2026 AGSS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY 12 OCTOBER 2026

ARENA COPACABANA HOTEL / RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

1. Meeting called to order at 18:05 by Acting President Ryan Alexander

2. Attendance – Quorum Verified

Ryan Alexander served as Acting President 2025/2026 for Sabella Abidde

Present: Joseph Bangura, Ryan Alexander, Lauren Eastwood, Brian Perkinson, Alwen Yeung, Assefaw Bariagaber, Mihailo Vucetic, Michael Hall

Absent: Phil Szmedra, Carolina Rocha, Danielle Smith, Cathy Skidmore-Hess

3. Motion to Approve 2025 EC Minutes by Joseph / Seconded by Alwen. The vote was unanimous / 8 Yes.

Ryan announced that Michael would take the 2026 Minutes due to Phil's absence.

4. Ryan welcomed new EC member Mihailo Vucetic

In September 2026, Yassi Saadatman submitted her resignation letter from the EC and Mihailo Vucetic was appointed to complete her term as EC Position #3 [in accordance with the Constitution].

5. Nominations & Elections Committee Report by Michael

Jose da Cruz won the majority of 39 votes cast for VP/President Elect

Joseph Bangura won the majority of 39 votes cast for Position #1

Jose submitted a conference venue proposal for Panama City, Panama scheduled for 10-12 October 2027.

Lauren made the Motion to Approve Panama as the site for the 2027 AGSS conference, with the caveat that approval was contingent on verifying that the association has sufficient resources to cover initial costs [which was verified later in the evening]. Joseph seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous / 8 Yes.

Following a discussion of attendance numbers in Rio de Janeiro [as well as previous conference in the 2020s] Mihailo made the Motion to base services at the conference on 35 participants [rather than 40 as was suggested in the proposal]. The Motion, seconded by Alwen, was approved unanimously / 8 Yes. It was explained that the cost of the panel rooms remains constant regardless of the number of participants, but the cost of the banquet is determined by number of participants, which can be increased if attendance surpasses 35 members.

Following a discussion of the popularity of the pre-conference [Sunday] and post-conference [Wednesday] tours as well as concerns about the association purchasing too many tour tickets, Joseph made the Motion that 20 tickets be purchased for each of the tours. The Motion, seconded by Assefaw, resulted in a vote of 7 Yes and 1 Abstain.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer did not attend the EC Meeting. At the start of the EC Meeting the EC did not have a Treasurer's Report. Therefore, Lauren made the Motion [which was seconded by Joseph] that the President [Ryan] contact the Treasurer and insist that the EC be provided with an annual report by 1 November. The vote was unanimous / 8 Yes.

However, as the meeting progressed, Lauren noted that she had received the Treasurer's Report in her email [time stamped 18:12]. Therefore, information in the report was then shared by Lauren with the EC members, which allowed for a discussion of the association's finances. In addition, the aforementioned vote became moot once the report was unveiled. This discussion took place during the "New Business" section of the meeting.

Essentially, although we are still spending [approximately 28K] more than we are receiving [approximately 21K] the gap between expenses and income has significantly narrowed. See New Business [below] for a continuation of matters related to the Treasurer's Report.

7. Editor's Report

The Editor of the JGSS did not attend the EC Meeting, therefore the report was presented by Ryan. Significant issues were noted with the Editor's first main outcome: "Considerably expanded the Associate Editors (AE) and Board of Editors." EC members noted that this process was unconstitutional for several reasons: specifically, all appointments as AEs and to the Board of Editors are by the EC, not the Editor. In addition, all AEs must be members of the association. There was also significant concern that the job of Associate Editors [one for each region] was being conflated with the concept of peer reviewer [which raised a whole new set of concerns].

Traditionally [what had been previously approved by the EC], there was an Associate Editor for Africa (Joseph Bangura), Asia, MENA, the Americas, Eurasia, and [although often called book review editor] Book Reviews (Michael Hall). The consensus is the situation needs to be rectified and the original balance restored [immediately] with the editor adhering to Constitutional rules. The next issue of the journal cannot include an extensive list of Associate Editors who are not members of the association. The publisher also needs to be informed of this issue so that the corrections are implemented.

Given the importance of the journal to the association, Michael made the Motion, which was seconded by Mihailo, that the President [Ryan] draft a letter "as soon as possible" to the Editor addressing the aforementioned issues and insisting on immediate removal of the unconstitutional list of AEs and restoration of the limited number of AEs. The vote was unanimous – 8 Yes – in support of the Motion.

8. Executive Director's Report by Lauren

Although her three-year term as ED concluded tonight, prior to the Meeting Lauren agreed to serve for another year until the EC found a replacement. Michael stated in the Meeting that this should happen before 1 June 2027 before the next round of nominations and elections commences so that potential candidates for ED are not elected to other positions on the EC that would prohibit them from being nominated as the next ED. Although a vote was not called on this issue there was no dissenting voice. The EC hopes to have a replacement by 1 June 2027.

Lauren made significant advances in updating the membership list, restructuring the membership fees and conference registration fees, and representing the association at various levels. Lauren was also quite helpful to many officers of the EC throughout the year – acknowledged in the meeting -- in helping them accomplish their tasks. She was thanked for her service to the association [which was manifest in her being awarded the Presidential Award for Service at the Awards Banquet the next evening – post note].

9. New Business

In an attempt to codify the time frame of membership [essentially a codification of past practice] at the instigation of the ED, Michael made the Motion, seconded by Joseph, that the membership fee covered the year the fee was paid, and included two issues of the journal in the following year. The following example was provided: if a non-Lifetime Member pays the Membership Fee [updated fees are listed on the website] in 2026, then that person would be entitled to the Spring 27 and Fall 27 issues of the journal. As such, a person who paid their membership fee in August 2026 [and registration fee] to attend the 2026 conference in Rio would need to pay a membership fee and registration fee in 2027 to attend the conference in Panama, which would ensure uninterrupted receipt of the journal. New Lifetime Memberships are not currently being offered. The vote was unanimous / 8 Yes.

In an effort to conserve and earn interest on the legacy of Harold Isaac's generous donation to the association, the EC determined, after years of discussion without action, to invest a portion of funds currently residing in our general savings account. After significant deliberation, Brian made the Motion, seconded by Lauren, that $50K would be invested in the following instruments: 30K in a S&P 500 Fund [such as Vanguard or Fidelity, for example] & 20K in a High-Yield Certificate of Deposit. The vote was unanimous / 8 Yes. Ryan will communicate the decision with Danielle, who will implement the initial phases of the process.

The Meeting concluded at 21:08.

Minutes Submitted / 20 October 2026 / MRH