

Statement on Executive Council Transparency

07 July 2026

In recent years, the International Relations Students' Association (IRSA) has relegated Executive Councils to private consultations among Executive Members, culminating in the Presidents of the 43rd Year designating them as “the President’s portfolio meeting.” In IRSA’s 44th Year, the Office of the President (“the Office”) recognizes the harms of these practices in limiting Executive Member autonomy and Active Member participation rights. As the Active Membership elects Executive Members, Executive Councils must remain open in their operations and decision-making to Active Members for auditing of Executive Members’ achievement of their mandates, including the costs of membership fees and time.

Given the Association’s significant operational and financial deficits in its previous years the Office seeks to incorporate dutiful, equitable, and representative governance in Executive Council as a duty to the Active Membership. Per § 5.1.8.6 of the *IRSA Constitution* bylaws, the Presidents must run weekly Executive Councils. Thus, the Office establishes the following transparency measures:

- (1) **Minute Publication.** All Executive Council minutes as formatted by the Office using the prescribed Executive Council formatting will be published on IRSA’s website in an accessible manner for viewing by the Active Membership. These minutes will include meeting details, attendance designations, motions, debate participation, and voting results.
- (2) **Attendance Records.** Attendance records of all Executive Members will be published on IRSA’s website in addition to a statement outlining the 80% attendance metric, reminders to the Active Membership that Executive Members have a constitutional mandate to maintain this attendance record (§ 5.1.5, *IRSA Constitution* bylaws), and explanations of “Present,” “Regrets,” and “Absent” designations.
- (3) **Participation Rights.** All Active Members have the right to attend Executive Council without voting or speaking rights (“observer status”) starting on 08 September 2026. All Auxiliary Members have the right to attend Executive Council without voting, but with speaking rights under sponsorship of their respective Executive Member starting 08 September 2026.

