

By-Laws
Comparative Politics Section
of the
American Political Science Association

I. Name of the Section

The name of the Section is the Organized Section in Comparative Politics of the American Political Science Association.

II. Purpose of the Section

The purposes of the section are to promote the comparative, especially cross-national, study of politics among association members and to assist in the organization of panels at annual APSA and regional association meetings which reflect these concerns. Particular attention will be devoted to the better integration and coordination of comparativists, area studies specialists and those interested in American politics, the development of activities with an explicitly cross-national and/or cross area focus and the exploration of the use of different approaches to comparative analysis.

III. Governance of the Section

- A. The section will be governed by an Executive Committee consisting of a President, a Vice-President/President-Elect, a Secretary-Treasurer, a Program Coordinator, and the at-large Executive Committee members.
- B. The duties of these officers are as follows:

President: Chair the section meeting at the Annual Meeting of the APSA; organize Section meetings or panels as requested by the APSA executive committee, by regional associations, or related disciplines; chair or select a chair for a nominating committee for Section officers; and take other actions requested by the Executive Committee or that are in the interests of the Section.

Vice-President/President-Elect: Assume duties of the President when the President is not present at the Annual Section Meeting; take action and assume responsibilities at the request of the President or Executive Committee. Assume the position of President upon completion of term of office.

Secretary-Treasurer: Maintain a record of actions of the Executive Committee and the Annual Section Meeting; maintain finances and records of the Section; communicate relevant information to the Section membership; prepare an annual report for presentation to the American Political Science Association.

Program Coordinator: Organize and direct such programs as are approved at the Annual Meeting and/or by the Executive Committee. Programs will generally include panels at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. The Program Chair shall serve one year and become an at-large member of the Executive Committee for a second year.

At-Large Executive Committee Members: Jointly with the other officers, 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 Secretary-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.

All officers other than the Program Coordinator shall be elected by the procedures indicated below. The Program Coordinator shall be designated by the Executive Committee.

C. The election of officers should proceed as follows:

1. In Spring, the Section President, in consultation with the Executive Committee, 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 the Section offices to be filled that year. 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 slate shall include single nominees for all offices to be filled. The slate shall be distributed to the Section members so that the nominees are known prior to the Annual Section Meeting to be held in conjunction with the APSA Annual Meeting.
3. Five members of the Section may nominate candidates for any office (except President) at the Annual Section Meeting, or by petition sent to the President prior to the meeting.
4. For all offices for which no additional nominations are received or made at the Annual Section Meeting, the nominating committee's slate shall be voted on by voice vote at the meeting. Offices which are contested shall be filled by secret ballot at the Annual Section Meeting. Winners shall be determined by a plurality vote of

all members participating in the election. All new officers shall assume office at the conclusion of the meeting.

5. Questions or conflicts regarding any election should be settled by the Executive Committee.

D. The terms of Section officers are as follows:

President:	2 years
Vice-President/ President-Elect:	2 years (except for the first, who shall serve for one year)
Secretary-Treasurer:	3 years
Program Coordinator:	1 year, and one subsequent year as at-large member of the Executive Committee
At-Large Executive Committee Members:	2 years. Two members shall be elected in each of the years 1989 and 1990.

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 Comparative 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 Secretary-Treasurer.
- D. The dues for members and associate members will be set by the Executive Committee 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 Committee, 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.

VI. Implementation of these By-Laws

This Section and its by-laws will be official upon approval of a majority of members attending the Annual Section Meeting at the Annual Meeting of the APSA in 1989.

At the first Annual Section Meeting an initial slate of officers including a President, Secretary-Treasurer, Program Chair and two at-large Executive Committee members should be proposed to the membership for election. Remaining officers including a Vice-President/President-Elect and two other at-large Executive Committee members should be nominated by the procedures indicated above for election at the 1990 Annual Section Meeting.

Adopted at the Annual Business Meeting of the Organized Section, Atlanta Hilton Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, September 1, 1989. Provision concerning nomination of Vice-President/President-Elect amended in 1991. This copy of the By-Laws was printed on April 22, 2005.