

GSG Legislative Assembly Minutes

Fall 2022

Short Summary

From November 25-27 2022, the Global Student Government (GSG) held its first Legislative Assembly. Over the course of three days, members of the GSG and the Informal Forum for International Student Organisations (IFISO) sent delegates from around the world who participated in various discussions pertaining to student advocacy and productive methods to lead a student organization.

Each discussion included diverse topics: climate change and student mobility to partnerships, engagement strategies, fundraising initiatives, communication strategies, housing accessibility and more! It was concluded that many delegates agreed on the importance of streamlining goals, developing comprehensive strategies, the use of advisory boards for advocacy purposes, and seeking partnerships with external organizations for sponsorship opportunities.

In addition to these discussions, the Legislative Assembly completed its first voting session where a number of motions were decided upon that established the foundational policy framework of the GSG and guided the organization's future direction. Motions 1-9 and 11-12 were passed, while motion 10 was amended but did not pass based on the majority of votes.

The GSG also provided a space for IFISO to elect its new Management Team and debate motions specific to student governments that are international in scope.

We are pleased with the outcome of GSG's first Legislative Assembly and look forward to having many more in the coming years. More detailed Legislative Assembly minutes will be posted in the coming months.

Minutes

Day 1

Opening Ceremony

- GSG Executive Committee gives an overview of GSG

Discussion 1: Climate Change and Students' Mobility

- Strategies to initiate climate change discussions through the use of large conferences and partnership with institutions with similar objectives
- The application form to join the YOUNGO (The Official Children and Youth Constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)): [Google Form](#)
- IYBSSD: [IYBSSD site](#)
- Streamlining goals between various working groups in terms of the negotiation process
- Initiatives such as climate strikes, participation in COP, Friday for future movement
- A group with GCHA that followed the negotiations
- EFPSA – has a campaign such as planet A and initiatives focused on mental health and local activities as well as international level ones
- In terms of policy, there is a focus on demanding accessible and free/affordable public transportation for students worldwide would have a big impact

Discussion 2: Governance

- IAPSS – on their organizational structure and advisory board, voting structure
- Rules standardized to have procedures such as Robert's rules of Order to make processes efficient and increase participation to meetings and increase engagement particularly virtually
- EFPSA – on their election process and membership process

Discussion 3: Communication, Engagement, and Partnerships Strategies for Student Governments

- Importance of developing a clear and comprehensive website
- Focus on design, detail oriented in terms of social media, use of Instagram and other platforms
- Social media preference depends on regional differences, some platforms are more common in certain regions. With govt restrictions present, only certain platforms are permitted unless VPN is used
- EMSA – has an assistant within the department to relay information about what should be posted on social media, with regard to the Department's activities. There's a distinction between sponsorships and partnerships. With partners they collaborate on projects/policies etc, and that falls under the domain of the Department of External Affairs.

Discussion 4: Accessibility to Education through Technology

- Student union representatives did not attend

Discussion 5: Student Advocacy: Healthcare

- EMSA – advocacy of 'one health' focused on the environment and overall humanity. Main advocacy tool to approach stakeholders is through policy papers, various topics including health care advocacy.
- IPSF – advocates through local committee campaigns through policy papers, and policy training. In the USA insurance is quite expensive for students. Social work initiatives are used to identify alternative options over expensive medication. Government cooperation may be the best option for now with student advocacy to target healthcare policy changes.
- ISOHA – has an advisory board for advocacy. Involved with WHO and other international organizations to promote healthcare and one health concept.
- To join health policy on the global level, the easiest way is to join conferences and build your network. That opens up opportunities to collaborate on webinars and joint statements. Also apply for accreditation so the UN entities and WHO invite you to join their meetings because those are usually by invitation only.

Day 2

IFISO Motions and Elections:

- A motion to reduce the number of IFISO Meetings to one per year brought forward by ISOHA did not pass
- The GSG was selected as the host of the next IFISO Meeting with the goal of having it in-person in Toronto, Canada
- Rabi Raut (IAAS), Chihab Eddine Zeggada (ISOHA) and Oleksii Zahreba (IAPSS) were elected into the IFISO Management Team

Discussion 6: Student Advocacy: Tuition Funding (Undergraduate and Graduate)

- Student union representatives did not attend

Discussion 7: Barriers to Youth Engagement

- Student union representatives did not attend

Discussion 8: Finances and Fundraising Initiatives

- Currently the methods to get funding from the EU are limited
- EGEA and EPSA had funding from EU initiatives
- External companies sponsor events
- Erasmus restricted funding to organizations with paid staff, making most international subject-based student governments ineligible
- Possible solution: GSG leads a joint/combined letter with IFISO to ERASMUS on funding support
- Increasing member fees is not sustainable in the long run
- EPSA: has Alumni network and some of them donate money, but it is a small percentage of the total budget

Discussion 9: Organizing Student-Led Campaigns

- Student union representatives did not attend

Discussion 10: Diversity, Inclusion, Identity

- Student union representatives did not attend

Discussion 11: Inclusivity to Sponsored Refugees and Education

- Student union representatives did not attend

Discussion 12: Student Advocacy: Housing Accessibility

- Student union representatives did not attend

Day 3

GSG Legislative Assembly Motions

- Motions 1–9, 11 and 12 passed
- Motion 10 was amended, but did not pass
- Call out for advisory board and VP for Communication position at GSG
- Call out for joining GSG as a member