

BYLAWS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA POLITICS SECTION

PREAMBLE: The Middle East and North Africa Politics Section (the “Section”) is an academic society at the American Political Science Association (APSA), established to support, develop and publish research on the politics of the MENA region utilizing interdisciplinary methodological, theoretical and empirical tools. The Section, in accordance with the APSA Bylaws, is nonpartisan and may only issue statements as approved by the APSA Council. It seeks to fully integrate the rigorous study of the politics of the Middle East with the broader discipline of Political Science, to serve as an institutional home for the community of political scientists dedicated to the Middle East, and to fully integrate scholars from the MENA region and diverse scholars from the United States into the global study of Middle East politics.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Members of this section are individuals with deep interest in studying, researching and publishing about the politics of the Middle East and North Africa region, and who pay the Section annual dues along with their American Political Science Association (APSA) membership. The MENA Politics Section is committed to diversity in all its forms, and will actively seek to ensure full inclusivity in all activities and leadership. All members have the right to vote as long as they have paid their annual dues (or has had dues waived based on the criteria outlined below).

Section 2: The Business Meeting of the Section will be held in conjunction with the APSA Annual Meeting. Announcements of the Section Business Meeting will be shared in advance through the Section’s newsletter and included in the printed program of APSA. The Section can also hold additional meetings in the MENA region or in conjunction with other academic and professional associations’ conferences.

Section 3: Annual dues will be established at the Business Meeting of the Section based on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. The dues would continue in effect until changed by majority vote. The Section dues shall be payable at the time of payment of the member’s annual APSA membership. Dues for scholars from the MENA region, as defined by the APSA International Programs, will be waived, while students will pay a reduced rate as determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II: OFFICERS

Section 1: An Executive Committee consisting of five members shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting of the Section: 1) a President, 2) a Vice-President, 3) a Treasurer, 4) Two Secretaries. (No less than one of the officers shall be a scholar from the MENA region).

The First Executive Committee will be appointed by the founding members of the Section to run its affairs and establish its presence. The first President, Treasurer and one Secretary shall serve for an inaugural term of three years, the Vice President and the other Secretary shall serve for an inaugural term of two years.

After the initial terms, the President, Treasurer and one Secretary shall serve for terms of two years, and shall be elected in odd numbered years. The Vice Chair and the other Secretary shall be elected in even

number years for terms of two years. None of the elected officers may serve consecutive terms, and their terms begin and end with the Annual Business Meeting. The Executive Committee through the President will appoint the three members of the Nominations Committee, the MENA Newsletter editor, Website Manager and Programs Committee Chair, all of whom will be ex officio, non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

Section 2: All Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by majority vote through an electronic ballot system. A Nominations and Elections Committee composed of three members of the Section appointed by the President at the Annual Business Meeting would be responsible for collecting candidacy and coordinate and distribute the electronic ballots. The results would be announced and confirmed at the Annual Business Meeting and distributed via the Section Listserve. The term of the Nominations and Elections Committee members shall be one year. No less than one of the five members of the Executive Committee must always be a scholar from the MENA region.

Section 3: The Duties and Responsibilities of the Officers

President

The President of the Section shall be elected in odd numbered years for a two year term. The President shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee and shall schedule and preside at the Annual Business Meeting, call meetings of the Executive Committee, and be responsible for implementing and coordinating the programs of the Section. The President serves as liaison between the section and the profession as a whole; represents the section as requested by the Executive Committee in dealings with other academic associations and organizations; and appoints after consultation with the Executive Committee the MENA Newsletter Editor, Website Manager, Nominations Committee, and Programs Committee Chair to support and undertake actions requested by the Executive Committee or required in the interests of the Section.

Vice President

The Vice President of the Section shall be elected in even numbered years for a two year term. The Vice President shall assist the President in all functions specified in Article II, Section 3.A and shall be responsible for presiding over Business Meetings and Executive Committee meetings in cases when the President cannot be present, and succeed to the Presidency of the Section in case of an unscheduled vacancy. The Vice President will also serve as the Programs Committee Chair, as described below.

Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Section shall be elected in odd numbered years for a two year term. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the funds of the Section; liaise with APSA regarding Section's finances and income, and submit an annual financial report to the members at the business meeting.

Two Members-at-Large (Secretaries)

The Secretaries shall be elected for a two year term in alternating years. The Secretaries are responsible for keeping an updated list of Section members, attract new members, maintain the minutes of the Business Meetings and support the committees established by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE III: PROGRAMS OF THE SECTION

Section 1: The Section will organize panels at the APSA Annual Meeting in accordance with its formula for panel allocations.

Section 2 The Section may establish special panels, a pre-conference short course, workshops, symposia, or social gatherings at the APSA Annual Meeting, and at other regional and international academic and professional forums. The Section may also hold independent meetings, workshops, or symposia on issues related to the study of MENA Political Science.

Section 3: The Vice President will serve as the Programs Committee Chair and shall appoint two Section members to issue a call for submissions, evaluate panel submissions and make decisions for the Sections' panels at the APSA Annual Meeting. To the extent appropriate, the Programs Team will work with the official APSA Program Committee in order to develop MENA-related panels for the official program of the APSA Annual Meeting and to organize co-sponsorship for MENA-related panels. The Programs Chair and Committee Members may also be tasked with supporting the organization of other Section activities at the APSA Annual Meeting such as research development short courses, special theme panels, or receptions.

ARTICLE IV: PUBLICATIONS

Section 1: A Listserve of all members of the section and other interested individuals or institutions will be regularly updated by the Website Manager and the Secretaries. It will serve as the primary medium of communication of the Section members highlighting news and updates on the study of MENA political science and any calls for proposals, applications or grants.

Section 2: The MENA Newsletter is a biannual publication - as permitted by the funds of the Section - that serves the growing community of political science researchers interested in the MENA region. The Newsletter publishes short pieces addressing a variety of methodological, theoretical, empirical, and ethical concerns related to MENA political science research and offers an opportunity for scholars to share their ideas in a friendly and professional forum.

Section 3: The MENA Newsletter Editor is appointed by the President of the Section after consultation with the Executive Committee. The Editor serves for a three-year term, with possibility for a fourth year upon the agreement of both the Editor and the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may appoint Co-Editors if necessary.

Section 4: The Section may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee and funds permitting, issue annual awards for outstanding research and publications. The foundation of new awards would be recommended by the Executive Committee to the section membership and announced at the annual business meeting. Award recipients would be selected by a committee of at least three members, appointed by the Executive Committee at the Business Meeting at the APSA Annual Conference. Awards will be announced at the Business Meeting.

Section 5: The Section may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee and funds permitting, work with the APSA Council and Publications Committee to establish an APSA journal dedicated to the politics of the MENA region.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENT OF THE BYLAWS

The Section's By-Laws can only be amended upon the approval of two-thirds of members who vote by electronic ballot. The Nominations and Elections Committee will oversee the process of all section amendment bylaws proposals and voting. Proposals for amendments may be submitted by 50 members to the executive committee no less than 90 days prior to the APSA annual meeting, or be prepared by the Executive Committee of the section. All proposed amendments will be shared through section communication channels no less than 60 days and no more than 90 days prior to the start of the APSA Annual Meeting. Executive officers will arrange for time to discuss amendments at the section business meeting, using the current APSA all member business meeting rules for structuring debate. Electronic ballots for the amendment will be distributed within 30 days of the close of the section annual business meeting, and the balloting period will be open for 30 days. All section members are eligible to vote for a section amendment, and must have an active APSA and section membership seven days prior to the start of the balloting period. Unless otherwise specified in the amendment, all section bylaw amendments will go into effect 30 days after the close of the balloting period.