

Agenda for ad hoc committee meeting on 9/10/25

Call to Order and Opening

Welcome, everyone. My name is Sue. I am the elected chairperson of this committee and I thank you for being here. This is a meeting of the SMR ad hoc committee whose purpose is to discuss the proposals and comments of SMR Proposal 25-5 and make appropriate recommendations for any changes deemed necessary to the SMR after meeting General Fellowship Space.

Let us please open this meeting with the Serenity Prayer followed by a reading of the Tradition 2 prayer.

**God,
Grant Me Serenity to accept the things I cannot change
Courage to change the things I can
And Wisdom to know the difference.**

[A member will read]

Higher Power. I understand that you make your voice heard in a group conscience. I ask you to remind me that the life of my program and, therefore, my own recovery depends upon my willingness to put the group's welfare above my own will. Where I disagree with the common view of my fellows in service, allow me to state my case honestly and respectfully. Allow me to listen to and consider the views of others. May I state my view and support all group decisions, including the ones I might disagree with. Your will, not mine, be done.

Group guidelines and safety rules:

- Speakers will be called upon in the order shown on the zoom participant list. Please note that there may be times when comments will be limited to specific topics. In these instances those with their hands raised who do not have something to contribute to the active conversation will stay in the queue and be called on in order when the active discussion has concluded.

- Each speaker may share for 2 minutes with a maximum one minute 'grace period' to wrap up their thoughts. Shares are not to exceed three minutes.
- During discussions, please
 - Please focus on speaking your own concerns and viewpoints on the issue being discussed
 - Be respectful of other members of the committee at all times. Please refrain from verbally attacking other members or their ideas or viewpoints.
 - Keep the focus on the topic currently being discussed
 - If you disagree with an issue or a proposal, please explain why and state your concerns about it.
 - If a point you wish to make has already been made, please refrain from making it again. You may speak your agreement with the point but please refrain from repeating arguments the committee has already heard.
- If a discussion becomes heated:
 If the discussion becomes emotional, disrespectful, or unproductive any member can request a 2 minute cool down period. All microphones will be muted and a timer set to allow for a brief moment of meditation to reset the room. The person who was speaking when the cool down period was called for will be given the first opportunity to share when the 2 minutes are up.

Chairperson's comments

I would like to address the committee briefly regarding my role as chairperson.

Discussions:

Continuations or Revisiting previous discussions:

1) Open Ad Hoc Committee Meetings (Continuation)

A member had made the suggestion that our committee meetings should be open meetings that may be attended by anyone wishing to observe, although only committee members will be allowed to speak or vote. This was discussed on 8/27. Some members are opposed because of privacy/safety concerns and others were in favor because SMR precedent indicates that committees should not conduct their work behind closed doors.

Status: Vote inconclusive (4/6/1) (in favor/opposed/abstain)

2) Transcripts and/or recordings (Revisited)

A member has suggested that the meetings be transcribed to provide a record that we can look back on in the event that there is a disagreement about the minutes (or for any other purpose).

STATUS: This was previously suggested and not implemented because of privacy concerns of at least one member. Issue being revisited because there is a perceived need.

3) Discussion Guidelines (previously tabled)

Discuss and vote on additional discussion guidelines proposed in an email by Sue. Specifically:

- That there be a 15 minute limit on the debate time. This can be extended by group conscience when needed. If not extended, a vote will occur after 15 minutes of debate. If the vote is split or near split the discussion may continue or be tabled according to group conscience.
- That a member may not speak for a second time in a discussion period until all members of the committee who wish to speak have had a chance to have their say.
- Members are requested to speak additional time ONLY if they are speaking in rebuttal or response to another member or bringing new information to light.

(NOTE: I left this last point in because it was in my initial proposal but I would like to withdraw it.)

STATUS: Previously tabled without discussion

4) Determination of Issue Priority

Out of my desire to have everybody included in making decisions for the committee, I thought this should be done by the committee as a whole. I now think that's not the best idea as it would take up a lot of the committee's time. I respectfully request that the group allow the chairperson, as guided by the advisory committee, to determine the order in which issues will be discussed.

5) Use of the SMR Zoom Room for General Fellowship (continuation)

Discussion to establish if the committee feels that the SMR members that attend the after meeting Fellowship time have the right to use the SMR room at all.

Comment #14 suggests that the people who attend the aftermeeting fellowship time are a subgroup and therefore, by precedent, do not have a right to use the room. If it is decided by the committee that the group does not have a right to use the room then further discussions by this committee of specific topics is irrelevant.

If this committee decides that those who participate in General Fellowship DO have the right to use the zoom room then comment 14 has additional concerns.

Please prepare by familiarizing yourself with comment #14 (Please reference PDF document with numbered comments) as well as the final report of the committee referenced in that comment (attached) and suggested definitions of the word 'subgroup' sent in an email by Suzanne.

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New Topics:

7) Should General Fellowship time be limited or open ended?

Time permitting, begin discussion whether the Fellowship time should be limited or open ended.