

ISA Human Rights Section  
 Business Meeting Friday March 18, 2011  
 12:30 pm, Sheraton Jarry  
 Draft Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 12:30 by Chair, Kurt Mills.
2. Brief Report from Chair:
  - a) Section:
 

Re-chartering of the section has been successful. The section has been in existence for 5 years and as a result of changes passed by the Governing Council, should not need to be re-chartered again. At present the section has around 350 members. Discussion is in progress about how to increase the membership.
  - b) Finances:
 

Section finances are healthy. The section had \$6121.68 at the end of the year, which places it at the bottom of the top third of ISA sections.
  - c) General Matters:
 

David Richards resigned from the ExComm.

The H-Human-Rights section-sponsored discussion list has over 900 members globally. Anyone wanting to be on the email list need only contact Kurt. Book reviews among other things are done by H-Human-Rights.

The Compendium has been a success. Members will have access to the compendium online for a couple weeks more, after which they will no longer have access, but will be asked to recommend it to their institution libraries.
  - c) Governing Council:
 

In the next few weeks members will cease receiving hard copies of ISA journals. Thereafter subscription will be to electronic copies only, which will result in substantial savings for ISA. ISA membership fees have been frozen until 2015, because of the savings from Wiley printing hard copies of journals for members. ISA is considering what other services might be expanded or added as a result of this additional flow of cash into the association.

Constitutional Amendments:

Amendments to the ISA Charter are on the way. These will bring the Charter in line with what is actually happening in the Association.

Panels & Conferences:

ISA is keen to see more diversity on panels; participants should come from more than one institution. ISA is encouraging innovative panels. Deadline for innovative panels for ISA 2012 is May 16<sup>th</sup>.

The ISA Academic Freedom Committee was established in 2010 and is currently getting started.

UN Passes: ISA has consultative status at the UN under ECOSOC, so members can get UN credentials to attend ECOSOC-sponsored meetings, and conduct research at the UN.

- d) Section Program Chair Report (Clair Apodaca): 31 slots were given to HR this year. 47 panels and 2 poster sessions were organized. ISA policy has changed regarding the proportion of panels that can be put together by the section heads. This year 70% were put together by Claire and 30% were proposed as complete panels. The section reception will be at 6:15 this evening in the Joliette Room at the Fairmont.

Kurt thanked Claire for her work on panels and the reception, and announced that Eric Leonard will be the incoming Section Program Chair.

### 3. Joint Conference:

Kurt reported that last year the section had decided to host a joint conference with the human rights sections of APSA and IPSA. It will be held in Glasgow in June 2012 to coincide with the joint ISA-BISA conference in Edinburgh. The tentative theme is: 'Protecting Human Rights: Duties and Responsibilities of States and Non-State Actors'. Kurt has booked rooms at University of Glasgow for panels.

Proposal from the Chair that the section vote a contribution of \$300.00 for the conference which will facilitate further fundraising. Proposal was adopted by unanimous vote.

A question was asked about interdisciplinary collaboration, with American Society of International Law for example. Kurt concurred and proposed further dialog about how to do this.

### 4. Awards:

Graduate Student Award:

Carrie Walling announced the Graduate Student Award. 13 submissions were received and were evaluated on 4 criteria: originality, quality of research design, quality of writing, and significance for human rights and international relations. Carrie announced the winner: Courtney Hillebrecht.

Academic/Practitioner Award:

Jennifer Abassi addressed this item. No award was given this year. Two applications were received, but neither met the criteria. Kurt suggested that there was an issue about how to get people to apply for the award. Kurt thanked Jennifer for her work on the awards committee.

Developing Country Scholar Award:

Kurt reported that the award was not given this year. None of the submissions satisfied the criteria.

The Chair proposed two new awards:

- i) a Distinguished Scholar Award to a senior faculty member;
- ii) a Book Award

There was unanimous support for both awards.

Mark Gibney proposed creating an award for junior scholars to recognize their work. scholars the Distinguished Scholar Award available to junior faculty to recognize their work, facilitate tenure applications, and encourage scholarship. This was adopted unanimously by the meeting. Criteria and procedures will be determined in due course.

5. Amendment to the HR Section Charter:

The Chair proposed an amendment to the section Charter that would omit the requirement that there be 5 supporters of a nomination or self-nomination for office on the ExComm. The proposal was adopted unanimously.

6. Section Positions:

Elections Chair Eric Leonard reported that Sonia Cardenas and Anja Mihr were elected for the open two year Excom At-Large positions. Bethany Barratt will fill the year remaining on the other open position created by the resignation of David Richards. In the end nobody ran for section chair-elect. Kurt noted that Mark Gibney had agreed to stand for election and opened the floor for further nominations. None were forthcoming and Mark Gibney was unanimously elected as the Chair-elect.

Eric announced a call for nominations in November 2011 for the following positions:

Vice Chair

Secretary

Two At-Large positions.

Meeting was closed at 1:15pm.