

## **EPOP Constitution**

### **1 Name**

The group shall be called the Elections, Public Opinion and Parties (EPOP) Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association.

### **2 Objects**

1. To promote and advance the study of elections, public opinion and parties.
2. To facilitate contact and communication between people with an academic or professional interest in elections, public opinion and parties.
3. To maintain a high public profile for the results of research in these areas.
4. To achieve these objectives by: sponsoring appropriate publications; organising group conferences, panels at general conferences and other events; and awarding prizes.

### **3 Membership**

Membership shall be open to all members of the Political Studies Association (PSA) of the UK (and similar national associations) and to others with a professional interest in elections, public opinion and parties.

There shall be an annual membership fee, the amount to be determined each year at the annual general meeting. The fee for members of the PSA will be less than that for non-members. A reduced fee will be payable by graduate students.

### **4 Officers**

The officers of the group shall comprise a Convenor and a Vice-Convenor. The term of office for each shall normally be three years but each may serve up to two terms consecutively. They shall be current PSA members and shall be elected in separate votes by members of the group at the appropriate annual general meeting.

The duties of the officers shall include:

- Ensuring that membership records are managed efficiently
- Maintaining financial records and overseeing financial arrangements
- Producing and circulating newsletters and other suitable communications
- Ensuring that arrangements are made for the annual conference and the group's activities at the PSA conference
- Liaising with the PSA
- Ensuring the production of publications as agreed by the membership

In undertaking these tasks, responsibility may be delegated to other members of the group.

## **5 Advisory group**

There shall be an advisory group comprising all former convenors of EPOP willing to be involved. Members of the advisory group shall offer advice and support to the current officers and have the responsibility of ensuring that the group is run satisfactorily and in accordance with custom and practice established since its inception.

## **6 Vacation of office/casual vacancies**

Officers may resign at any time or may be removed by resolution of the annual general meeting of the group. If necessary, interim arrangements shall be made by the advisory group. Casual vacancies shall be filled by the annual general meeting of the group at the first available opportunity.

## **7 Annual General Meeting**

The annual general meeting shall normally be held during the group's annual conference.

## **8 Political Studies Association**

The group shall be governed by the appropriate clauses of the Articles of Association of the PSA with regard to any matter not covered by this Constitution.

## **9 Amendment of the Constitution**

This constitution may be amended or altered only by a resolution supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting at an annual general meeting, provided that no alteration shall contravene the Articles of Association of the PSA.

[Agreed at the EPOP AGM, 29 August 2009, at the University of Strathclyde]