

**Amended Bylaws of the
Alabama Political Science Association
April 29, 2006**

**As Proposed by the Executive Council
Assembled in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, April 28, 2006
In replacement of the 1973 Bylaws**

Bylaw No. 1. The reformulated Executive Council

The Executive Council shall become a nine member council after the 2006 annual meeting; provided, the Council shall grow from five members to nine as individuals are elected for the new positions created. The Executive Council shall meet in closed session prior to the members' business meeting at each annual meeting of the Association and shall concern itself with the best interests of the Association.

Bylaw No. 2. Executive Council quorum

A quorum for an Executive Council meeting after the 2006 annual meeting shall consist of a simple majority of elected council members if the president is in attendance and the call for the council meeting is made at least thirty days in advance. In the event that a meeting of the Executive Committee is called with less than a thirty day notice or the president is absent, a quorum shall consist of a two-thirds majority of Council members. The Executive Council shall conduct its affairs by simple majority vote unless the Association's constitution requires otherwise. The president shall have a vote in all council meetings and shall cast an additional vote in the case of tie votes by the Council.

Bylaw No. 3. Program chair elect

Nominees for program chair elect shall be secured in advance, allowing the Executive Committee to vote for the program chair elect two years in advance of the date the position starts. The program chair elect's position along with all new officer positions will begin at the time of gavel transfer from the president to the president-elect at the annual business meeting.

Bylaw No. 4. Meeting guidelines

Special meetings of the Association may be called by the Executive Council. A reasonable attempt shall be made to notify all members concerning Association meetings. *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern business meetings. The immediate past president will act as parliamentarian unless the Executive Council selects one. A quorum for an Association business meeting shall consist of fifteen Association members from at least three different institutions or cities; provided, the quorum requirement is waived for any properly announced annual business meeting where two-thirds of the Executive Council is present.

Bylaw No. 5. Association information

Unless otherwise directed by the Association, the AlaPSA secretary shall issue the following publications by e-mail to the membership: A semi-annual newsletter, an annual membership list, one or more calls for papers and panel proposals for the annual meeting, and relevant informational supplements as authorized by the Executive Council and directed by the president or program chair. Hard copy versions of Association information shall be sent to member organizations and institutional department heads at the discretion of the president in consultation with the program chair. Hard copy versions of all official Association communications to its general membership during the previous twelve months shall be made available to AlaPSA members as feasible at the annual business meeting.

Bylaw No. 6. Membership dues

The Annual membership dues of the Association shall be decided by the Executive Committee and shall be payable annually no later than the date of the annual business meeting. Registration and activity fees for the annual business meeting shall be decided by the program chair in consultation with the president. Fees for any special Association meetings shall be decided by the Executive Council.

Bylaw No. 7. Membership categories

Faculty membership consists of any individual with faculty status at an institution of higher learning including community colleges as well as four year schools. Faculty members have full membership privileges as may be set from time to time by the Executive Council. *Student membership* consists of any person studying at the graduate or undergraduate levels in a college or university. Students members have all of the benefits and privileges of faculty members except those of voting and holding office. *Public membership* consists of any person not a student or

faculty member in a college or university. Public members do not vote or hold office and may have limited privileges in the organization. *Institutional membership* consists of organizations that provide the Association with financial or in-kind support. Institutional membership is without voting or office privileges. The Executive Committee may set resolutions or guidelines on membership matters.

Bylaw No. 8. Officer duties

The essential duties of the principle officers of the Association shall be contemplated in light of the duties of officers in similar positions in other successful state political science organizations. It is the intention of the Association to put officer duties in writing as soon as practical after the amendment of the 1973 constitution in 2006. Thereafter, each officer shall receive a summary of the respective duties of Executive Council members. The president of the Association shall have the power to ask for the resignation of any Association officer for cause, the nature of the cause to be put in writing at the request of the officer in question. Upon receiving a written request for a resignation, the questioned officer is allowed thirty days to request a hearing from the Executive Committee. Any such appeal shall be decided in finality by a majority vote of the Executive Council after the appeal is heard. Acceptance of any position in the Association is understood to be at the pleasure of the Association.

Bylaw No. 9. Reports by treasurer and secretary

The Association treasurer will provide a public summary of Association finances at each annual business meeting and will provide the Executive Council with an accounting for financial transactions at the request of the Council or president. The Association secretary in conjunction with the program chair will at each annual meeting provide the Executive Council with a report containing information pertaining to membership, conference registration, and other such matters as the Council wishes to track.

Bylaw No. 10. Program chair's report

The program chair will work with the treasurer in deciding how to handle financial matters pertaining to the annual business meeting. The program chair will provide the president and treasurer with a *summary income and expense statement* pertaining to the annual meeting and shall deposit with the treasurer any surplus funds collected in connection with the conference; provided, the program chair may return to the host institution any excess funds (over expenses) attributable to the host institution if this concession has been requested in advance.

Bylaw No. 11. President's report

The Association president shall provide an annual president's report, the same to be copied and distributed at each annual business meeting.

Bylaw No. 12. A failed nomination

In the instance that a candidate is not affirmed by the general membership, the president will ask for new nominations from the floor in the same meeting and allow open discussion regarding the new nominees. If two Council members support any new nominee, the nominee's candidacy for said office shall be put to a ballot vote by the general membership. The process may be repeated until ended by an appropriate vote to close the election. If a position remains open after a floor election, the Executive Council will meet in special session to decide upon a temporary appointment for the position.

Bylaw No. 13. Adjusted terms for new officer positions

Whenever a new office is created on the Executive Council or filled for the first time, the term of service shall be adjusted to fit within the parameters of the rotation for offices as stated in the Association's 2006 revised constitution.

Bylaw No. 14. Financial restraints

Neither the Association or its officers will incur debt or liability on behalf of the AlaPSA that is not sufficiently covered by financial assets held in Association accounts. No Association officer other than the president or vice-president shall act as a public spokesperson for the organization unless specifically authorized by the Executive Council. The officers of the AlaPSA will not involve the Association in any business or activity that does not pertain directly to the written purposes of the Association as stated in its constitution.

Bylaw No. 15. Committee on Style

The Executive Council by two-thirds majority consent may authorize a Committee on Style to propose non-material changes to the constitution or bylaws for the sake of grammar, clarity, error correction or organization; such changes subject to approval by the Executive Committee at its next annual meeting and by an affirmation vote of the membership assembled.

END of BYLAWS.