

## **Section Bylaws**

### Race Ethnicity and Politics Section of The American Political Science Association

#### I. Name of the Section

The name of the section is Race, Ethnicity and Politics Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA).

#### II. Purpose of the Section

The purpose of the section is to promote interest in teaching and disciplinary and interdisciplinary research in race ethnicity and politics. The section seeks to encourage communication among persons interested in race, ethnicity and politics within the Association and with related disciplines.

#### III. Governance of the Section

A. The section will be governed by an Executive Council consisting of the co- Presidents, co-Program Chairs, Secretary, Treasurer, and a 10 member Executive Committee. The section will also consist of the following standing committees: Awards Committee; Graduate Student Issues Committee; Publishers and Research Markets Committee; Electronic Communications Committee and Newsletter Committee.

B. The duties of these officers and standing committees are as follows:

**Co-Presidents:** Chair the section meetings at the Annual Meeting of the APSA; nominate section program co-chairs for the annual APSA meeting; chair or select a chair for a nominating committee for section officers and standing committees; and take other actions requested by the Executive Council or that are in the interests of the Section.

**Co-Program Chairs:** Organize section panels at the annual meetings as requested by the APSA executive council and APSA program chairs; schedule all appropriate section meetings and receptions at the annual APSA meetings.

**Secretary:** Record the minutes at meetings of the Executive Council and annual business meeting; Maintain a record of the minutes from previous meetings of the Executive Council and annual business meeting; and communicate relevant information to the section membership.

**Treasurer:** Maintain the financial records of the Section; communicate relevant information to the Section membership; and prepare an annual report for presentation to the American Political Science Association.

**Executive Council:** Fill all vacancies in any office including its own membership when vacancies occur before the end of the term until the next election; audit the annual report

of the Treasurer; propose amendments to these by-laws or receive petitions for changes in the by-laws; make decisions and recommendations for any other business of the Section; and interpret these by-laws.

Awards Committee: Designates annual awards for the following:  
Best Dissertation on Race, Ethnicity and Politics; Best Paper on Race Ethnicity and Politics; Best Book Awards on Race, Ethnicity and Politics.

Graduate Student Issues Committee: Sponsors activities that will assist graduate student members in their efforts to develop promising research, complete graduate school requirements, and obtain academic, public, or private employment. This committee is responsible for organizing one panel at the annual meetings of the APSA which will focus on graduate student issues.

Electronic Communications Committee: Develop and maintain the Section's database, mailing list, e-mail listserver, and web site.

Committee on Publishers and Research Markets: Facilitates relationships between publishers and section members, and to identify alternative sources of research support.

Newsletter Committee: Produces a yearly newsletter which informs the membership on news and topics of importance to the section.

C. The election of officers should proceed as follows:

1. In February, the Section Co-Presidents should organize a nominating committee consisting of at least five members of the Section representing the diverse interests of the Section.
2. Following its appointment, the nominating committee should solicit the members of the Section for nominations for Section offices and standing committees. The nominating committee shall nominate a slate of officers that (a) is taken from the names received, particularly those persons receiving several mentions, and (b) represents the diverse interests of the section. The final slate of nominations for co-presidents and co-program chairs must consist of equal gender representation (one male, one female member). The slate shall be listed in the summer issue of the Section Newsletter and/or PS or otherwise distributed to the Section members via RACE-POL so that the nominees are known prior to the Annual Section Meeting.
3. Five members of the Section may nominate candidates for any office or standing committee (except Co-Presidents) at the Annual Section Meeting, or by petition sent to the president prior to the meeting.
4. For offices for which no nominations are received or made at the Annual Section meeting, the nominating committee's slate shall be considered elected and the officers shall assume office at the conclusion of the meeting. Offices which are

contested shall be filled by mail ballot sent to all members of the section by the end of September. The winner shall be determined by a majority vote of all members participating in the election. In cases where no individual receives a majority of votes, a runoff election between candidates receiving the two greatest number of votes should be held at a date no later than November 1. The winners shall assume office upon election.

5. The membership of the section should be informed of the election outcomes in the next Section Newsletter or via RACE-POL.

6. Questions or conflicts regarding any election should be settled by the Executive council.

D. The terms of section officers are as follows:

Co-Presidents: staggered two year terms

Co-Section chairs: one year

Secretary: two years

Treasurer: two years

Executive Committee members: Staggered two year terms shall expire at the conclusion of the Annual Section meeting, except that when an office is contested, the incumbent shall continue in office until his/her successor is elected.

Standing Committees: two years

#### IV. Membership in the Section

A. All regular, student, family, retired, and life members of the American Political Science Association are eligible for membership in this Section.

B. Associate membership in the Section is available to all non-political scientists who share an interest in Race, Ethnicity and Politics. Associate members may receive all benefits and services of regular members except that they may not participate in the election of officers or serve as officers.

C. Membership in the Section is established by payment of annual Section dues to the APSA, or for associate members, to the Treasurer.

D. The dues for members and associate members will be set by the Executive Council at the level necessary to cover expenses for elections and other services provided by the Section.

#### V. Amendments to the By-Laws

Amendments to these by-laws may be proposed by the Executive Council, by a majority vote of the participants at the Annual Section Meeting, or by a petition containing the

names of 25 percent of the members of the section submitted 30 days prior to the Annual Section Meeting. Amendments should be voted upon by mail ballot. Amendments to the by-laws become effective immediately after approval by two-thirds of the members returning their mail ballots.