

Constitution of the Political Science Student Association at the University of California San Diego

Article I. Name of the Student Organization

Section 1. This organization shall be called the Political Science Student Association at UCSD. Hereafter within this document it will be referred to as the Political Science Student Association. The official abbreviation of the Political Science Student Association shall be the PSSA.

Article II. Statement of Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of the Political Science Student Association shall be to promote the general welfare of Political Science Students at UCSD. The Political Science Student Association will do this by:

- A. Providing a place where Political Science Students of all backgrounds and ideological views can discuss without fear of persecution not only academic subjects, but also current events and any other topics that students wish to discuss. It is expected that all members of the Political Science Student Association be courteous to those who do not share their views.
- B. Providing a place where Political Science Students can meet other Political Science Students outside of a classroom setting.
- C. Providing opportunities for Political Science Students to further both their academic and career goals by hosting:
 - a. Informational meetings

- b. Study sessions
- c. Guest speakers
- d. Other Political Science related events that promote either Academic or Career growth.

Article III. Non-Profit Statement

Section 1. The Political Science Student Association is a non-profit student organization.

Article IV. Requirements for Membership

Section 1. To be a member of the Political Science Student Association, one must be a full time student at UC San Diego that is either a declared Political Science Major or a declared Political Science Minor. This includes all concentrations offered by the Political Science department. International Studies - Political Science majors may also join the Political Science Student Association.

Section 2. In order to become a member of the Political Science Student Association, a student must:

- A. Agree to abide by all rules outlined in the constitution.
- B. Provide an email address by which the Political Science Student Association may reach the student.

Section 3. There shall be no fees associated with membership in the Political Science Student Association.

Section 4. Any student at UCSD with an interest in Political Science is welcome to attend Political Science Student Association events, but membership is restricted to students that fulfill the criteria of Sections 1 and 2.

Article V. Frequency of Organization Meetings

Section 1. Officers of the Political Science Student Association shall meet at least once every two weeks to discuss matters of importance and make decisions for the organization. Half of all officers must be present for a quorum.

Section 2. Minutes shall be taken for every officer meeting.

- A. Minutes shall be made available to all members of the Political Science Student Association.

Article VI. Qualifications for Holding Office and Methods of Selecting and Replacing Officers.

Section 1. Only registered UC San Diego students may hold office in the Political Science Student Association. Only registered UC San Diego students that are members of the Political Science Student Association may vote in elections for the selection of Political Science Student Association officers.

Section 2. No member of the Political Science shall be denied the ability to run for office in the Political Science Student Association based on their:

- A. Racial or Ethnic Background
- B. Religious or Political Affiliation
- C. Sexual Preference
- D. Gender Identity

E. Disability

Section 3. Elections for officers shall be held once per academic year. Elections for all offices in the Political Science Student Association shall be secret ballot, and an absolute majority of votes cast shall be required to win.

- A. If no candidate receives an absolute majority of votes cast on the first ballot, the voting body will keep voting until a candidate reaches that threshold.

Section 4. All officers shall be voting members of the executive board of the Political Science Student Association. The executive board shall collectively be responsible for the well-being of the Political Science Student Association.

Section 5. There shall be the following officers within the Political Science Student Association:

A. President

- a. The President shall be the official spokesperson of the Political Science Student Association.
- b. The President shall be responsible for organizing officer meetings.
- c. The President shall preside over officer meetings.
- d. The President shall assist in setting the agenda for officer meetings.
- e. The President shall attend a majority of political science-related events, and will act as a representative for the Political Science Student Association. If the President is unable to attend an event, they may designate another officer to attend in their stead.

- f. Only Political Science Student Association members with Junior or Senior standing may run for the office of President.
- g. Article VI, Section 5, Subsection A
- h. For the first year of the Political Science Student Association, the Presidency shall be shared by two members of the PSSA. The official title of their offices shall be co-Presidents. The co-Presidents shall share the responsibilities of the Presidency and divide those responsibilities between each other as they see fit. During the 2019-2020 election process, the executive board shall review this provision and decide whether it should be edited, made permanent, or allowed to lapse.

B. Vice President - Finance

- a. The Vice President - Finance shall be responsible for ensuring that the Political Science Student Association has adequate funding for its operation.
- b. The Vice President - Finance shall be responsible for procuring funding from Associated Students and the Political Science Department, as well as any other sources necessary and proper.
- c. The Vice President - Finance shall assist in setting the agenda for officer meetings.
- d. Only Political Science Student Association members with Junior or Senior standing may run for the office of Vice President - Finance.

C. Vice President - External Communications

Political Science Student Association at UCSD Constitution 2017-2018 Academic Year

- a. The Vice President - External Communications shall be responsible for communicating with other student organizations about relevant events and opportunities.
- b. The Vice President - External Communications shall be responsible for contacting off-campus groups about relevant events and opportunities.
- c. The Vice President - External Communications shall be responsible for communicating with faculty about events and other opportunities.
- d. The Vice President - External Communications shall assist in setting the agenda for officer meetings.
- e. Only Political Science Student Association members with Junior or Senior standing may run for the office of Vice President - External Communications.

D. Vice President - Internal Communications

- a. The Vice President - Internal Communications shall be responsible for contacting Political Science Student Association members about events and other opportunities.
- b. The Vice President - Internal Communications shall be responsible for facilitating communication between the Executive Board and the general body of the Political Science Student Association.

- c. The Vice President - Internal Communications shall be responsible for facilitating communication between members of the Executive Board.
- d. The Vice President - Internal Communications shall assist in setting the agenda for officer meetings.
- e. Only Political Science Student Association members with Junior or Senior standing may run for the office of Vice President - Internal Communications.

D. Secretary

- a. The Secretary shall be the official record keeper of the Political Science Student Association.
- b. The Secretary shall be responsible for the upkeep of membership lists.
- c. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping minutes for all officer meetings. If the Secretary is unable to attend a meeting, the Secretary is responsible for ensuring that a substitute is present.
- d. The Secretary shall be responsible for publishing the minutes from all officer meetings in a timely fashion, as mandated by Article V, Section 2, Subsection A.
- e. The Secretary shall assist in setting the agenda for officer meetings.
- f. Any Political Science Student Association member may run for the office of Secretary.

E. Concentration Representatives

- a. There shall be two representatives from any of the Political Science concentrations, including all concentrations that the Political Science Department may add in the future. Currently, the concentrations are :
 - i. American Politics
 - ii. Comparative Politics
 - iii. International Relations
 - iv. Political Theory
 - v. Public Law
 - vi. Public Policy
- b. Concentration Representatives shall assist in setting the agenda for officer meetings.
- c. Political Science Student Association members may only run for a Concentration Representative office if they have officially declared their concentration. Members may only run to represent the concentration that they have declared.

F. Perspective Representatives

- a. There shall be one representative for international students, and one representative for out of state students.
- b. Perspective Representatives shall assist in setting the agenda for officer meetings.
- c. Only international and out of state students may run for the position of Perspective Representative. Students may only run for the office that corresponds to their background.

Section 6. Elections shall be held in the Spring Quarter, and the term of office for all positions shall be one year. Should an officer be unable to serve for the full year for any reason, a special election shall be held to fill their office before they resign.

Section 7. Students that wish to run for office shall fill out an application, to be furnished by the executive board. These applications shall be made available in the Winter Quarter.

Section 8. Students shall be interviewed by executive board members in the Spring Quarter, after applications have been turned in.

Section 9. Students that are pursuing an office will also attend the voting meeting to answer any questions that their peers may have regarding their qualifications, goals, or reasons for pursuing the office.

Section 10. Should an officer fail to attend to their designated responsibilities, they shall receive a strike. Should an officer receive three strikes, they shall be removed from office. The board may, by a two-thirds vote, suspend this removal by removing the third strike from an officer's record. The board may only remove a strike from an officer's record once. Should the officer reach three strikes a second time, they shall be removed from office.

Section 11. Should an officer behave in a way that is deemed egregious by the President or Community advisor, they shall receive a warning. If an officer receives a warning, they shall have to explain their behavior before the executive board. If the board does not find their explanation satisfactory, they shall be removed from their position and expelled from the Political Science Student Association. If the board deems their explanation satisfactory, they shall resume their duties. However, if an officer receives a second warning they shall be

removed from their office and expelled from the organization without a chance to explain themselves.

Section 12. If any officer is removed from their position, the President shall nominate an interim officer that shall serve for the remainder of their term. The interim officer shall be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the executive board.

Section 13. Officers removed from their position under Section 9 shall be eligible to re-apply for their position the following year. Officers removed from their position under Section 11 shall *not* be eligible to run for any other offices within the Political Science Student Association.

Article VII. Risk Management

Section 1. The Political Science Student Association at UCSD understands that the university does not assume legal liabilities for the actions of the organization.

Section 2. The Political Science Student Association at UCSD is a registered student organization at University of California, San Diego, but not part of the University itself.

Article VIII. Community Advisor

Section 1. The Political Science Student Association shall have a community advisor that is affiliated with the Political Science Department at UCSD.

Section 2. The Community Advisor shall be nominated by the President, and confirmed by a two-thirds vote at an officer meeting.

Section 3. There may be more than one Community Advisor, should the officers feel that their expertise would be beneficial.

Section 4. The term of service for a Community Advisor shall be one year. There shall be no terms limits for Community Advisors, but they will need to be re-nominated and confirmed every year.

Article IX. Financial Management

Section 1. The Political Science Student Association shall not in any way solicit its members for donations.

Section 2. The Political Science Student Association shall apply for Associated Students funding following all rules found in the Associated Students Funding Guide.

Section 3. The Vice President - Finance is responsible for procuring funding from Associated Students and/or the Political Science Department.

Article X. Amendment Process

Section 1. Amendments to the Political Science Student Association Constitution shall require unanimous approval from the Executive board. Once an amendment has been drafted and approved by the board, it shall be made publicly available to all members of the Political Science Student Association for a two-week comment period. After this two week period, the Executive board may ratify the amendment.