

**Extract from the Guide for the RC chairs. The full version is available on:**

[http://www.ipsa.org/sites/default/files/guide\\_for\\_rc\\_chairs\\_may\\_2016.pdf](http://www.ipsa.org/sites/default/files/guide_for_rc_chairs_may_2016.pdf)

### **Objectives**

Research committees should:

- (i) Develop research in political science, especially work based on international cooperation;
- (ii) Organise and maintain personal contacts among political scientists with common interests;
- (iii) Disseminate information and publish scholarly research; and
- (iv) Provide a framework for cooperation between individuals and organisations concerned with teaching and research in political and other social sciences.

### **Membership**

Membership of RCs is open to all individual members of IPSA and to all members of national associations affiliated to IPSA as collective members. The former may ask to be put in touch with particular RCs by so indicating on their IPSA membership form. Others may join by contacting the chairs of the committees in question ([see the complete list](#)).

Research committees should be as representative as possible of the different approaches in their special fields, and of the countries and regions of political scientists who conduct research in these fields. They should also make appropriate provision for the inclusion of women, young scholars (including doctoral students) and other disadvantaged groups.

Research committees may require their members to pay a small fee to assist in defraying running costs, under the condition that it is made public on the RC website, on the IPSA website or otherwise.

Research committees are required to ensure that their activities are adequately publicised by forwarding to the IPSA Secretariat material for publication on a regular basis. They are required to make a prompt and positive response to persons applying for membership. In the event of an application for membership not being accepted, the individual in question should be informed that he or she may forward an appeal to the Committee on Research and Training.

### **Organisation**

The affairs of each research committee shall be directed by an **elected board consisting of no fewer than seven and no more than twelve members. The board shall be elected for four years, with the possibility of re-election for an additional two-year period.** Board elections shall include at least two new members at each election. **No officer of a research committee may remain as an officer in the same substantive capacity for more than six years, and more than an extra four years in a second position.** If possible, board members should represent different countries and approaches in their fields of interest.

The board shall have a chair assisted, if necessary, by a vice-chair and a secretary. The chair shall be the primary contact point for IPSA and shall be regarded as the convenor of the research committee, unless the board designates another officer as convenor.

**No-one may be a board member of more than one research committee. Research committee officials must be dues-paying individual members of IPSA.**

If, for any reason, the elected chair should tender his resignation, then an interim chair should be named by the IPSA Executive Committee at its next regular meeting, after consultation with the outgoing research committee officers. The interim chair is then required to appoint a reconstituted board, which would be responsible for administering the affairs of the research committees until its next regular biennial election.