Dear Experimental Research Section Members,

It’s been a busy year for Section leaders as we continue to work hard to get our membership numbers sorted out with the APSA, publish excellent research in the Journal of Experimental Political Science, and begin the search for the next editor of our journal. We are also trying to get the newsletter and website started up again.

In doing all of this, Macartan Humphreys (President-elect) and I have put a number of institutional features in place to ensure the smooth transition of officers into the future. A few things have emerged that we feel are important to the smooth operation of the Section into the future, but they require a vote of the Section members because they require changes to the existing Section Bylaws.

In consultation with and with the unanimous support of the Section’s Executive Council, we propose the following changes on which members will have the chance to vote starting 15 days from this notice. Voting will be open for 30 days.

***Summary of Proposal 1, Changing the start & end dates for Section leadership:*** Clarify that the term of Section leadership (officers, council members, newsletter editor, and webmaster)begins and ends at the American Political Science Association Meeting.

There is currently no start or end date in the Section Bylaws, but meeting minutes indicate a January 1 start date and December 31 end date, which the Section has been following. This timing is out of sync with what other sections use and has resulted in our new officers not being invited to and not attending the “new officer meeting” at the APSA meetings. This means the officers never get orientation training from the APSA, which is especially detrimental to the President and Treasurer. The Executive Council proposes this change to improve the effectiveness of Section officers and increase their ability to work with APSA staff throughout their terms of office.

***Summary of Proposal 2, Making the leadership terms consistent:***Make the officers’ terms consistent with one another by extending the President’s (and President-elect’s) terms from one to two years to match the Secretary, Treasurer, and Council Members; and shortening the newsletter editor and web master terms from three to two years to match the others. The Executive Council proposes this change to improve the effectiveness of Section officers, increase the continuity of leadership, and enable officers to establish better working relationships with the staff at the APSA, whose work affects membership counts, panel allocations at the Annual Meeting, and Section finances.

**Changes to the relevant section (Article II, Sections 1 and 2) of the bylaws are below and are underlined. A link to the full set of bylaws, with changes underlined is** [**here**](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ly1p33415ogewau/SectionBylaws2015.docx?dl=0)**. Voting to adopt the changes is voting adopt this linked version of the set of bylaws.**

Thanks for your continued support of the Section,

Lynn Vavreck

ARTICLE II: OFFICERS

 Section 1: Executive Council

An Executive Council consisting of six members (President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and two at-large Council Members) shall assume office at the Business Meeting of the Section in even numbered years for terms of two years. These officers shall be nominated and elected in the odd numbered year preceding their terms.

A single council member at large shall assume office in odd number years for a term of two years and shall be nominated and elected in the even numbered years preceding their terms.

Section 2: Election of Officers

All Members of the Executive Council shall be elected by majority vote at the annual Business Meeting of the Section. A Nominating Committee composed of three members of the Section appointed by the current President shall recommend at least one person who consents to be nominated for those offices, the terms of which are to begin and expire at the Annual Business Meeting.

Voting may also take place on-line via the APSA Connect Website. On-line voting requires a 15-day advance notification of the vote, a minimum of 30 days in which to cast votes, and at least 100 votes cast.