

American Politics Group Constitution

1 Name

The group shall be called the American Politics Group of the UK Political Studies Association.

2 Objects

The objects of the group are:

1. to promote the study of the government, politics, foreign relations and political history of the United States of America;
 2. to facilitate contact between scholars engaged in the study of US politics;
 3. to organize conferences and such other events as may facilitate the achievement of objectives 1 and 2
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3 Membership

Membership shall be open to persons with an interest in the Objects of the American Politics Group.

There shall be an annual membership fee to be determined by the Annual General Meeting of the American Politics Group. Members will be informed of the benefits of also joining the PSA, and the APG may on occasion offer special discounts or benefits to PSA members.

4 Officers and Committee

The officers and committee of the group shall be members of the Group at the time of election. The Officers shall be a Chair and Vice-Chair. Other committee members will include a Treasurer, Membership Secretary and such other persons as the Group deems necessary. The officers and committee members shall serve for terms of three years and shall be elected by separate vote from among the members of the Group at the Annual General Meeting of the Group. The Chair and Vice-Chair of APG shall be current PSA members. Officers and committee members shall be eligible for re-election provided that they are still a bona fide member of the Group and, in the case of the Chair and Vice-Chair, a current PSA member.

5 Records

Shall be kept by the Vice-Chair and made available for inspection by any member of the Group if so required. These records will include minutes of any meetings, minutes of the AGM, and the Annual Report. Current membership lists shall be maintained by the Membership Secretary, including details of membership fees paid.

6 Governance

The Group shall be managed by a committee as defined above in Section 4. The committee will consult appropriately with the membership, and will report to the membership at an Annual General Meeting.

The committee, in consultation with the membership, shall make appointment to other APG positions as necessary. Such positions may include, for example, the convenor of the APG Annual Conference, the editor and book reviews editor of *American Politics Review*, and the APG webmaster.

7 Vacation of Office

Any officer shall vacate office upon resignation or upon dismissal by resolution of a general meeting of the Group.

8 Casual Vacancies

Vacancies on the committee shall be filled by election from among the members of the Group under such rules of procedure as the committee shall direct. All those elected to such casual vacancies shall be current APG members.

9 Annual General Meeting

This meeting shall be held during the APG annual conference each year or at a special one-day conference convened at the decision of the committee. Not less than fourteen clear days notice of the AGM shall be given. A quorum shall be ten per cent of the paying membership.

10 General Meetings

These shall be called at the discretion of the committee or at the written request of not less than ten members of the group. Notice of not less than three clear days, excluding weekends and bank holidays shall be given.

11 Finance

Applications by the group to the PSA for grants of money shall be made at the discretion of the committee by the Chair of the group. A Treasurer's report and a Chair's report shall be presented to each Annual General Meeting which will decide how current and expected income is to be spent during the period prior to the following Annual General Meeting. The committee shall make financial decisions between AGMs.

On vacating office the Treasurer of the group shall hand over the books of account to the duly elected successor.

12 PSA Constitution

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

13 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 a general meeting, provided that no alteration shall contravene any part of the PSA's Constitution.

This constitution shall be made available to all members of the group on request.