

Psychological Science Accelerator - Election Logistics

This document explains the steps involved in PSA elections. The goal is to summarize the logistics, actions, and policies that will enable our elections. These items are organized in chronological order for each election cycle (planned election timeline [here](#)).

Personnel Involved

Each election will be overseen by the Associate Director furthest from reelection. This person will be responsible for the tasks listed below.

Each election will also have three election Tellers, who will ensure that all policies are followed fairly and that the votes are accurately counted. The selection process for Tellers is described below.

Finally, all PSA members are allowed to run for office and vote in elections.

Who is Elected

In the PSA, the Director and Associate Directors are directly elected by the PSA membership. These positions are elected on a rolling basis (so that the leadership does not turn over all at once). The Director and Associate Directors are responsible for appointing Assistant Directors (see [this document](#) for more information about election policies).

Identifying Candidates and Tellers

Any PSA member is allowed to run for office. At the beginning of each election cycle, the Associate Director will put out a call for candidates (through both the general mailing list and the General Slack channel). Any PSA member may volunteer themselves as a candidate. Any PSA member may also nominate another member to run for office.

Candidates will be solicited through an anonymous form (for both self- and other-nominations). The Associate Director will reach out to each potential candidate and ascertain whether or not they would like to run.

In addition, the Associate Director will ask the PSA for volunteers for election Tellers. The Tellers will be tasked with overseeing all of the actions of the Associate Director in order to ensure that the election is carried out fairly and accurately. These people will be given access to all of the Associate Director's election actions. They will not be asked to carry out any specific election tasks, other than observing the behaviors of the Associate Director and ensuring that the final vote count is accurate. Any PSA member may volunteer to be a Teller. If more than three PSA members volunteer, three members will be randomly selected from the list of volunteers.

Candidate Statements

Each candidate will be allowed a 1000 word statement to be shared with the PSA. Candidates should use this space to explain why they are running for office and/or the actions they would pursue in office. Statements may not link out to supplementary documents.

A month before the election, we will create a PSA elections Slack channel. We will post each candidate's statement in that thread. Any PSA member may use this space to ask candidates questions about their statements or about their candidacy more generally.

Voting Period

PSA elections will have a two week voting period. Every PSA member will be given access to a ballot, where they can rank the candidates from most to least preferred.

During the voting period, the Candidate Slack channels will be frozen (so that members can see questions and answers, but cannot add new questions/comments). Also during the voting period, Candidates are to refrain from further campaigning, both through official PSA channels and outside of those channels (e.g., Twitter). This includes "get-out-the-vote" efforts (the PSA will be advertising and encouraging voting throughout the period). Generally, Candidates are discouraged from sending PSA-wide emails and using the General Slack channel during this time, just to ensure that there is no appearance campaigning during the voting period.

Declaring a Winner

At the end of the voting period, the Associate Director will tally the votes, using the Instant Runoff Voting system described in the [PSA Elections Policies](#). The Associate Director will share the results with the Tellers. Each Teller must sign off on the accuracy of the results for the election to be certified.

Once the election is certified, the Associate Director and Tellers will jointly convey the results to each of the candidates individually. Two days later, they will share the results with the PSA as a whole.

Concerns/Limitations of this Process

The goal of this process is to ensure the democratic ideals of the PSA. However, this process is likely not faultless. A few concerns that have been identified are that this process may produce a strong incumbency advantage and that the Instant Runoff Voting may promote choices that are not preferred by many (e.g., the winner is everyone's third choice, but no one's first choice). Issues such as these will be monitored as the PSA has elections and may be revised in the future if they are deemed to be a threat to the democratic goals of the organization.

Example Timeline of Election

All time points are relative to declaring a winner.

T - 3 ½ months: Associate Director puts out call for PSA members to volunteer as election Tellers.

T - 3 months: Tellers are selected and notified; Associate Director releases solicitation for Candidates. Candidates will be confirmed on a rolling basis.

T - 2 months: Candidates are told to write their Statements.

T - 1 month: Statements are released to the PSA and election Slack channel is made public.

T - 2 weeks: Ballots are sent out; Candidate Slack channels are frozen.

T: The Associate Director counts the ballots and identifies the winner. The Tellers confirm the count. The Candidates are all notified of the results. The next day, the results are made public to the PSA.

Text for Announcements

February 1, 2021

Accelerators,

The Psychological Science Accelerator (PSA; <https://psysciacc.org>) will soon have an election for two leadership positions in the organization, Director and Associate Director.

The Director works with the Associate Directors as a steering body for the PSA. Together they make decisions as well as function as liaisons between the various committees. As described in [Moshontz et al. \(2018\)](#), the Director additionally “oversees day-to-day operations and evaluates the functioning and policies of the PSA with respect to the core principles” (p. 505) of diversity and inclusion, decentralized authority, transparency, rigor, and openness to criticism.

Any member of the PSA is eligible to run for Director or Associate Director. The only restriction is that candidates in the election are ineligible to be Tellers. (We have already identified three volunteers to serve as Tellers; they will ensure the integrity of the election process and outcome.)

If you’d like to nominate yourself or someone else for the Director or Associate Director election, please fill out [this form](#) on or before Monday, February 15, 2021. We’ll reach out to all nominees to confirm whether or not they’d like to run for office.

If you have any questions about either position, feel free to email me (heather.urry@tufts.edu).

Thanks!

Heather Urry
Associate Director

Previous Announcement:

The PSA will soon have an election for the position of Associate Director. Associate Directors serve as a steering body for the PSA as well as functioning as liaisons between the various committees. We are seeking nominees for that election. If you'd like to nominate yourself or someone else, please fill out the form, linked below before [DATE]. We'll reach out to all nominees to confirm whether or not they'd like to run for this office.

The PSA is also seeking members to volunteer as Election Tellers for the upcoming election. The role of a Teller is to provide accountability and ensure fairness in the election process. Tellers will be included on all official election communications and be given access to all election materials, including the final ballots. Tellers will be responsible for ensuring that the Associate Director overseeing the election (in this case, Charlie Ebersole) is following all PSA procedures fairly. They will also certify that the final vote count is accurate. This job should require minimal week to week effort over the next three months.

Any member of the PSA is eligible to run for Associate Director or be an Election Teller. The only restriction is that candidates in the election are ineligible to be Tellers (so if you are thinking of running, don't volunteer). If you'd like to nominate someone for the Associate Director election or volunteer to be a Teller, please fill out [this form](#) by [DATE]. Also, if you have any questions about either position, don't hesitate to reach out to me (cebersole@virginia.edu).

Thanks!
Charlie Ebersole
