EXECUTIVE COUNCIL || PROCEEDINGS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL | DETAILS

SESSION	44TH YEAR OF THE ASSOCIATION
DATE	THE NINTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026
LOCATION	UBCV | HENRY ANGUS BUILDING | FLOOR: 2 | ROOM: 243
CHAIR	HARRIS TIRMIZI
SECRETARY	ELLIE JU
MEETING BROUGHT TO ORDER AT	17:12 PDT
MEETING ADJOURNED AT	17:50 PDT

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL | ATTENDANCE

PRESENT	
Ellie Ju	President
Harris Tirmizi	President
Ariadne Zheng	Treasurer
Sohani Aggarwal	Treasurer
Ava Graf	Vice-President of Academics
Krystyna Xing	Vice-President of Academics
Lily Vinch	Vice-President of External
Shannier Huang	Vice-President of External
Kamila Khalyksovet	Vice-President of Internal
REGRETS	
Michelina Lee	Vice-President of Internal
ABSENT	

DUTIFUL GOVERNANCE • INSTITUTIONAL EQUITY • REPRESENTATIVE ACTION

All Active Members and the Alma Mater Society Clubs and Societies Committee may obtain the Executive Council Minutes at https://irsaubc.ca/executive-council, which documents floor decisions.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL | ADOPTION OF AGENDA

HARRIS TIRMIZI (CHAIR / PRESIDENT, IRSA): We're calling this meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time.

Unlike before [in Executive Council] with our *Standard Order of Business*, we have an *Agenda* on the screen which we are going to vote to ratify, and once it [is approved], we'll get started.

We're going to read and approve the *Minutes*, I'm going to give a brief reminder on RONR [*Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*], we'll recess for about five minutes for everyone to prepare for their terms, we'll do negotiations, and *Adjourn* at about 5:50 [p.m.].

Without objection, we are adopting this *Agenda*. Does anyone have any objections?

The *Agenda* is adopted.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL | READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

HARRIS: The *Minutes* of the previous meeting have been distributed. Are there any corrections to the *Minutes*?

The *Minutes* are approved as presented.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL | RONR REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT

HARRIS: To start off with a RONR *Report* for every Executive Member here and our lovely JIA [Journal of International Affairs] guest. The Office [of the President] wants to remind everyone that before you speak, whenever you speak, please raise your hand. As you can see, it is very important because we have multiple microphones recording around the room.

It's very important that everyone raises their hand because I need to state everyone's position and their name for the record [Proceedings], as we have transcription going. Transcription will be processed afterwards with AI [Artificial Intelligence] and everyone in here, by being present consents to audio-visual recording.

Whenever you want to speak, even if you're replying to somebody, please raise your hand. If somebody asks you a direct question, please raise your hand because I need to make sure that your name and position is on the record. If you're asking for information, always try and ask for information through the Chair, for example, “Could the Chair ask the Editor-in-Chief about the JIA's financial situation.”

Again, all comments should be going through the Chair so that we have it on the record and so that the Chair can intercept comments that contravene IRSA’s [the International Relations Students’ Association] Governance. If you are ruled *Out of Order*, it is nothing personal, but we have to make sure that we are AMS [Alma Mater Society] compliant.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL | RECESS

HARRIS: At this point, we are going to take a brief, three-to-five-minute *Recess* for all Executive Members and our JIA partners. If you have any material that you want presented on the [projected] screen during the negotiations, please send it to *admin@irsaubc.ca* during this *Recess*.

If you [Executive Members] have any Auxiliary Members come, or if any other JIA Volunteers come, inform the Chair, as we must make sure that they are on the record and the seating map.

During this *Recess*, please confine your discussion to preparing for your half of the negotiations—whether JIA or IRSA—please do not talk about negotiating terms during the *Recess* because it will not be captured on the record.

We will take a three-to-five-minute *Recess* and reconvene at 5:20 [p.m.] PDT [Pacific Daylight Time].

That concludes our *Recess*. Before we start, I will get *Attendance* on the record. Harris Tirmizi, Chair/President, is “Present.” Ellie Ju, President and who is the presiding Secretary, is “Present.” Ariadne Zheng, Treasurer, is “Present.” Sohani Aggarwal, Treasurer, is “Present.” Ava Graf, Vice-

President of Academics, is "Present." Krystyna Xing, Vice-President of Academics, is "Present" on Microsoft Teams. Lily Vinch, Vice-President of External, is "Present." Shannier Huang, Vice-President of External, is "Present." Kamila Khalyksovet, Vice-President of Internal, is "Present." Michelina Lee, Vice-President of Internal, sends her "Regrets."

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL | NEGOTIATIONS

HARRIS: We will start the negotiations. I'll be facilitating, especially for Round One. The Chief Negotiators on behalf of IRSA are the Vice-Presidents of External, Lily Vinch and Shannier Huang. The Chief Negotiator on behalf of the JIA is Humshinee [Kalaiselvan], the Editor-in-Chief.

The Secretary will document all terms on this Microsoft Word document for everyone to see. These terms are not official, nor are they considered properly negotiated until they are on the Microsoft Word document. The only people who can add terms to this document are the Chief Negotiators on behalf of each respective party.

It is the [IRSA] Chief Negotiators' decision, if they choose to allow other Executive Members to speak. Even if they [Executive Members] do that, they [the terms] will only be present on the document once I ask if you "table the terms" and the Chief Negotiator says "Yes." As a reminder to everyone here, everyone is accountable for the terms that they propose. Every IRSA Executive Member is accountable to make sure that the terms they propose are compliant with IRSA's Governance.

This is a final disclaimer that this Executive Council is being audio-visual recorded, and these Proceedings will be sent to all Active Members and interested parties, including all JIA Volunteers.

We will get started. As a last reminder, please, always raise your hand, wait to be acknowledged with your position and your name, and then you may begin speaking.

Does anyone want to go first? An opening statement? A term?

Lily, the Vice-President of External.

LILY VINCH (VICE-PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL, IRSA): As the Chief Negotiators, our plan is to go ahead and recognize each of the [Executive] Portfolios to say what they need to. I'm pretty sure we're all on that same page that this is a good conversation to have with the JIA to establish some terms, no matter how official, it's good communication to have between two groups that are connected and always have been—keeping that partnership alive.

That is what we're planning to do. If we want to start off into terms, we're welcome to recognize [Executive] Portfolios that want to go first, that have things written. We're pulling up the doc [sic], so we'll be able to write it down for you guys. You're welcome to speak, and if we have any questions, we'll let you know. Does that sound good with everyone?

HARRIS: Thank you, Lily.

For today, we'll keep the [negotiating] round in alignment with our negotiation schedule on "Financial Agreements," specifically pertaining to the Treasury. Next week, it'll be *quid pro quo* [terms] with all five Executive Portfolios.

Lily, Vice-President of External.

LILY: Show of hands, who has financial terms to be discussed?

ARIADNE, SOHANI, and HUMSHINEE raise their hands.

With JIA as our guest, we'll recognize JIA first to start with their terms, and then we'll pass it back.

HARRIS: Humshinee, the JIA Editor-in-Chief.

HUMSHINEE KALAISELVAN [EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, JIA]: In terms of our financial terms, we have submitted a budget proposal earlier in August [2026]. This budget proposal was made while confirming with the other folks from 2025-2026's year and 2024-2025's year, where the amount of money that was coded was higher than expected. Last year, thankfully, they were able to make some changes with who was printing that reduced the price to $800. However, we were originally quoted much higher at about $1,100.

The issue is that with the years progressing, printing costs only get higher as we look at the amount we need over the next few years. Our concern is that we can try and work for the potential $800 [printing cost] again, as we are trying to go with the same [printing] company, although we had shipping issues. If there are additional issues or if printing costs increase, we could work with IRSA to try and manage this.

HARRIS: Lily, Vice-President of External.

LILY: Housekeeping—we don't have access to this [the projected Microsoft Word document], neither on OneDrive, SharePoint, or email.

HARRIS: No, the Secretary will be writing tabled terms. Once you have a term, the Chair will ask the respective party, "Are you tabling this term?" If you say "Yes," it will go on the [unintelligible].

LILY: We don't touch that doc [sic] at all?

HARRIS shakes his head.

Great, that's all you guys. Go ahead [Humshinee].

HUMSHINEE: I want to hear what the [IRSA] team has to say.

HARRIS: Sohani, the Treasurer.

SOHANI AGGARWAL (TREASURER, IRSA): First, thanks for taking the time to come out and talk with us today; we really appreciate it. It's an honour to have JIA come here and consult with IRSA on all the issues we want to discuss today and for the next few weeks in Executive Council; it's truly appreciated.

Second, we hear you loud and clear. Yes, the rising cost of inflation, issues, logistical concerns, and financial concerns are all present with JIA. But on IRSA's end we are facing a much-limited operating surplus. All [Executive] Portfolios have funding cut down. No one has garnered their maximum budget that they requested in July [2026].

The current situation is that we have allocated $800 to JIA. Aria [Ariadne Zheng] and I have drafted terms that we wish to propose that will help both parties ensure the Treasury's promise of financial sustainability and responsibility within the Association.

First, a financial agreement respecting the unique nature of the Treasury and JIA which understands our interplay and intersection to ensure a strong, affiliated relation. More importantly, we have drafted up a "Collaborative Fundraising Agreement" where we will allocate funding to JIA based on the initial $800. But if JIA is willing to make up the additional funding that they request…as you've requested somewhere north of $1,200 in the email that you sent. Is that correct? Yes or no?

HUMSHINEE: A bit north of it…$1,300, in case we need to keep it based on the number from previous years.

SOHANI: To get to $1,300, we have to take from almost every [Executive] Portfolio within IRSA, which is not financially sustainable. It's very irresponsible if the Treasury did that. What we have in mind is to make this "Collaborative Fundraising Agreement," where JIA will hold fundraisers to make up the $500 that they wish to have.

IRSA is here to support you but that will be written up in the agreement because most of the [fundraising] responsibilities will be on JIA.

HARRIS: Thank you, Sohani.

Aria, the Treasurer.

ARIADNE ZHENG (TREASURER, IRSA): Adding to what Sohani brought up, and keeping in mind given our budgetary restraints with almost every [Executive] Portfolio receiving a cut while recognizing JIA's unique position of having printing costs covered to deliver a very high-quality production, we came to a middle ground of hosting a joint fundraiser.

We will give your current allocation which we have as $800 and work with you to raise funds and bridge that gap. In terms of the fundraiser details, that's still in the works. We'll discuss that with you and other relevant parties in the later meetings [Executive Councils].

You guys will be more responsible for the planning and running of the fundraisers—deciding where to do it, when to do it, what to sell, and selling things—whereas we will handle the back-end financial side if you need to place any purchases or need any volunteers to help with this initiative. We'll give detailed instructions on how to handle deposits and transactions to ensure the money is in the right place and we're not losing it here or there.

Later, with the VPs [Vice-Presidents] of External, if they agree, we'll discuss using IRSA's communication channels to promote and advertise this fundraiser. You guys will do the planning, logistics, and running, and we'll offer you back-end financial and communications support based on External's [Portfolio] consent.

We will present details once we finalize them amongst ourselves.

HARRIS: Thank you, Aria.

Humshinee, the Editor-in-Chief.

HUMSHINEE: Khushi [Nathowalia; Editor-in-Chief, JIA] and I can agree with having fundraisers to make up the extra funds. We're still waiting on the IR [International Relations] Department [sic] to respond to us about their funds. We will see if they can aid us as well if they have funding or are able to move it from the IR Department [sic] towards the publishing costs.

I definitely think that fundraising is something we can all work together for, so I'm more than happy to collaborate on that and whether today or the next couple of weeks, figure out when and what we can do.

HARRIS: Thank you.

For the Vice-Presidents of External, Lily and Shannier, who are the Chief Negotiators, are you tabling that term on behalf of IRSA?

LILY: It's exactly what you guys said to agree on, so yes. We're going to table that term on the financial agreement and the fundraiser.

JIA, the financial agreement is also accepted on your end, correct?

HUMSHINEE nods.

HARRIS: From the JIA, you're also tabling that same term?

HUMSHINEE: Possibly.

HARRIS: Sorry, Shannier, before I get to you, in the interest of facilitating, is the financial agreement something that the IRSA side wants to discuss in detail right now?

Sohani, the Treasurer, go ahead.

SOHANI: Right now, it's still in the works because there are some things we want to hash out and talk over. I'm going to pull it up right now.

In respecting the nature of the Treasury and JIA, we want to respect our terms as Treasurers in what we propose for the Association, making the student body feel heard and seen while making sure we reach financial responsibility and sustainability.

We also recognize that JIA does not want to be limited to financial constraints. Respecting those natures and agreements is something that we want in writing to understand that line will not be altered in any way. The agreement starts off with an invitation to "modified affiliation," in understanding that there is a relationship between JIA and IRSA.

The Treasury's pillars of financial directives that Aria and I have discussed and campaigned for are stewardship, transparency, responsibility, accountability, and financial sustainability. Understanding those pillars is essential to the Treasury's cause and is something that we wish JIA recognizes to continue that [understanding]. Then, outlining the navigation of the Treasury's and JIA's relations with the "Collaborative Fundraising Agreement" that we aim to have.

Also, how financial contributions are supposed to be shaped and if you request funding and documentation, we have the authority to give that to you, if necessary. There's also room for reviewing terms [of the agreement]. Who is going to come in the future? Who will take on our roles? We are creating those pathways and bridges to respect what we have established today.

HARRIS: Thank you, Sohani.

To clarify for the record, as we're documenting terms, was there a minimum amount that IRSA proposed giving to the JIA as a baseline this year?

Aria, the Treasurer.

ARIADNE: For this year, the baseline that we have already allocated to the JIA given other [Executive] Portfolio allocations is [$]800.

Regarding putting this into an agreement that we can re-use for future years; to determine how much IRSA should budget for the JIA, we're still in the works in coming up with a method for that which establishes that clear allocation while respecting the authority of future Treasurers to manage the funds how they see fit—it's a difficult line to navigate—which is why we don't have anything for that yet, but this year the allocation is [$]800.

HARRIS: Do the Vice-Presidents of External table that $800?

LILY: Yep, as agreed on prior…it was already up there [on the projection]…no, maybe it wasn't a term.

HARRIS: Humshinee, the Editor-in-Chief.

HUMSHINEE: I completely understand. It's nuanced. Even when we drafted our budget, we could tell that a number can fluctuate so [much]. We'll try on our end to see when we're printing that we're not printing extra copies or wasting funds beyond the number [of copies] we want.

We could see the number drop at the end of the year, but at the moment of our budget request, it was the maximum [number of copies] that we could see people requesting to be printed.

Overall, if need be, we could have our team pay a small bit towards it [printing costs]; I wouldn't mind, if it was my specific copy, but that depends on a lot of other people. From our end, we are willing to risk trying to find something that everyone may want.

Our goal is communicating with the printing companies earlier. If you guys draft a package for next year's Treasurers and we establish a good connection with a printing company and make sure they try and make something work for us, then that could be a solution.

HARRIS: Are you tabling that term? Establishing that connection with printing companies earlier?

HUMSHINEE nods.

HARRIS: Before we continue, looking at the current terms that we have tabled, from the Chief Negotiators of IRSA, is there anything missing?

SHANNIER HUANG (VICE-PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL, IRSA): External [Portfolio] is happy to cover the communication aspect with the Treasury and provide that support to JIA.

HARRIS: You're tabling the term that you'll provide communication support to the JIA?

SHANNIER: Yes.

LILY: That's not on the financial side of things for this discussion.

HARRIS: It's related to the fundraiser?

LILY: It's going to be related to the fundraiser and the marketing, so that would go under...

HARRIS: For today's negotiations, if we isolate it just to the fundraiser, are you tabling the term that you will help promote the fundraiser?

LILY: Yeah, but does that have to be separate? Can it just be under a marketing conversation that we have?

HARRIS: Ideally, we want to keep the terms [related] to the financial agreement, so we can return to that next week.

SOHANI: I was going to speak on that...

HARRIS: Sorry...Sohani, the Treasurer.

SOHANI: Sorry. Lily and Shannier if you're willing to consent to the "Financial Collaboration Agreement" with JIA, to promise to promote any fundraising initiatives that they may have, that could fall under the financial aspects of the term because the Treasury is looking for External's [Portfolio] consent.

HARRIS: Lily, Vice-President of External.

LILY: We're not going to go ahead, agree, or consent to any of that because we have a specific way of doing marketing—a form—no matter fundraising or not, every [Executive] Portfolio fundraises as well. Looking at it that way, we'll keep it [the term] under marketing for next time where we say everyone has to fill out the form, the same as anyone else.

HARRIS: The Vice-Presidents of External do not table that term proposed by the Treasury.

LILY: Is it even written on there [the projection] yet? I don't think so.

HARRIS: No. We don't write it until it's tabled.

LILY: Yeah, so no.

HARRIS: From the JIA, do these terms summarize what you have tabled so far?

LILY: Can you scroll down a little bit?

HUMSHINEE: Scroll…but from what I can read, I agree with what's been tabled. It makes sense and it, and what's been added, echoes what we [unintelligible] about.

HARRIS: There are about nine minutes left in this [negotiation] round. If anyone would also like to add, raise your hand.

Next week, we will be moving past financial agreements to *quid pro quo* negotiations; it's better to get those [financial agreements] outlined right now.

Humshinee, the Editor-in-Chief.

HUMSHINEE: It's slightly financial and has to do with money. I know that last year, only the Editors-in-Chief paid the membership fees for IRSA. When the Junior Editors were hired, it wasn't mentioned; the Editors-in-Chief decided not to put that additional cost on them.

Khushi and I have not picked out our Junior Editors, we are going to put in the [hiring] package that they have to pay a membership fee. I know that was a concern last year and it won't for this year. It's a *quid pro quo* for what we can give to you guys.

HARRIS: You want to table the term that the Junior Editors of the JIA must purchase an IRSA membership?

HUMSHINEE: Yes. The only caveat is that if someone is unable to pay it, we can communicate that to you, so nobody messages us personally with [their] financial situation. Echoing last year's

JIA Editors-in-Chief, they didn't want to have that [paying a membership fee] stop someone [from volunteering]. We'll put that disclaimer in our package that we are expecting that membership fee be paid because of our [IRSA and JIA] collaboration, however, if it cannot be done, to let us know. If that [caveat] can be agreed, then it's okay for *quid pro quo*.

HARRIS: We'll hear from Sohani, the Treasurer, first.

SOHANI: First of all, thank you so much for putting that agreement into your hiring package; that's very nice to hear on behalf of the Treasury. Something to keep in mind, there's new updates on how membership works this year; if you are an IR Major or Minor [student], you do not pay for membership. If you hire someone who is not an IR Major or Minor, then they will have to pay for an [IRSA] membership; otherwise, it's free because they are registered under the International Relations Program.

HARRIS: Thank you, Sohani.

We have about six minutes left in this negotiation round for financial agreements.

We will recess for three minutes for both parties to independently conclude that they're satisfied with these terms, which will be on the record and brought up in [Negotiating] Rounds 3 and 4, in "Governance Checks" and "Contract Drafting."

Per the *Agenda*, please do not discuss terms during the *Recess* itself, because they [the terms] need to be on the Proceedings. We will reconvene at 5:48 [p.m.].

We will end our *Recess* and reconvene.

The Office of the President will speak about some concerns on the third point listed, that the JIA tabled. We would like the Editor-in-Chief to specify whether all JIA Volunteers are UBC [University of British Columbia] students.

Humshinee, the Editor-in-Chief.

HUMSHINEE: Yes, all JIA Junior and Senior Editors are UBC students. We are trying our best to ensure that they are not on exchange in semester one, but we had one Senior Editor last year, who will be an Editor this year, and they are technically still a UBC student. There should not be a concern.

HARRIS: In that case, I recommend to the Editor-in-Chief that the third term that has been tabled is amended to specify "to purchase an IRSA Active Membership," which is only open to UBC students compared to Associate and External Memberships.

Humshinee, the Editor-in-Chief.

HUMSHINEE: I can agree with that; it sounds right and there shouldn't be an issue.

HARRIS: Correct me if I'm wrong: the tabled term is "IRSA Active Membership" rather than generally, "IRSA Membership," which is only open for UBC students.

It is 5:50 [p.m.], does anyone have a last-minute comment, specifically from the Chief Negotiators?

We will end our first negotiation round which for the record, was financial terms. Next Wednesday, we will be discussing *quid pro quo* negotiations which are membership benefits.

This meeting is adjourned at 5:50 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time.