

COMPARATIVE FEDERALISM AND MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

1. Aims of the Research Committee

The Comparative Federalism and Federation Research Committee of the International Political Science Association ("Research Committee"), pursuant to its mandate as a research committee and in furtherance of research pertaining to the study and dissemination of knowledge of the fields of federalism and comparative federalism does establish as its aim the following:

1.1 To develop a framework and database of knowledge in the general field of federalism, federation and federal-type experiences with reference to specific priority research topics.;

1.2 To emphasize the importance of comparative federal experiences through access to the electronic Membership Network which the Research Committee plans to establish among its Members in the near future to enable them to engage in regular contact, communication and collaborative research with each other;

1.3 To contribute to the practical development and management of federal constitutional and political systems by rendering advice, consulting services and by disseminating and exchanging information; and

1.4 To encourage co-operation amongst individuals and institutions who specialize in federal and federal-type research and to undertake and encourage such collaborative research and to record related experiences on a multinational basis.

2. Membership of the Research Committee

2.1 Membership of the Research Committee is open to scholars and practitioners in all fields related to the study and practice and federalism and federation, including in particular political science, law, administration and economics. Members of national associations affiliated with IPSA and individual members of IPSA can also be members of the Research Committee, irrespective of this rule.

2.2 The Executive will establish an annual membership fee published on the website, to be used for purposes of managing the affairs of the Research Committee, its website and expenses that are incurred in order to realize the objectives of the Committee.

2.3 Applications for membership must be made in writing by completion of the relevant form available from the Chair of the Research Committee or his/her assistant, or from the membership form on the website itself. Membership status includes payment of membership fees, as described in subsection 2.2 above.

3. Executive of the Research Committee

3.1 The Executive of the Research Committee shall consist of a Chair, two Vice-Chairs, a Program Chair and a Recruitment Committee Chair.

3.2 Nothing bars the Executive from co-opting such persons as may be required from time to time to assist with special and/or *ad hoc* responsibilities.

3.3 The Executive can appoint honorary chairs, who shall not be members of the Executive, but shall have the right to advise the Executive on their own initiative, or if requested by the Executive to do so;

3.4 If any vacancy arises on the Executive, the remaining members of the Executive may fill it until the expiry of the term.

4. Responsibilities of the Executive

The Executive is responsible for the management of the Research Committee and for initiating and coordinating activities in pursuit of its basic objectives by, among others:

4.1 Taking steps to facilitate contacts between the members of the Research Committee with regard to exchange between research institutions, including establishment of an electronic network to facilitate direct communication among members and research institutions;

4.2 Identifying topics and themes for investigation and research, in consultation with Members, at Annual Conferences of the Research Committee and IPSA World Congresses;

4.3 Organising, in consultation with Members, the Annual Conferences of the Research Committee;

4.4 Co-operating and liaising with constitutional and political institutions, organisations, research centres, journals and such other agencies as may seem appropriate in matters relating to the study of federalism, federation and like political and constitutional arrangements;

4.5 Ensuring regular communication between the Executive and Committee Members;

4.6 Endeavouring to ensure and encourage regular and prompt publication of the work of Members in journals, books, monographs and research reports;

4.7 Encouraging scholarly exchanges, including participation in seminars, conferences, *consultation* and lectures;

4.8 Identifying, in consultation with Members, experts who may be able to give advice to young democracies (particularly emerging federations and regionally

decentralized systems), new research programs and other ventures, both academic or part of official practice;

4.9 Doing its best to publicize the activities of the Research Committee and to encourage applications for membership;

4.10 Submitting those issues which it considers to be of central importance to the Research Committee to a decision of the Members by electronic voting via the Research Committee's website. Voting in such instances is subject to the same rules as for the election of the Executive; and

4.11 Taking other steps as may be required for the successful pursuit of the objectives and purposes of the Research Committee.

5. Election of the Executive

5.1 Any election of the Executive must be preceded by an announcement in the last edition of the Research Committee's Newsletter before an upcoming IPSA World Congress, and that announcement shall refer to and quote the rules specified in subsections 5.2 to 5.12 below.

5.2 Nominations or applications for positions on the Executive may be submitted at a business meeting of the Research Committee during the IPSA World Congress, as well as by way of e-mail within 14 days after the closure of the World Congress. All nominations and applications should be supported by two nominators and shall include the name of the nominee or applicant, a short CV of the nominee or applicant and the position for which the nomination or application is made.

5.3 The current Executive shall have the right to appoint a Nominating Committee of not more than three members, of whom none shall be a member of the current Executive. The function of that Committee shall be to make proposals for the positions on the Executive by nomination at least 14 days before the convening of or after the closure of the World Congress, depending on when the Executive has decided that this election will take place.. The names of its members must be published on the website of the Research Committee not later than 3 months prior to the World Congress.

5.4 A list of the candidates, including the positions for which they are candidates, must be posted on the website of the Research Committee not later than 17 days prior to the convening of or after the closure of the World Congress, depending on when the Executive has decided that this election will occur.

5.5 Election of the Executive shall take place by electronic voting and by making use of the website of the Research Committee. The election period shall consist of 14 days, starting with the date of posting of the list of candidates on the website of the Research Committee.

5.6 Electronic voting shall be conducted by e-mail, and ballots are to be sent to the current Chair within the election period.

5.7 Only Members of the Research Committee who have paid or have agreed to pay their annual subscription may be nominated for the Executive and are eligible to vote and to be elected to the Executive.

5.8 Members who make themselves available for nomination as candidates for election to the Executive must declare their willingness to be actively and regularly engaged in the activities and operation of the Executive. This applies particularly when arrangements are made for an Annual Conference and/or the IPSA World Congress..

5.9 An election committee, consisting of the Chair and one member of the Nominating Committee, will oversee the election and will be responsible for the counting of the votes.

5.10 The results of the election shall be posted on the website within 14 days of the end of the election period.

5.11 The Executive has a three year term beginning with the posting of its election results and ending with the posting of the next election results on the website. Elections shall be held every third year, in the year which corresponds to the World Congress of the International Political Science Association.

5.12 Members of the Executive shall not normally hold a designated Executive position in excess of two consecutive terms unless those voting in the election of the Executive decide, on recommendation of the Nominating Committee, to make an exception to this limitation by a two-thirds majority of those voting.

6. Annual Conferences

6.1 There shall be one Annual Conference of the Research Committee each year.

6.2 For the purposes of this section, these meetings and sessions of the Research Committee may be organized as joint conferences with other research bodies, associations or institutions.

7. Coming into Force and Amendment of Bylaws

7.1 These bylaws shall come into force after having been approved by a majority of those voting in an electronic vote under the rules of subsection 4.10 above.

7.2 They may be amended or altered, with notice, at any Annual Conference of the Research Committee. or if so decided by the Annual Conference or the Executive, by electronic voting under the rules of subsection 4.10 above.

7.3 Notice of intent to amend the bylaws must be in writing and must be circulated in a Newsletter, via the website of the Research Committee or by other means no less than three months in advance of the Annual Conference..