

By-Laws of the American Political Thought Section of the American Political Science Association

I. Name of the Section

The name of the Section is the American Political Thought Section of the American Political Science Association.

II. Purpose of the Section

The purpose of the American Political Thought Section is to facilitate and encourage a uniquely integrative approach to the study of politics that will put scholars of American politics, political theory, American political development, American history, philosophy, American literature and other related fields in ongoing and fruitful conversation with one another.

III. Membership in the Section

A. All members of the American Political Science Association are eligible for membership, including associate APSA members from related academic disciplines such as history, English, law and philosophy.

B. Membership in the section is established by current payment of annual section dues to the APSA. Dues will be set by the Section Council in consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer at the level necessary to cover expenses for services provided by the section, including costs associated with subscription to the section's affiliated academic journal, *American Political Thought*.

IV. Governance of the Section

A. The section will be governed by a council composed of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer, a Program Chair, and three members at large.

B. The duties of these officers are as follows:

1. The President chairs the section meeting at the annual meeting of the APSA; appoints and chairs the nominating committee for section officers; appoints officers to fill unexpired terms; administers policies of the council or carries out other assignments requested by the Council; and performs other duties that are in the interest of the section.

2. The Vice-President assists the President, including assuming the duties of the President in his or her absence, and assumes the position of President upon completion of term of office.

3. The Secretary-Treasurer maintains the finances and records of the section; communicates relevant information to the section membership; and prepares an annual report to the APSA.
4. The Program Chair organizes section panels at the annual meeting of the APSA.
5. The three members at large represent the interdisciplinary character of the American Political Thought Section and participate in making general thematic and administrative policy for the section; approving the budget and plans for the financial needs of the section; administering the section awards; and interpreting these by-laws.
6. All budget matters will be voted upon by the council as a whole, as will the granting of prizes and awards, the approval of minutes, reports to APSA, etc. All other matters will be submitted to a vote at the discretion of the President, except in those cases where specific duties are assigned to council members under the by-laws or by prior vote of the council.

C. Elections

1. The steering committee for the American Political Thought organized section will nominate an interim president who will serve for two years from the official inception of the organized section.
2. The President shall appoint a five-member nominating committee.
3. The nominating committee shall solicit the members of the section for nominations for the section offices to be filed that year. The nominating committee shall nominate a slate of officers that (a) is taken from the names received, particularly those persons receiving several mentions, and (b) is representative of the variety of scholarly specializations and approaches within the section. The slate shall include single nominees for all offices to be filled. The slate shall be distributed to the section members so that the nominees are known prior to the annual section meeting to be held in conjunction with the APSA annual meeting.
4. Five members of the section may nominate candidates for any office (except President) by petition sent to the President prior to the meeting. Such nominations will be distributed to the section members in like manner to the distribution of the nominating committee's slate of candidates.
5. For offices for which no petitions have been received, the nominating committee's candidates shall be elected upon approval of a majority of those voting at the annual section meeting. Offices which are contested shall be filled by secret ballot at the annual section meeting, with winners being determined by a plurality vote of all members participating in the election. Members not present at the annual section meeting may register their vote by mail or e-mail to the President prior to the meeting. All officers elected at the annual meeting will take office at its close.

D. Terms of Office

The terms of the President and Vice-President shall be for two years; the Secretary-Treasurer for three years; the Program Chair for one year; and the Section Council members for two years.

V. Awards

Awards will be given by the section in four categories:

The winner of **The Best Book in American Political Thought Award** will be chosen every year by the Section Council. The monetary value of the award will be established by the Council in consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer and publicized appropriately.

The winner of **The Best Dissertation in American Political Thought Award** will be chosen every two years by the Section Council. The Council will select award recipients from among nominations provided by department chairs (one per department). The monetary value of the award will be established by the Council in consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer and publicized appropriately.

The winner of **The Best Article in American Political Thought Award** will be chosen every year by the Section Council from among the articles published in the journal *American Political Thought* the preceding year. The monetary value of the award will be established by the Council in consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer and publicized appropriately.

The winner of **The Best Conference Paper in American Political Thought Award** will be chosen every year by the Section Council from among nominations provided by panel chairs at the APSA annual meeting. The monetary value of the award will be established by the Council in consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer and publicized appropriately.

VI. Implementation of these By-Laws

This section and its by-laws will be official upon approval of a majority of members attending the annual section meeting at the 2016 APSA annual meeting.

At this first annual section meeting, an initial slate of officers including a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Program Chair and the three Section Council members shall be proposed to the membership for election.