

# Association News

## APSA Constitutional Revision Committee

### Draft Constitution

#### Article I: Name

This Association shall be known as The American Political Science Association.

#### Article II: Purpose

1. The purpose of this Association is to encourage and to advance the study of politics.
2. The Association is non-partisan. It will not support political parties or candidates. It may take positions on issues only if they are immediately and directly concerned with the purpose stated above.
3. Should the rights of members to engage freely in teaching, research, or scholarly publication, and to associate for purposes of professional discussion and advancement of knowledge be violated or seriously threatened, the Association may take such action as is appropriate under this constitution.

#### Article III: Membership

1. Any person sharing the purpose of this Association may become a member upon payment of annual dues. All classes of dues, including life memberships, non-voting institutional memberships, and reduced annual dues for retired members and students, shall be set by the Assembly.
2. Members shall be entitled to:
  - a. receive copies of such journals of the Association as the Assembly may determine;
  - b. attend, participate in, and vote at the Annual Meeting of Members;
  - c. receive and return all ballots submitted to the membership by the Association;
  - d. sponsor nominations for elective offices;
  - e. be eligible for nomination of elective office;
  - f. sponsor amendments to the constitution and resolutions consistent with it.

#### Article IV: The Government

1. The government of the Association shall consist of a President, a President-Elect, an Assembly, an Executive Committee, an Annual Meeting of Members, and the entire membership voting by mail ballot.
2. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a President-Elect, the members of the Assembly, and an Executive Director.

#### Article V: The Assembly

1. The Assembly shall consist of 30 members chosen

for three-year terms, one-third to be elected by mail ballot each year. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

2. In cases of disputed elections, the Assembly shall be the judge of its own membership.
3. The Assembly shall meet at least twice a year at the call of the Executive Committee. A special call by the President or a petition signed by one-third of the elected members of the Assembly shall be sufficient to bring the Assembly into extraordinary session. All meetings shall be announced to Assembly members at least one week in advance.
4. The Assembly may appoint special and standing committees from its own membership and shall establish its own rules of procedure.
5. The Assembly shall:
  - a. determine the size of the Executive Committee and elect its members from the Assembly's membership;
  - b. elect and set the term of office for the editors of professional journals published under the auspices of the Association;
  - c. appoint a Nominating Committee to propose candidates as specified in Article XI, Section I; the President shall chair this committee and at least two-thirds of the membership shall come from outside the Assembly;
  - d. advise and consent to the Executive Committee's nomination of the Executive Director of the National Administrative Office and to the President's nomination of the Chairman of the Program Committee for the Annual Convention of the Association;
  - e. enact an annual budget and set annual dues;
  - f. include in the budget a salary for the President in an amount proportionate to the time that he will devote to his presidential duties;
  - g. select the site of the Annual Convention of the Association;
  - h. prescribe, at least 6 months in advance, rules for the conduct of the Annual Meeting of Members, for the holding of elections, and for the submission of proposed amendments to the members;
  - i. appoint an acting President if the President should die, resign, or be unable to perform his duties and the President-Elect is not available to succeed him.
  - j. publish its minutes and proceedings in an official journal of the Association and, if requested by one-fourth of the Assembly's members, include a record

of members voting for and against a motion and of those abstaining and absent;

k. authorize committees necessary to serve the purpose of the Association;

l. pass resolutions necessary and proper to achieve the purpose of the Association.

#### **Article VI: The Executive Committee**

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of members elected by and from the Assembly for annual terms. No elected member shall serve more than three consecutive terms. The President and President-Elect shall be voting members. The President shall preside.

2. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President or upon the request of one-third of its members. All meetings shall be announced to Executive Committee members at least three days in advance.

3. The Executive Committee shall:

a. call the Assembly into regular session and into extraordinary session;

b. prepare an agenda for each meeting of the Assembly;

c. review and approve the arrangements for the receipt, custody, investment, and disbursement of Association funds;

d. report the Association's financial condition to the Assembly and to the Annual Meeting of Members;

e. recommend a budget to the Assembly;

f. appoint, with the advice and consent of the Assembly, an Executive Director;

g. supervise the work of the National Administrative Office;

h. prepare an agenda for the Annual Meeting of Members;

i. perform such other duties as the Assembly may by resolution direct.

#### **Article VII: The President**

1. The President shall serve for a term of one year. He shall be ineligible to succeed himself in office.

2. The President shall:

a. preside at the meetings of the Executive Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Assembly, and the Annual Meeting of Members;

b. appoint, with the advice and consent of the Assembly, the Program Chairman of the Annual Convention;

c. be the official spokesman of the Association and represent the Association on ceremonial occasions;

d. call the Executive Committee into session and, when he thinks it necessary, call the Assembly into extraordinary session;

e. at his discretion appoint special committees from outside the Assembly to report on matters he deems to be of serious concern to political scientists;

f. be responsible for the preparation of the budget and for its presentation to the Executive Committee;

g. propose programs and policies to the Assembly and to the Executive Committee that in his judgment advance the best interests of the Association.

#### **Article VIII: The President-Elect**

1. The President-Elect shall be chosen by mail ballot of the members of the Association.

2. The President-Elect shall serve for a term of one year. He shall automatically succeed to the Presidency at the end of that term.

3. If the President should die, resign, or be unable to perform his duties, the President-Elect, if available, shall become the President for the remainder of the term. If that remainder is less than six months, he shall serve as President for one additional year. If that remainder is more than six months, he shall serve as President until a new President is chosen according to the provisions of Article XI. If the President-Elect is unavailable, the Assembly shall appoint an Acting President.

4. The President-Elect shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee and of the Assembly.

#### **Article IX: The National Administrative Office**

1. The National Administrative Office shall consist of an Executive Director and such staff as he shall appoint under the budgetary authorization of the Assembly.

2. The National Administrative Office shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Association and shall provide administrative support for the governmental agencies of the Association.

3. The Executive Director shall be the chief administrative officer of the Association. He shall be appointed by the Executive Committee with the advice and consent of the Assembly to serve for a term of five years. He shall be eligible for reappointment. If a vacancy occurs during his term, the Executive Committee may appoint an acting Director to serve until the office is filled.

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4. The Executive Director shall:
  - a. have charge of the National Administrative Office;
  - b. assist the President in preparing the annual budget;
  - c. have custody of the Association's funds, discharge its financial obligations, and arrange for an annual independent audit of the Association's accounts;
  - d. formulate plans and policies for the Association and submit them to the Executive Committee for its consideration;
  - e. provide information and assistance to the President, the Assembly, and the Executive Committee;
  - f. prepare an annual report on the activities of the Association for presentation to the Annual Meeting of Members;
  - g. perform such other duties as the President, the Assembly, or the Executive Committee may direct.

#### Article X: The Annual Meeting of Members

1. The Annual Meeting of Members shall be held at the Annual Convention and shall provide for the discussion of the policies and the activities of the Association. The President shall preside; the President-Elect, the Executive Director, and the members of the Assembly shall attend. All members of the Association are eligible to participate in the Meeting.
2. The Annual Meeting of Members shall have the authority to:
  - a. alter the agenda prepared for it by the Executive Committee;
  - b. receive and consider reports;
  - c. propose and adopt resolutions consistent with this constitution;
  - d. act upon constitutional amendments initiated in accordance with Article XII, Section 3;
  - e. receive nominations made by the Nominating Committee and by petition.
3. Resolutions adopted by the Annual Meeting of Members shall be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Assembly, and shall become effective if the Assembly approves them.

#### Article XI: Nominations and Elections

1. At the first meeting after each general election the new Assembly shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The President shall chair this committee

and at least two-thirds of its membership shall come from outside the Assembly. The Committee shall propose a candidate or candidates for the office of President-Elect, for each Assembly seat falling vacant, and for the office of President if necessary under Article VIII, Section 3.

2. The Nominating Committee shall seek to ensure the representativeness of the Assembly. To that end the Committee shall consider the diverse intellectual and professional currents within the discipline and such membership attributes as region of residence, ethnicity, sex, and the like by consulting with the membership and, when possible, with organized segments of the Association. The names of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee shall be made known to the membership at least four (4) months in advance of the Annual Meeting of Members where nominations shall be declared. In the event a candidate becomes unavailable through disability or withdrawal after the nominations have been announced to the membership, the committee may propose a new nominee up to 24 hours in advance of the Annual Meeting of Members.

3. Nominations for the offices specified in Section 1 that are sponsored by at least 200 members of the Association shall be presented to the Annual Meeting of Members upon 24 hours advance notice to the Executive Director and shall appear on the ballot.

4. Elections for all offices shall be decided by a mail ballot of the members of the Association. Rules for balloting shall be prescribed by the Assembly not less than six months prior to any election.

#### Article XII: Amendments

1. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by the Assembly or by the membership.
2. Proposed amendments that originate within and are approved by two-thirds of the Assembly shall be submitted to a mail ballot of the members of the Association.
3. Amendments may be proposed by petitions signed by at least 200 members of the Association. Such proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Executive Director not less than 60 days prior to the Annual Convention for presentation to the Annual Meeting of Members. The Executive Director shall promptly announce such proposals to the members. Proposed amendments that are approved by the Annual Meeting of Members shall be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Assembly. Amendments approved by the Annual Meeting of

Members and accepted by a majority of the Assembly shall be submitted to the members of the Association for ratification.

4. At least once every ten years the Assembly shall appoint a committee from outside its membership to review this constitution and to recommend changes or to propose a new constitution. If approved by a majority of the Assembly, such recommendations or proposed new constitution shall be submitted to the members of the Association for ratification.

5. Amendments to this constitution, however originated, or a proposed new constitution shall become effective when ratified by a majority of those voting. Voting shall be by mail ballot. Other rules for the conduct of the voting shall be prescribed by the Assembly not less than six months prior to the balloting.

#### **Article XIII: Transition**

1. This constitution shall come into effect immediately upon ratification.

2. The President, President-Elect, and Council at the time of ratification shall serve as interim President, President-Elect, and Assembly under this constitution. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice-Presidents shall serve out their terms as members of the Assembly.

3. All currently appointed officials shall continue in their positions until June 30, 1972. The first five year term of the Executive Director under Article IX will begin on July 1, 1972.

4. Current members of the Council may serve the remainder of their terms as members of the Assembly. The number of new Assembly members to be elected shall be reduced by the number of holdovers.

5. Committees of the Association in existence at the time of ratification shall become committees serving at the direction of the President.

6. The Council will appoint an Interim Nominating Committee which shall function as specified in Article V, Section 5c, and Article XI, Section 2, of this constitution. Nominations may also be submitted according to Article XI, Section 3.

7. At its first meeting, the Assembly shall determine by lot which of its new members shall have one, two, or three year terms.