

Association for Politics and the Life Sciences

Bylaws

(as amended in 2019)

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

The Council acts for the Association in the interim between meetings of the Association. The Council consists of seven to 11 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 Executive Director of the Association and Editor of the Association's journal serve *ex officio* as members of the Council and hold full voting rights.

The Council selects for a period of three years from its own membership a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Recording Secretary. The Council selects the Executive Director of the Association, the Editor of the Association's journal, and the Program Chair and Co-Chair(s). The Council also serves as the Nominating Committee for Association positions.

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

The Chair of the Council is the Association's highest-ranking officer and presides at meetings of the Council. The Vice-Chair presides in the absence of the Chair. The Recording Secretary keeps the minutes of the Council meetings.

Section 3: Duties of the Executive Director

The Executive Director coordinates and implements the Association's activities and presides at its general meetings. The duties of the Executive Director include: budgeting, maintaining regular administrative functions, implementing policies of the Council, developing an executive office with the capacity to undertake appropriate programs, and generally advancing the Association so as to further its scholarly mission. The Executive Director is responsible for the financial affairs of the Association and renders a financial report to the Council at the Council's request and at least annually. The Executive Director shall hold signing authority on all Association banking accounts along with one other Officer, ordinarily the Chair of the Council, as designated by the Council. The Executive Director is appointed by and reports to the Council and holds a four-year term, which is renewable by the Council.

Section 4: Procedures for Nominations

The Executive Director accepts nominations from the individual Associates of the Association and from the Nominating Committee. The Executive Director shall publish a listing of official nominees in a timely fashion. At a minimum, nominees shall provide a statement of qualification and goals for the Association. A period of 30 days shall be allowed for nominations from the general Association. Each individual Associate has as many votes as there are positions to be filled on the Council, and 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 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 in-person or online or by conference call.

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 Council 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 her or his 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 Executive Director and 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, and 2019.