



Steering Committee Meeting
April 26, 2026
Grand Hyatt Hotel
Washington, DC

Minutes

Speaker Michael McCrea, MD, FACEP, called to order a meeting of the Council Steering Committee of the American College of Emergency Physicians at 8:01 am Eastern time on Sunday, April 26, 2026.

Steering Committee members present for all or portions of the meeting were Ian Brodka, MD; Joshua da Silva, DO, FACEP; Puneet Gupta, MD, FACEP; Steven Hochman, MD, FACEP; Jolie Holschen, MD, FACEP; Antony Hsu, MD, FACEP; Greg A. Juhl, MD, FACEP; Michael McCrea, MD, FACEP, speaker; David Nestler, MD, MS, FACEP; Jennifer Savino, MD, FACEP; Aaron Snyder, MD; Sophia Spadafore, MD, MA; Larisa M. Traill, MD, FACEP, vice speaker; Daniel Udrea, MD, FACEP; Nicole Veitinger, DO, FACEP; William Weber, MD, MPH, FACEP; and Carol Wright Becker, MD, FACEP.

Other members and guests present for all or portions of the meeting were: L. Anthony Cirillo, MD, FACEP, president; Melissa Costello, MD, FACEP; Carl Heine, MD, FACEP; Steven Kailes, MD, FACEP; C. Ryan Keay, MD, FACEP; Rami Khoury, MD, FACEP; Heidi Knowles, MS, MD, FACEP; Abhi Mehrotra, MD, MBA, FACEP; Rebecca Parker, MD, FACEP; Henry Pitzele, MD, FACEP; Luke Saski MD, FACEP; James L. Shoemaker, Jr., MD, FACEP; and Ryan Stanton, MD, FACEP, president-elect.

Staff present for all or portions of the meeting were: Jonathan Fisher, MD, FACEP; Mary Ellen Fletcher, CPC, CEDC, CAE; Michael Fraser, PhD, MS, CAE; Laura Lang, JD; and Sonja Montgomery.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 29, 2026, Steering Committee meeting were approved as written.

Officer and Staff Reports
Speaker

Dr. McCrea welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation and commitment to the College. He announced the candidates for election at the 2026 Council meeting:

President-Elect

Heidi C. Knowles, MS, MD, FACEP
Kristin B. McCabe-Kline, MD FACEP
James L. Shoemaker, Jr., MD, FACEP

Board of Directors Candidates (4 positions to be filled)

Torree M. McGowan, MD, FACEP – GS
Abhi Mehrotra, MD, MBA, FACEP – NC (incumbent)
Heather S. Owen, MD, FACEP – TX
Henry Z. Pitzele, MD, FACEP – IL (incumbent)
Alexandra Nicole Thran, MD, FACEP – VT

He reported the Council Awards Committee has selected the 2026 award recipients. An announcement about all 2026 award recipients will be posted on the Council engagED after the April 29, 2026, Board of Directors meeting and all recipients have been notified.

Dr. McCrea reminded everyone that a Council 101 webinar was held on April 10, 2026, and a link to the recording was posted on the Council engaged. The webinar replaces the “New Councillor Orientation” that has traditionally been held the evening prior to the Council meeting.

Vice Speaker

Dr. Traill reported on her role as a member of the Finance Committee as the speaker’s designee and summarized ACEP’s current financial operations.

President

Dr. Cirillo reported thanked Dr. Fraser and staff for their work. He highlighted several key initiatives of the College.

President-Elect

Dr. Stanton discussed his goals for during his year as president.

Executive Director

Dr. Fraser shared information about the new approach for ACEP’s advocacy and communications strategies and the “Built on Results” communications campaign. He has been assessing ACEP’s infrastructure and systems over the past six months and worked with staff to develop realigned strategic priorities for FY 2026-27. The strategic priorities were approved by the Board in March and will guide ACEP’s work and budget for the next fiscal year. He expressed the importance of mapping all ACEP activities to the strategic priorities, identifying any gaps, and the need to evaluate and potentially eliminate activities/initiatives that do not align.

Annual Meeting Subcommittee Report

Dr. Nestler presented the subcommittee’s report on their assigned objectives.

The subcommittee reviewed the Council meeting agenda and supports discontinuing the Town Hall meeting this year, unless there is a breaking issue that requires discussion. The subcommittee recommended revising the Council meeting timed agenda to end by 5:15 pm on Saturday, October 3, 2026, and holding the Candidate Reception 5:30 – 6:30 pm. The Steering Committee supported the subcommittee’s recommendation.

The subcommittee reviewed the current format of preliminary Reference Committee reports, which includes recommendations and amended language in the summary of asynchronous testimony, and the previous format used 2020-2022, that included recommendations for the disposition of each resolution similar to the format of the final Reference Committee reports. The subcommittee recommended returning to the previous format to include recommendations for the disposition of each resolution with amended or substituted language based on the asynchronous testimony. It was noted that Reference Committee instructions need to be clear that the starting point for discussion during the in-person Reference Committee hearing will be based on the recommendations and proposed amended or substituted language in the preliminary report. Amendments to the resolutions in the final reports will be based on the original resolution and not any amended or substituted version from the preliminary report.

It was moved THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE APPROVE THE SUBCOMMITTEE’S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PRELIMINARY REFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS TO INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DISPOSITION OF EACH RESOLUTION WITH AMENDED OR SUBSTITUTED LANGUAGE BASED ON THE ASYNCHRONOUS TESTIMONY.

The motion was adopted.

The subcommittee reviewed the implementation actions on 2023, 2024, and 2025 resolutions. Questions were raised about implementation action on some resolutions from 2024 and 2023. Staff are following up to address the questions raised. Updates to the implementation action on the resolutions can be accessed on the ACEP website by all members. <https://www.acep.org/what-we-believe/actions-on-council-resolutions/>

The subcommittee provided suggestions for questions that should be considered to use as survey questions during the Council meeting. The Council officers will determine the final survey questions this summer.

Bylaws & Council Standing Rules Subcommittee Report

Dr. da Silva presented the subcommittee's report on their assigned objectives.

The subcommittee discussed Referred Resolution 23(25) Councillor Allocations for Sections of Membership and reviewed the language in the Bylaws Article VIII – Council, Section 1 – Composition of the Council (paragraph 8) and the Council Standing Rules (CSR), Councillor Allocation for Sections of Membership. There was consensus to simplify the language in the Bylaws and the CSR to reflect that a section must have the minimum number of members established by the Board of Directors. The subcommittee believes these are housekeeping changes and should not require extensive discussion by the Council. A draft Bylaws amendment and a draft CSR amendment were submitted to the Steering Committee for consideration. There was consensus from the Steering Committee to submit the resolutions to the 2026 Council. It was noted that the Bylaws and CSR language are included in the [“Policy on Sections of Membership”](#) and will need to be updated if the amendments are adopted by the Council.

The subcommittee discussed commendation and memorial resolutions and agreed that criteria should not be developed to limit the resolutions to former or current members and staff and criteria should not be developed to include a level of leadership eligibility, such as chapter or national Board of Directors, committee service, councillor/alternate councillor status, or membership tenure. The subcommittee believes members should have the ability to recognize their colleagues through commendation and memorial resolutions without restriction and regardless of whether the individual is a current or previous ACEP member. The subcommittee recommended discontinuing framing memorial resolutions and reading the resolves during the Council meeting. The “In Memoriam” slide presentation should continue to display the photos of individuals for whom a memorial resolution was submitted. Memorial resolutions should be prepared “suitable for framing” and sent to the family in a presentation folder. Additionally, the subcommittee recommended continuing to frame commendation resolutions, reading the resolves during the Council Awards luncheon, and presenting them to the individuals being recognized.

It was moved THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE APPROVE THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION REGARDING COMMENDATION AND MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS. The motion was adopted.

The subcommittee reviewed the CSR for any other potential amendments and none were identified.

Candidate Forum Subcommittee Report

Dr. Traill presented the subcommittee's report on their assigned objectives.

The subcommittee discussed candidate meetings with chapters and whether there should be limitations regarding when the meetings are held. Previous candidates have provided feedback to the Council officers about the number of virtual meetings they were invited to attend and the challenges with their availability. Some candidates expressed concern about potentially creating a negative perception if they are unable to attend meetings. The subcommittee discussed whether there should be limitations and a variety of potential options. The subcommittee determined that changes to the Candidate Campaign Rules with guidance regarding chapter meetings should not be proposed this year since many chapters have already scheduled their meetings. It was suggested to obtain feedback from this year's candidates and potentially review the concerns with the National/Chapter Relations Committee.

The subcommittee was informed about a campaign issue that occurred last year prior to the Council meeting regarding an individual posting a message in an online community of another emergency medicine organization highlighting the attributes of one candidate. The emergency medicine organization informed ACEP about the post and requested ACEP to consider updating the Candidate Campaign Rules (CCR) to prohibit this activity. The subcommittee also discussed whether candidates should have the ability to display campaign materials at the upcoming Leadership & Advocacy Conference. It was noted the CCR are explicit about no campaign materials at the Council meeting or any

Council sponsored events, but do not address other ACEP events. The subcommittee submitted proposed changes to the CCR pertaining to Rule #10 and Rule #14.

It was moved THAT CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN RULE #10 BE AMENDED TO DELETE “(PRINTED MATERIAL, BUTTONS, PINS, SIGNS, ETC.),” INCLUDE THAT “NO TANGIBLE CAMPAIGN ITEMS MAY BE DISTRIBUTED OR DISPLAYED AT ANY ACEP NATIONAL, CHAPTER, OR ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION EVENT OR CONFERENCE,” AND DELETE THE REFERENCE TO THE NEW COUNCILLOR ORIENTATION AND RECEPTION. The motion was adopted.

It was moved THAT CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN RULE #10 BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE “NO PAID PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL OR PAID ADVERTISING IS ALLOWED.”

It was moved THAT THE DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO PAID PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL OR PAID ADVERTISING BE POSTPONED TO THE JANUARY 2027 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING. The motion was adopted.

There was consensus to revise Rule #14.g. to read: “Candidates, or entities and individuals acting on behalf of any candidate(s), are prohibited from posting campaign messages or materials in an online community of another medical organization.”

The remainder of the subcommittee’s objectives will be completed this summer and during the 2026 Council meeting. The subcommittee will meet immediately following the April 26, 2026, Steering Committee meeting to finalize the candidate written questions and to review the assignments for moderators, coordinators, and door monitors. A virtual meeting will be held prior to the Council meeting to develop the Candidate Forum questions. The subcommittee will meet 4:30 – 6:00 pm in Chicago on Friday, October 2, 2026, to review the format for the Candidate Forum, review the final questions for the Candidate Forum, and meet with the candidates.

Council Task Force on Voting & Elections

Dr. da Silva presented the task force’s final report. After careful review of the various voting methods, the task force recommended that no changes be made to the current voting method for conducting the elections of the president-elect, Board of Directors, and Council officers during the Council meeting. The Steering Committee supported the task force recommendation.

Board Actions on Resolutions

Dr. McCrea informed the Steering Committee about a new policy statement that was developed to address Amended Resolution 45(25) Comprehensive Support for Medicaid and Consolidation of ACEP Medicaid Related Policies. The policy statement will be discussed by the Boarding during their April 29, 2026, meeting.

Next Meeting

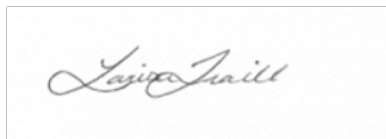
The next meeting of the Council Steering Committee is scheduled for Friday, October 2, 2026, during the Scientific Assembly in Chicago, IL.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 am Eastern time on Sunday, April 26, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. McCrea, MD, FACEP
Council Speaker and Chair



Larisa M. Traill, MD, FACEP
Council Vice Speaker and Vice Chair