
- Fall 2017: Submission of Report.
- 2018: SFO GC approval and implementation afterwards in a timely fashion.