

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF POLITICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**(Proposed, January 2019)**

## **ARTICLE 1. NAME**

The name of this association is the International Society of Political Psychology.

## **ARTICLE 2. PURPOSES**

The Society is a nonprofit scientific, educational, and non-partisan organization with the following purposes:

- A. To establish a community of scholars and concerned individuals in universities, government, the communications media, and elsewhere, who have scientific and practical interests in examining the relationship between political and psychological phenomena;
- B. To facilitate communication of scientific research, theory, and practice across disciplinary, national, and ideological boundaries, both among members of the Society and those outside the Society;
- C. To increase the theoretical and practical significance of political psychology both inside and outside academia. Practical significance shall be guided by the principles of universal human rights;
- D. To provide mutual support among members of their freedom to generate and disseminate their findings and ideas.
- E. To promote the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion, both within in the Society and its governance and operations, and outside the Society in the world at large.

## **ARTICLE 3. POLICY POSITIONS**

The Society may take official positions of principle on public issues if such positions are immediately and directly concerned with the purposes of the Society. The Society shall not take any positions or carry out activities which would jeopardize its tax exemption under the revenue laws of the jurisdiction in which the headquarters is located. The Society may take official positions only upon an affirmative vote by a 60% majority of the full membership of the Governing Council. All positions taken under this provision shall be made public to the membership in a reasonable amount of time following the vote. No member of the Society may be precluded from expressing his or her views as an individual on issues to which political psychology pertains; however, any use of an official position in the Society shall be included only with the disclaimer that the listing is for "purposes of identification only."

## **ARTICLE 4. MEETINGS**

The Society shall have at least one Scientific Meeting a year when its entire membership can gather to exchange information regarding research, theory, or the practice of political psychology and can discharge the business of the Society. The Society may sponsor or hold additional meetings, including regionally-focused meetings.

## **ARTICLE 5. MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Any person sharing the purposes of the Society and paying dues may be a member of this organization regardless of his or her academic discipline, profession, nationality, and theoretical or ideological outlook.
- B. Members who have paid dues are entitled to:
  - 1. Receive copies of the official publications of the Society, as defined in the Bylaws; such copies may be solely available electronically.
  - 2. Attend, participate in/and vote at the annual Business Meeting of the Society;
  - 3. Vote in all official ballots conducted by the Society;
  - 4. Participate in other general activities sponsored by the Society.
- C. ISPP reserves right to revoke membership of anyone who is unprofessional or behaves in an unprofessional manner in accordance with procedures as defined in the ISPP Procedures Manual.

## **ARTICLE 6. GOVERNMENT**

The government of the Society shall consist of the Governing Council, the annual Business Meeting of members, and Society members who vote in official ballots.

## **ARTICLE 7. THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

- A. The Governing Council shall include the following members, who shall be voting members unless otherwise specified:
  - 1. All members of the Executive Committee;
  - 2. The Editors of the journal *Political Psychology*; provided that if there is more than one Editor, together they will hold only one vote on the Governing Council;
  - 3. Fifteen members-at-large elected for three-year terms, with five of the fifteen being elected each year.
  - 4. The Chair of the Early Career Committee.
  - 5. The Executive Director shall serve ex-officio as a non-voting member.

- B. The following shall be invited to all meetings of the Governing Council, as non-voting observers:
1. The editor(s) of any official publications of the ISPP as defined in the Bylaws other than *Political Psychology*;
  2. The Program Chair(s) for the upcoming, current, and/or following annual scientific meetings;
  3. The ISPP Communications Director, if one shall have been designated in the Bylaws.
  4. Any other person(s) whom the Executive Committee, the President, or the Governing Council believes can provide useful information.
  5. Other than voting members and invited guests, the Governing Council meetings shall be closed.
- C. In cases of disputed elections, the Governing Council shall be the judge of its own membership.
- D. The Governing Council shall meet at the time of the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society, and once between Annual Meetings. With the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee, the President may convene other meetings of the Council.
- E. The Governing Council may establish its own rules of procedure. In the absence of a rule established by the Council, Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail.
- F. The Governing Council, by a majority of the members in attendance and voting at its meetings, provide a quorum exists, shall:
1. Make all decisions necessary and proper to carry out the business of the Society, subject to the Constitution, the Bylaws, and Policies;
  2. Appoint an Executive Director, including approving any employment contract, and from time to time determining the compensation of that position, upon recommendation of the Executive Committee for appointment and the Personnel Committee for contracts and compensation;
  3. Appoint the Treasurer for a term of five years, upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, acting as a search committee;
  4. Appoint the editors of any and all publications of the Society, upon recommendation of the appropriate Search Committee and the Executive Committee as defined herein or in the Bylaws;
  5. Create and provide for the operations of any publication of the society and dissolve any publication as it deems necessary, subject to existing contracts with editors and publishers;

6. Adopt a budget and generally authorize expenditures of the Society, as well as establish membership dues and conference fees;
7. Adopt such financial Bylaws and Policies as necessary to prudently manage the Endowment of the Society (if any) and the use of Endowment funds.
8. Select the site of the Annual Meeting and any other general meetings of the Society, or specifically delegate authority to do so;
9. Approve rules consistent with this Constitution for conducting the annual Business Meeting, for holding elections, and for submitting proposed amendments and resolutions to members, subject to the Bylaws;
10. Consider and vote on any and all activities designed to further the purposes of the Society.

## **ARTICLE 8. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following voting members: President, President-Elect, Past-President, the two Vice-Presidents, and the Treasurer. The Executive Director serves as a non-voting member.
- B. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President alone, or by the Executive Director with the consent of no fewer than two voting members of the Executive Committee, or by any four voting members of the Committee.
- C. The Executive Committee shall:
  1. Nominate to the Governing Council candidates for Executive Director and Editors of society publications. Any member of the Executive Committee under consideration for one of these positions shall not participate in these proceedings;
  2. Undertake assignments growing out of measures duly adopted by the Governing Council or by the membership at the annual Business Meeting;
  3. Assist and advise the President as he or she requests;
  4. With a majority of its voting membership concurring, make decisions on behalf of the Society between meetings of the Governing Council. Any such decisions shall be reported to the Governing Council in due course, which shall have the right to review and revise decisions.

## **ARTICLE 9. PRESIDENT**

- A. The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the Society, and shall serve for a term of one year, beginning at the close of the second annual Scientific Meeting after election as President-Elect and ending at the close of the next such meeting, and shall thereafter be ineligible to be elected again to the Office of President-Elect or to serve as President.

- B. The President shall:
1. Oversee and assist all other officers of the Society in the performance of their particular functions.
  2. Propose programs and policies designed to promote the purposes of the Society;
  3. Convene and preside over meetings of the Governing Council, Executive Committee, and the annual Business Meeting;
  4. Together with the Executive Director, prepare an agenda for meetings of the Governing Council, the Executive Committee, and the annual Business Meeting;
  5. With the Executive Director, oversee the work of the Central Office;
  6. As a member of the Personnel Committee, oversee the work of the Executive Director;
  7. With the Treasurer, oversee the handling of the Society's funds and the development of a budget for the Society;
  8. In consultation with the Executive Committee, appoint chairs and members of standing or special committees.

#### **ARTICLE 10. PRESIDENT-ELECT**

- A. The President-Elect shall automatically succeed to the Presidency at the close of the second Annual Meeting after election.
- B. The President-Elect shall appoint the chair or chairs of the Program Committee for the Annual Meeting to be held during their term of office, in consultation with the President and the Executive Committee.
- C. The President-elect shall be a member of the Personnel Committee.
- D. The President-Elect shall carry out such other duties as assigned by the President or the Executive Committee.

#### **ARTICLE 11. PAST-PRESIDENT**

- A. The President shall automatically succeed to the office of Past-President upon the completion of the term as President.
- B. The Past-President shall chair the Operations and Procedures Committee (or its successor committee, if any.)
- C. The Past-President shall be a member of the Personnel Committee.

## **ARTICLE 12. VICE-PRESIDENTS**

- A. There shall be two Vice-Presidents, elected for three year overlapping terms, with their terms of office beginning at the close of the first Annual Meeting after their election.
- B. The Vice-Presidents shall be ineligible at any time to succeed themselves as a Vice-President.
- C. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected to chair either the Initiatives or the Communications and Conferences Committee (or their successor committees, if any) with their nomination specifying which committee will be chaired by that Vice President.

## **ARTICLE 13. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE CENTRAL OFFICE**

- A. The Executive Director shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Society.
- B. The Executive Director shall report to the Personnel Committee who shall oversee their work as specified in this Constitution and appropriate Bylaws or Procedures.
- C. The Central Office shall consist of an Executive Director and such staff as they shall appoint subject to budgetary authorization, and with the consent of the Governing Council.
- D. The Executive Director shall:
  - 1. Propose policies and programs designed to promote the purposes of the Society;
  - 2. Administer the Central Office;
  - 3. Assist the President, other officers, committees, and agencies of the Society in the performance of their duties and respond in a timely fashion to their requests;
  - 4. See that the records and files of the Society are maintained;
  - 5. Perform such other duties as the President, the Personnel Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Governing Council may direct;
  - 6. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee;
  - 7. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Executive Committee and the Governing Council.
  - 8. Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of all Operating Committees.

## **ARTICLE 14. TREASURER**

- A. The Treasurer is the Chief Financial Officer of the Society. They shall be elected by the Governing Council, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee acting as a search committee, for a once-renewable five-year term of office.

- B. The Treasurer shall:
1. In consultation with the President and Executive Director, develop a budget for the Society, and submit that budget for review and approval to the Finance Committee, and the Governing Council, as specified in the Bylaws or Procedures;
  2. Manage the finances of the Society, receiving and dispensing funds in accordance with the policies and programs established by the Governing Council;
  3. Report on the financial status of the Society to the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, the Governing Council, and the annual Business Meeting.
  4. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee and the Governing Council.
- C. If the Treasurer is faced with a request for a significant expenditure of Society funds between meetings of the Governing Council that departs from the adopted budget then in force, they shall seek authorization for the expenditure from the Finance Committee. A two-thirds vote of the Finance Committee is needed for authorization. Any such authorizations will be reported to the Executive Committee, prior to the expenditure being made and shall be subject to Executive Committee review.

## **ARTICLE 15. COMMITTEES**

- A. The Governing Council shall establish Operating Committees as it deems necessary in the Bylaws, specifying the membership and responsibilities of each committee through Bylaws or Procedures.
- B. Each at-large member of the Governing Council shall serve on at least one Operating Committee during their term of office. Appointments to committees shall be made by the President, in consultation with the Executive Committee.
- C. Notwithstanding the above, one of the Operating Committees shall be a Finance Committee, responsible for oversight of the Society's finances and of the Treasurer. The Finance Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Governing Council appointed by the President, and the Treasurer shall service as a non-voting ex-officio member. The Finance Committee shall serve as a Search Committee when a new Treasurer is to be appointed and shall recommend appointment to the Governing Council. The Bylaws or Procedures shall specify additional membership, operations, and responsibilities of this committee.
- D. There shall be a Personnel Committee, responsible for the oversight of the Executive Director, consisting of the President, the President-elect the Past-President, and the Treasurer. This committee shall act as a Search Committee when a new Executive Director is to be appointed and shall recommend appointment to the Executive Committee. This committee shall also fix the compensation of the Executive Director

and other Central Office staff from time to time, and shall negotiate any and all employment contracts. Contracts shall be subject to final approval by the Governing Council.

- E. There shall be a Program Committee, whose Chair or Chairs shall be appointed by the President-Elect. The Program Committee shall be responsible for the organization of the academic program for the Annual Scientific Meeting, working under the direction of the President-elect who made the appointment. The Program Committee shall follow any Bylaws and Procedures approved by the Governing Council for the operation of the academic program.
- F. The Governing Council may, by majority of members voting, establish additional Special Committees as needed, and shall provide for their membership and responsibilities in appropriate Bylaws or Procedures.
- G. All committees of the Society shall have a diversity advocate appointed by the Chair of the committee in accordance with appropriate Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE 16. BYLAWS AND PROCEDURES**

- A. The Governing Council shall, by a two-thirds vote of its full membership, establish Bylaws to define and govern its operations.
- B. Bylaws may be amended by the Governing Council as it deems necessary, upon approval by a two-thirds vote of its full membership,
- C. Amendments to the Bylaws may be initially proposed by the Executive Committee, or any Operating Committee, or by the Governing Council as a body, by majority vote, provided that proposed amendments are made available to the Governing Council at least 30 days in advance of any vote to adopt the proposed revision.
- D. The Governing Council shall establish a Procedures Manual to contain procedures and policies necessary to implement the Constitution and Bylaws, by majority vote of those present and voting.
- E. The Procedures Manual may be revised by the Governing Council as needed, by majority vote of those present and voting, upon motion and second by any member of the Governing Council at any duly called meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 17. ELECTRONIC MEETINGS AND VOTES**

- A. In all cases where votes are required within the Governing Council or its committees, such votes may be submitted in person or electronically, subject to a duly called meeting of the body voting. The Bylaws shall specify procedures for electronic votes of the Governing Council and its committees.
- B. Voting by Society members for Officers, Governing Council, and Amendments to this Constitution, may be electronic following procedures specified in the Bylaws.

- C. Meetings of the Governing Council will normally be in person on the schedule specified by this Constitution, provided that members may attend electronically if necessary. Members attending electronically shall be counted among the total of those attending while they are online.
- D. In extraordinary circumstances, the Executive Committee may by majority vote, call an electronic meeting of the Governing Council, or call for an electronic vote on a single issue, with at least two weeks' notice to members of the Governing Council.

#### **ARTICLE 18. THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

- A. The annual Business Meeting shall be held during the Society's Annual Meeting. All members are entitled to participate and vote at the Business Meetings they attend.
- B. The annual Business Meeting shall include a presentation of the financial condition of the Society, among its other business.
- C. The annual Business Meeting, by a simple majority of those present, shall have the power to:
  - 1. Receive and consider reports;
  - 2. Raise and discuss matters relevant to the purposes of the Society;
  - 3. Adopt resolutions consistent with the purposes of the Society and its Constitution provided that the proposed text of a resolution has been communicated to the Executive Director or the President at least forty-eight hours in advance of the Business Meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 19. PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY**

- A. The Society shall be responsible for the publication of at least one journal titled *Political Psychology* (at the time of this Constitution), which will contain articles examining the relationship between psychological and political phenomena and will reflect the interdisciplinary, international, and inter-professional quality of the Society.
- B. The Governing Council may contract as necessary with publisher(s) to ensure the timely publication of the Society's journals.
- C. The Editor(s) of all ISPP journals shall be elected by the Governing Council, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, for a once-renewable five-year term of office. In the case of an Editorial Team, the team shall designate an Editor-in-Chief to represent the team to the Society, and who shall be responsible for all aspects of the journal. This shall not limit the ability of the team to have co-Editors-in-Chief.
- D. Procedures for the establishment of editorial search committees shall be documented in the Procedures Manual.

- E. The Editor of the journal shall manage the solicitation, receipt, review, editing, and publication of the journal.
- F. In consultation with the President and Executive Committee, the Editor shall appoint to an Editorial Board such members as he or she deems able to participate in editorial activities and the development of policy. Consideration should be given to having the Editorial Board reflect the interdisciplinary, international, and inter-professional quality of the Society, as well as to ensure diverse membership as defined in any Society Diversity Policy.
- G. If the Editor should resign before the end of his or her term of office, the President in consultation with the Executive Committee may appoint an Acting Editor for a specified period of time not to exceed one year.
- H. The Governing Council may authorize other publications for the Society as the occasion arises and funds are available, and as specified in the Bylaws.
- I. The editorship of such other publications and policies governing the publications shall be established by the Governing Council through appropriate Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE 20. QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE**

- A. Except for the Executive Director, who shall be a person of the professional qualifications necessary to the office, all Society Officers and Governing Council Members shall be members of the Society at the time of their election or appointment and throughout their terms of office. Any Officer or Governing Council Member who allows their membership to lapse and fails to correct the lapse in a reasonable time shall be considered to have resigned from office.
- B. Nominees for President and Vice President shall normally be expected to have significant prior experience with the governance of the Society, such as serving on the Governing Council, as a member of an Operating Committee, or in other significant service to the Society.
- C. No sitting Vice-President shall be eligible to be nominated for President until the last year of his or her term as Vice-President.
- D. No elected or appointed officer may hold more than one elected or appointed position simultaneously. If elected or appointed to a new position while currently serving an unfinished term in another position, the older position shall be considered vacated upon the assumption of the new office.

## **ARTICLE 21. NOMINATIONS**

- A. A Nominating Committee shall be formed at the mid-year Governing Council meeting each year for the election to be held in the following year, comprised of the ten elected members of the Governing Council in their first and second years.

- B. The Nominating Committee shall choose one of its members to serve as the Chair of the Committee.
- C. The Executive Director and the Past-President shall serve ex-officio as non-voting members of the Nominating Committee and shall provide advice on the nomination process as requested by the nominating committee. However, all deliberations of the nominating committee shall include only its ten voting members.
- D. The Nominating Committee shall complete its work and present its slate to the Governing Council no later than the next mid-year Governing Council meeting.
- E. The Nominating Committee shall keep its deliberations private, and shall not provide any list of potential nominees other than the slate it proposes to the Governing Council.
- F. Upon presentation of the nominations slate, the Governing Council may, for good cause and by majority vote, strike any name from the list, and require that the Nominating Committee replace that proposed nominee forthwith.
- G. The Nominating Committee shall give careful consideration to the interdisciplinary, international, and inter-professional membership of the Society, and shall further consider the diversity of the Governing Council and the slate of nominees following any diversity statement adopted by the Governing Council, if such statement exists.
- H. The Nominating Committee shall nominate one candidate for President, one candidate for Vice President in years when the term of that office is expiring ,and ten candidates for the Governing Council.
- I. Alternatively, any member of the Society may be nominated as a candidate for elective office by petition of no less than three percent of the current Society membership, using procedures specified in the Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE 22. ELECTIONS**

- A. Elections for President, Vice-President, and Governing Council shall be held each year at least two months in advance of the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society.
- B. The election of officers shall take place in the following manner:
  - 1. All then-current members of the Society shall be eligible to vote in the election;
  - 2. The ballot shall include in alphabetical order the names of the ten candidates for the Governing Council as well as the candidate(s) for President and the candidate(s) for Vice-President;
  - 3. The ballot shall also provide for biographical statements of not more than 100 words for each candidate indicating his or her qualifications;

4. The five candidates for Governing Council who receive the most votes shall be declared elected;
5. If, as a result of a petition by members of the Society, more than one candidate for President or Vice-President appears on the ballot, the candidate who receives a plurality of the votes cast for that position shall be declared elected;
6. If the elections for President and Vice-President are uncontested, the candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee shall be declared elected.

### **ARTICLE 23. VACANCIES IN OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY**

In the event of a vacancy in any elected or appointed position within the Society, such vacancy shall be filled as follows. Upon election or appointment, the new Officer or Governing Council member shall take office immediately and shall serve for the remainder of the uncompleted term.

- A. President. Upon a vacancy in the office of President, the President-Elect shall become President, completing the remainder of the term and shall continue as President until the expiration of their own term of office. In this case, the vacancy in the office of President-Elect need not be filled until the next regularly-scheduled election.
- B. President-Elect. Except when the vacancy in the office of President-Elect is created by succession to the office of President, the Executive Committee shall immediately convene to select a nominee for President-Elect, by a majority vote of its entire membership. Such nomination shall be presented to the Governing Council for its approval, by a majority of those members voting.
- C. Treasurer. The Chair of the Finance Committee shall serve as interim Treasurer until a new Treasurer can be appointed to fill the remainder of the term. Procedures for such appointment will follow the regular process for appointing a Treasurer. In this case, the Chair of the Finance Committee will retain that position.
- D. Executive Director. A search for a new Executive Director shall begin immediately following the procedures specified for appointment of the Executive Director. The Executive Committee shall make whatever provision it considers necessary for the continuing operations of the Society during any period of vacancy.
- E. All other Officers, including Governing Council. The Executive Committee shall announce the vacancy to the members, and provide for a nomination process to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. The Governing Council shall approve the nomination presented to it by a majority of those members voting.

## **ARTICLE 24. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS AND GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS**

- A. Any elected or appointed Officer or Governing Council member may resign by submitting a letter of resignation to the Executive Director and President. Resignations will be effective immediately upon receipt of this letter.
- B. The Governing Council, by a two-thirds vote of its entire voting membership, may remove any elected or appointed Officer or Governing Council member for good cause, and following procedures which must allow for due process.
- C. Any elected or appointed Officer or Governing Council member who misses more than two successive regular meetings of the Governing Council without notice and good cause shall be considered to have resigned and a vacancy shall be declared.

## **ARTICLE 25. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

- A. Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in two ways:
  1. By the Governing Council on the recommendation of a majority of its voting members;
  2. By a petition submitted to the Executive Director and the President by at least 50 ISPP members.
- B. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to all members in an official ballot not less than one month before the voting period opens. Balloting may remain open for no longer than two months.
- C. Balloting may be electronic.
- D. The ballot shall provide a short background statement to the membership regarding the rationale for the amendment.
- E. Amendments approved by two-thirds of those voting shall be declared ratified if the total number of those voting is not less than one-third of the members of the Society as of the date of the opening of voting. Announcement of the outcome of the vote shall be made to all members of the Society.

## **ARTICLE 26. ENACTMENT**

- A. This Constitution shall be submitted to the membership of the Society and shall be considered ratified following its approval by two-thirds of all members voting, providing the total number of those voting is not less than one-third of the Society's current membership. Announcement of the outcome of the vote shall be made to all members of the Society.

- B. Upon ratification, this Constitution shall supersede all prior Constitutions and Bylaws, except that officers whose positions have been removed shall continue to serve until the expiration of their term of office.
- C. The Governing Council shall adopt Bylaws as necessary to implement provisions of this Constitution no later than the second regular Governing Council meeting following its ratification