

SPOC: Committee Standing and ExComm Representation

Purpose

We bring this for ExComm discussion to solicit thoughts and feedback to inform our preparation of petitions we anticipate presenting for ExComm approval at the 2026 Spring Meeting.

Background

At the 2025 Spring ACS DivCHED Business Meeting, ExComm voted to approve the proposal that reinstated the unstaffed Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) as the Strategic Planning Oversight Committee (SPOC), and charged SPOC to:

- Coordinate the five-year Strategic Plan renewal process
- Monitor, facilitate, and support implementation of the Division's Strategic Plan (SP)
- Propose the creation and staffing of teams to execute SP strategies
- Support and provide accountability for SP strategy teams
- Serve as a liaison between SP teams, Division Leadership, and Division Membership
- Promote awareness of Strategic Plan progress
- Solicit, review, and make quarterly recommendations for Strategic Projects Fund awards

Neither LRPC or SPOC are established as Standing Committees in the DivCHED [bylaws](#). Following *Robert's Rules of Order*, this suggests that SPOC is currently operating as an ad-hoc committee. In principle, *Robert's Rules* outlines committees that do continuing work as Standing Committees, whose charge and structure is documented in official governance documents such as bylaws.

Point for Discussion: Committee Standing

SPOC, by the nature of its charge, performs continuing long-term work for the division. In particular, this work involves making recommendations about the allocation of resources, staffing of teams, and forward-looking goals and efforts of the division. Thus, we argue that SPOC is, in practice, operating as a standing committee. While DivCHED has several committees that one might argue are standing in practice but not formally recognized as such, SPOC's unique role and purview increases the importance of documenting its existence, status, and function in official division governance documents.

Currently, as an ad-hoc committee, SPOC membership and operations are only documented in the SPOC operations (ops) manual and associated division webpages. The ops manual and website can be easily and quickly changed by the committee, which is necessary to ensure they are continually up-to-date about current strategic plan efforts and practices. However, to ensure SPOC's core mission and practices do not unintentionally drift over time, it would be beneficial to have formal documentation of the core structural elements of SPOC's structure and function. This would be accomplished by formalizing SPOC as a standing committee, which would also legitimize SPOC within DivCHED and ACS, and provide a clearer structure for how SPOC interfaces with ExComm.

Formalizing SPOC as a standing committee would involve changing the DivCHED bylaws, which requires ExComm to review and vote to approve a petition to amend the bylaws. The amended bylaws would then need to be reviewed and approved by ACS before going into effect.

Ahead of preparing a petition to amend the bylaws, we are eager to hear your feedback and would particularly like to discuss:

- (1) What concerns (if any) do you have about SPOC being formally recognized as a standing committee in the DivCHED bylaws?

Point for Discussion: ExComm Representation

In its current form, SPOC does not have formal committee representation on ExComm. SPOC membership includes two ex-officio positions occupied by ExComm members (Chair-Elect and Treasurer). However, these roles exist to orient the incoming chair to ongoing strategic planning work, and to advise SPOC as needed on financial implications—these roles are not intended to or well positioned to represent SPOC in ExComm discussions, or to liaise between SPOC and ExComm. Since SPOC's establishment in March 2025, there have already been minor instances that complicated SPOC's work because SPOC was unaware of ongoing/upcoming ExComm discussions/decisions.

To do its work well, SPOC needs to know the current ongoing and upcoming business of the division. SPOC also benefits from having insight into longer-term efforts in existing committees and boards. This helps SPOC make recommendations for charging and staffing task forces that are well aligned with division-wide needs and leverage existing knowledge/efforts of division committees and boards.

In this way, SPOC would benefit from member representation on ExComm to ensure the committee is aware of items raised in committee Consent Agenda reports, governance discussions, and meetings. Many of these avenues are inaccessible to non-ExComm members, such as closed-session ExComm meetings and asynchronous communications (e.g. email). To ensure SPOC has access to the information it needs to conduct its work well, we would like to request the SPOC chair be an Ex-Officio member of ExComm.

ExComm membership is established via the division bylaws. Ahead of preparing a petition to amend the bylaws, we are eager to hear your feedback and would particularly like to discuss:

- (1) What concerns (if any) do you have about the SPOC chair being an ex-officio member of ExComm?
- (2) If the SPOC chair were an ex-officio member of ExComm, should they be voting or non-voting?