

Association for Politics and the Life Sciences

Bylaws

(as amended in 2021)

Article I: Definition

The Association for Politics and the Life Sciences (APLS) is a global interdisciplinary society of scholars, scientists, and policymakers concerned with evolutionary, genetic, ethological, and ecological knowledge and its implications for political behavior, public policy, and ethics. The APLS is a 501(c)(3) organization under the United States Internal Revenue Code and, as such, is tax-exempt.

Article II: Associates

Associates are persons with scholarly interests in politics and the life sciences who participate in the intellectual life of the Association and further its scholarly work as authors, reviewers, subscribers, readers, speakers, presenters, discussants, attendees, correspondents, or, in some other sense, benefactors. Associates may participate in Association affairs, nominating for elections, voting in elections, standing for elections, or participating in the planning of scholarly meetings. All Associates' contacts with or through the Association must be civil and forthright; persons violating this requirement may no longer be considered Associates.

Article III: Governance

Section 1: Council of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences

- A. The Council acts for the Association in the interim between meetings of the Association. The Council consists of 7 to 13 Councilors elected to four-year terms by the Associates; at least two Councilors shall be elected every two years. When Council vacancies occur and elections are temporarily infeasible, the terms of sitting Councilors may be extended and vacancies filled by Associates nominated through consensus of the sitting Councilors. The Editor of the Association's journal serves *ex officio* as member of the Council and holds full voting rights.
- B. The Council selects for a period of three years from its own membership a Chair, a Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- C. The Council selects the Editor of the Association's journal.

- D. The Council will include 2 graduate students who will be nominated from the institutions of the Council members or the Editorial Board. The graduate students serve as members of the Council but hold no voting rights.

Section 2: Duties of the Council's Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary

- A. The Chair of the Council is the Association's highest-ranking officer. These are the responsibilities of the Chair:
 - a. Sets the agenda and presides at meetings of the Council.
 - b. Is second signatory on all banking accounts.
 - c. Is a member of the Finance Committee.
- B. The Vice-Chair is the second highest ranking officer. These are the responsibilities of the Vice Chair:
 - a. Presides in the absence of the Chair at Council meetings.
 - b. Serves as Chair of the Communications Committee.
- C. The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining all financial accounts of the Association. These are the responsibilities of the Treasurer:
 - a. Pays all bills for the Association and the journal.
 - b. Is primary signatory on all banking accounts.
 - c. Prepares financial reports for meetings of the Council.
 - d. Serves as Chair of the Finance Committee.
- D. The Secretary is responsible for maintaining the records of the Association. These are the responsibilities of the Secretary:
 - a. Records and publishes the minutes of the Council meetings.
 - b. Manages and maintains the Association's membership list.
 - c. Chairs the Elections Committee.

Section 3: Standing Committees of the Council

The Council has 3 Standing Committees that are established to carry out the functions of the Council and to support the Association:

- A. Finance Committee:
 - a. The Finance Committee consists of the Treasurer, the Chair, and one other Council member.
 - b. The Finance Committee meets at least quarterly to:
 - i. Review the Association's financial statements;
 - ii. Review and approve funding requests for the journal and conferences;
 - iii. Submit requests for funding to the Council. Requests for funding must be submitted to the Council Chair 2 weeks before the meeting so it may be placed on the agenda for a Council vote. Funding requests must pass by a simple majority of the Council.
- B. Communications Committee:

- a. The Communications Committee will consist of 3 – 5 members from the Council and/or the membership of the Association.
 - b. The Vice Chair will serve as Chair of the Communications Committee.
 - c. The Communications Committee meets at least semi-annually to:
 - i. Coordinate social media communications about the journal and the Association;
 - ii. Ensure updates to the APLS website;
 - iii. Create, maintain, and execute an overall marketing plan, which is approved by the Council.
- C. Elections Committee:
- a. The Elections Committee consists of 2-3 members from the Council or the membership of the Association.
 - b. The Secretary will serve as Chair of the Elections Committee. If the Secretary is running in the election, the Council will designate an interim Election Committee chair.
 - c. The Elections Committee will meet annually to:
 - i. Recruit candidates for the Council elections
 - ii. Solicit nominations from the Association membership;
 - iii. Run the elections.

Section 4: Procedures for Nominations and Elections

The Elections Committee will follow this process to solicit nominations and run the elections for the Council:

- A. The Election Committee will solicit nominations from the general membership of the Association at least 60 days before the election then disseminate to the general membership a listing of official nominees at least 30 days before voting begins.
- B. At a minimum, nominees shall provide a statement of qualification and goals for the Association.
- C. The membership shall have 14 days to vote for the candidates.
- D. Each individual Associate has as many votes as there are positions to be filled on the Council.
- E. The nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected.

Article IV: Meetings and other events

Section 1: Meetings of the Council

The Council shall meet at least semi-annually to discuss any and all matters affecting the Association and its mission. Meetings of the Council shall be in-person during scholarly meetings of the Association and may otherwise be online or by conference call. Questions before the Council will be decided by majority vote of the full Council.

Section 2: Scholarly meetings of the Association

The Association will hold scholarly meetings at least annually unless for good cause the Council varies this pattern. The Chair may designate a Program Chair and one or more Co-Chairs to organize and direct such meetings.

Section 3: Other events

The Association may sponsor or contribute to programs, panels, workshops, or symposia and hold collegial gatherings as deemed appropriate by the Council.

Article V: Scholarly Journal

The Association regards its peer-reviewed journal, *Politics and the Life Sciences (PLS)*, as its main medium of scholarly publication and encourages Associates to contribute and subscribe to *PLS* as the scholarly journal most oriented toward the substantive interest of the Association. The Council appoints the Editor of the journal. The Editor holds a three-year term, which is renewable by the Council. The Editor's term may be terminated at any time by a two-thirds vote of the Council if their editorial or scholarly behavior is deemed to be detrimental to the journal or Association. The Editor appoints the editorial advisory board and organizes journal operations without necessity of Council approval. The Council, after consultation with the Editor, determines the journal's pricing schedule and delivery options.

Article VI: Amendments to the Bylaws

These bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new bylaws may be made and adopted, at any annual or regular meeting of the Council, or at any special meeting called for that purpose, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Council in office and voting.

These bylaws were adopted in 1980 and amended in 1988, 1999, 2014, 2019, and 2021.