

MPSA By-Laws

Adopted 4/19/1996; Amended 12/18/1998; 4/4/2003; 4/5/2014.

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the *Midwest Political Science Association*.

Article II. Purposes

1. **General Purposes.** The purposes of the Association shall be to promote the professional study and teaching of Political Science, to facilitate communications between those engaged in such study, and to develop standards for and encourage research in theoretical and practical political problems.

2. **Nonpartisanship.** The Association as such shall be non-partisan. It shall not support political parties or candidates.

3. **Other.** Section (2) of this Article shall not be construed to prohibit timely and appropriate action by the Association to ensure for its members the freedoms of inquiry, expression and association essential to the pursuit of its goals.

Article III. Membership

1. **General.** Anyone sharing the purposes of the Association may become a member by making application to the Executive Director, meeting the requirements of the membership class to which the person aspires, and paying the dues appropriate for that class.

2. **Classification.** Membership shall be classified as Professional, Student, Family, Retired, or Institutional. The requirements of eligibility, including dues and fees, for each type of membership shall be established by the Executive Council with the approval of the annual business meeting. In determining dues and fees, the Council shall assess Student, Family, and Retired memberships at a lower rate than Professional members. Institutional membership shall carry the highest assessment.

Article IV. Officers

The Officers of the Association shall be the President, the President-Elect, three Vice Presidents, the Executive Director, the Treasurer, fifteen (15) Councillors, the immediate Past-President, the Editor(s) of the Journal of the Association, and the Chairperson(s) of the Program Committee. These officers shall constitute the Executive Council. A majority, which must include the President or one of the Vice Presidents, shall constitute a quorum.

Article V. Nominations and Elections

1. **Nominations.** The President shall appoint a Committee on Nominations, consisting of five (5) members of the Association, no later than September 1 of each year. The Chairperson of the Committee shall circularize all members of the Association to solicit their preferences for the positions to be filled. The Committee shall be guided in its recommendations by the responses received. No later than March 15, following its appointment, the Committee shall forward nominations for any vacancies of the elected officers of the Executive Council, such nominations to be reported to the members of the Association by April 1. Additional nominations may be made by filing a nominating petition with the Executive Director at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the business meeting. The petition must contain the signatures of no less than twenty (20) members of the Association.

2. Elections.

(a) The President-Elect, one Vice President and five Councillors shall be elected by the members at the annual business meeting of the Association. The President-Elect shall become President at the end of the business meeting a year later, and shall serve as President for one year. Each Vice-President shall serve for three years, one being elected each year, and shall take office at the end of the business meeting at which she or he is elected. Each year five (5) Councillors shall be elected for three-year terms. Vice-Presidents and Councillors shall also be elected as needed to fill vacancies and serve the unexpired term.

(b) All elections shall be by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those Association members present and voting in the annual business meeting. However, should a nominee with the most votes receive less than two-thirds (2/3) of the vote cast, the names of the two (2) nominees for each office who receive the largest number of votes shall be presented by ballot (mail, email or web-based as allowed by law) to the entire membership. The candidate who receives a simple majority of the ballots, in each case, shall be declared elected.

Article VI. Standing Committees

1. **Standing Committee on Investments.** Comprised of the Treasurer, all Vice Presidents, with the Executive Director ex officio, this committee will review the MPSA investments and Investment policy.

Article VII. Appointed Officers

1. Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Council for a specified term not to exceed three years. Compensation for the Executive Director shall be reviewed annually by the Executive Council.

2. Program Chairperson(s). The Chairperson(s) of the Program Committee shall be appointed by the President. The term of office shall be for one year, commencing with the conclusion of the prior annual meeting and concluding with annual business meeting of the following year.

3. Editor(s). The Editor(s) of the Association's journal will be appointed by the Executive Council upon the recommendation of a committee appointed by the President. The term of the Editor(s) will be for three or four years and will be set by the Executive Council at the time of appointment.

4. Treasurer. The Executive Council may appoint an individual to serve as Corporate Treasurer. This individual will assist the Chief Financial Officer (Executive Director) in the financial affairs of the Association and serve as the alternate signatory on financial instruments owned by the Association. The Treasurer will be an officer and member of the Executive Council.

Article VIII. Duties of Officers

1. President. The President of the Association shall preside at all business meetings of the Association and of the Executive Council. Except as may be otherwise provided, the President shall appoint all committees of the Association and shall perform such other duties as the nature of the office requires. If the President is absent, presidential duties shall devolve upon the Vice-President with the greatest seniority as Vice-President.

2. Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be the chief administrative officer of the Association, responsible for its day-to-day operation. The Executive Director shall serve as the Corporate Secretary. The Executive Director shall (a) assist the President, other officers of the Association, and committee chairpersons in the performance of their duties, responding to requests and initiating proposals for their consideration; (b) maintain the official records of the Association; (c) have custody of the funds of the Association, subject to the rules of the Executive Council, and generally serve as the principal financial officer of the Association; (d) serve as the business manager for the Journal of the Association; (e) engage in logistical planning for and administration of the Annual Meeting of the Association; (f) keep members of the Association informed about Association activities through the regular publication of a newsletter; (g) appoint other staff, as necessary; and (h) perform such other duties as the President or the Executive Council may direct.

3. Executive Council. The Executive Council shall have charge of the general activities of the Association, arrange for the annual meeting, create committees with appropriate powers, receive gifts and bequests, authorize the expenditure of money, and provide for auditing the accounts of the Association.

Article IX. The Journal of the Association

1. Journal Publication. The Executive Council is empowered to arrange for the publication of a journal, and to promulgate general policies in regard to its publication.

2. Journal Editor(s). The Editor(s) shall be appointed by the Executive Council at least six months before the end of the term of the incumbent editor. Should an Editor be unable to serve through his or her term of office, the same principles and procedures in Article VI, paragraph 3 shall be followed insofar as possible in selecting a successor.

3. Board of Editors. Subject to the approval of the Executive Council, the Editor(s) shall appoint a Board of Editors, and such additional persons as the Editor may deem desirable. They shall serve at her or his pleasure, but not for more than four consecutive years.

Article X. Annual Meeting

1. Annual Meeting. There shall be an annual meeting of the Association arranged and conducted consistent with its professional scholarly purposes.

2. Annual Business Meeting. An annual business meeting shall be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association. A quorum shall be fifty (50) members or five (5) percent of the total membership, whichever shall be larger. All decisions shall be by majority vote unless specifically provided for in these By-laws.

3. By-laws Amendments. If one third (1/3) of the members present at the business meeting, or the Executive Council, so request, proposed amendments to the By-laws or other matters shall be submitted by ballot (mail, email, or web-based as allowed by law) to the entire membership.

Article XI. Amendment

Amendments to these By-laws may be proposed by the Executive Council or, upon submission by twenty (20) members of the Association to the Executive Council, shall be presented by the Council to the annual business meeting. A majority vote of the members present at the business meeting or, if submitted to a mail ballot, a majority of such ballots cast, shall be sufficient for adoption.

Certified True and Correct:

William D. Morgan, Ph.D.
Executive Director
April 5, 2014