

# **Parliaments and Legislatures Specialist Group**

## **Constitution**

### **Name**

The group shall be called 'Parliaments and Legislatures' (P&L) Specialist Group of the Political Studies Association (PSA).

### **Objectives**

- To promote the study of the institution of parliament;
- To disseminate research about the institution of parliament;
- To promote a critical discussion about parliament between academics and practitioners;
- To promote a high profile for parliamentary studies;
- To foster the exchange of ideas and research about parliament at sub-national, national, and international level;
- To facilitate a group that is able to respond to parliamentary events and needs in a timely and critical manner;
- To promote the dissemination of good practice in the teaching of parliament.

### **Membership**

Membership shall be open to all academics with a research interest in parliament or in areas closely linked to parliament, including teachers and postgraduate students. Membership will also be open to practitioners working in or with parliamentary institutions. Membership will not be limited to the UK.

There will be no membership fee. However, non-PSA members will pay a differentiated, higher, fee to events organised by the group. Reduced rates will be applicable to graduate students.

### **Officers**

The officers of the group will be two Co-Convenors and a Treasurer. They shall hold office for three years and, once the founding term has expired, shall be elected by separate vote from among the members of the group at the group's AGM (or equivalent). They must be a current PSA member. The Co-Convenors and Treasurer shall be eligible for re-election.

### **Records**

Records shall be kept by the Co-Convenors 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. The Annual and Financial Reports shall be made publicly available on the group's website, together with a list of members.

### **Vacation of Office**

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

### **Casual Vacancies**

Vacancies shall be filled by election from among the members of the group under such rules of procedure as the co-convenors shall direct. All those elected to such casual vacancies shall be current PSA members.

### **Annual General Meeting**

This meeting will be held during the PSA annual conference each year or at a special event convened at the decision of the Co-Convenors. Notice of no less than fourteen working days shall be given. Attendance is only open to members of the group.

### **General Meetings**

These shall be called at the discretion of the Co-Convenors or at the written request of not less than five members of the group. Notice of not less than five working days shall be given. Attendance is only open to members of the group.

### **Finance**

Applications by the group for grants of money shall be made by the Co-Convenors in consultation with group members. The funds will be managed through a dedicated account held by the University of one of the Convenors. A financial report shall be presented to the PSA and to all group members each year along with the Annual Report, and will be posted on the group's website.

Priorities for the group's financial expenditure are:

- a) Offsetting travel, accommodation and registration costs so that postgraduate students may participate in events organised by the group;
- b) Meeting the organisational costs required to support group events;
- c) Meeting the travel and accommodation costs of high profile speakers invited to participate in events organised by the group;
- d) Meeting the costs of running prizes for best paper and/or best student dissertation on parliament.

On vacating office, the group's officer(s) shall hand over the books of account to their successor(s).

### **Amendments to the Constitution**

This constitution may be amended or altered by consensus amongst the group's members at any point, provided that no alteration shall contravene any part of the PSA's Constitution.

*This constitution will be made public through the group's website.*