

Formal Theory Section of the American Political Science Association

Bylaws

As amended: August 6, 2021

Statement of Purpose

The Formal Theory Section of the American Political Science Association is a forum for scholars who use formal theory in their research. The scholarship of the Section's membership spans substantive subfields and formal approaches. The Section supports and advocates on behalf of its members by, for example, organizing panels at the annual meeting, conducting business meetings of the Section membership, facilitating communication among members, providing relevant resources for teaching and research, and working to broaden the appeal and accessibility of formal theoretic research.

Procedures for Governance

The Section is governed by seven Officers: a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Past President, a Program Chair and two Councilors. These seven Officers make up the Council of the Formal Theory Section (the "Council"). The President, Vice President and Treasurer make up the Executive Committee.

The President, Past President, Vice President and Program Chair each serve one year terms. The Treasurer and each Councilor serves a two-year term.

Upon completion of their respective one-year terms, the President becomes the Past President and the Vice President becomes the President. Each year, a new Vice President and one new Councilor are elected. Every second year, a new Treasurer is elected.

Elections are administered by the Council. The Council shall ensure that elections for Section Officers proceed in accordance with these Bylaws. The Council shall provide notice of an upcoming election at least one month prior to the date of the election. The Council will solicit nominations for new Officers and present the nominees at least two weeks before any election. A nominee for any office must be a current member of the Section and must be seconded by another current member of the Section. New Officers are elected by majority vote using a ranked-choice voting procedure and take office on August 15 following their election.

After investiture of newly elected Officers on August 15 of each year, the six elected members of the Council shall appoint one Section member to serve as Program Chair for the Section. The Program Chair's term of office begins at the close of the annual meeting after their appointment and ends at the close of the following annual meeting.

The Council is charged with appointing committees that select award winners. New awards may be established by amending the bylaws. Any member of the Council may serve on an award committee. The Council is also charged with organizing all other activities of the Section.

The President chairs both meetings of the Council and Section business meetings. If the President is unavailable to chair any meeting, she or he may appoint any other member of the Council to chair that meeting.

The Vice President oversees communications for the Section and keeps records on the Section's membership, activities and meetings.

The Treasurer oversees the handling of the Section's funds and reports on the financial condition of the Section to the Council and the membership.

The Program Chair serves as the Section's Division Chair for the annual meeting.

The Past President, the Program Chair and the two Councilors participate in all deliberation and decision making of the Council, and perform additional duties authorized by the Council or by the Executive Committee.

At its discretion, the Council may initiate the removal of any Officer by a majority vote of the Council. If a majority of the Council votes to remove an Officer, the Officer is impeached and suspended from the Council immediately. Within 45 days, the Council must arrange a Section election to permanently remove the Impeached Officer. If a majority of the Section membership votes to remove the Impeached Officer, then the Impeached Officer is permanently removed from office. If a majority of the Section membership does not vote to remove the Officer, or if no removal election occurs within 45 days of impeachment, then the Impeached Officer is immediately reinstated to the Council.

If for any reason an Officer of the Executive Committee is unable to complete their term in office, the remaining members of the Council by a majority vote shall appoint an Acting Officer to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

To the extent possible, the Council is responsible for ensuring that all Section business and meetings can be conducted via remote technology. Any member may participate in a Section business meeting.

As needed, the Council may establish additional governance procedures or ad hoc committees to conduct Section business consistent with the Section's purpose and APSA's Organized Section Handbook. No Section governance procedure may contravene these Bylaws, and all Section committees must comprise of current members of the Section.

The bylaws can be changed by a 2/3 supermajority vote of the members present and voting at a Section business meeting, including those participating remotely. The Council must provide notice of any proposed amendment no less than one week before a vote taken at a Section business meeting.

The Section shall grant several awards on a regular basis. All awards and their descriptions shall be listed as Exhibit A to these Bylaws. The Council and its appointed award committees are solely responsible for determining the processes for nominations and selecting winners, as well as any prizes to be offered.

EXHIBIT A

Best Junior Scholar Paper Award

This award is given to the best paper presented by a graduate student/ non-tenure track faculty on a Formal Theory Section panel at the previous year's APSA meeting. Graduate students, post-docs, and non-tenure track faculty are welcome to apply for this award. Self-nominations or nominations from panel chairs/discussants are welcome. Please email your submission to all members of the award committee.

Best Paper Award

This award is given to the best paper presented on a Formal Theory Section panel at the previous year's APSA meeting. Self-nominations or nominations from panel chairs/discussants are welcome. Please email your submission to all members of the award committee.

Best Junior Scholar Article Award

This award is given to the best published article by a graduate student/non-tenure track faculty in Formal Theory in the previous calendar year. Graduate students, post-docs, and non-tenure track faculty are welcome to apply for this award. Self-nominations are welcome. Please email your submission to all members of the award committee.

Best Article Award

This award is given to the best published article in Formal Theory in the previous calendar year. Self-nominations are welcome. Please email your submission to all members of the award committee.

The Journal of Theoretical Politics Ostrom Award

This award is given to the best article published in the Journal of Theoretical Politics in the previous calendar year. Self-nominations are welcome. Please email your submission to all members of the award committee.