

BALLOT ORIENTATION GUIDE

The ORIENTATION GUIDE is intended to support informed group conscience in keeping with ACAD Traditions and Concepts of Service. It does NOT recommend how members should vote and does NOT change group policy or voting procedures.

The 2026 WSO Ballot Proposals include a substantial amount of information for members to review within a limited timeframe. (See below.)

The purpose of this GUIDE is to provide a brief orientation document to help our group review the ACAD World Service Organization (WSO) ballot proposals in a clear and focused way before voting. This document is intended to summarize key information and organize the proposals so members can better understand what is being considered and how certain proposals may affect ACAD groups.

The purpose of this ORIENTATION DOCUMENT is to provide information and context for group review, not to recommend or direct how members should vote. Approval of this SMR proposal would simply allow the document to be used as a guide for members to review WSO Ballot proposals and does not change group policy, voting procedures, or group autonomy.

The goal is to present the information in a neutral, concise format that helps the group stay focused on the proposals most relevant to ACAD Traditions, Concepts, governance, and fellowship literature.

ACAD literature also reminds us that recovery includes learning to become our own loving parent and making thoughtful decisions rather than reacting from our wounded inner child.

ACAD recovery also encourages members to move beyond the Drama Triangle of victim, rescuer, and persecutor and toward healthier patterns of vulnerability, caring, and assertiveness when working together.

This orientation document is intended to:

- Explain why the ballot proposals matter to our group.
- Identify which proposals most directly affect ACAD groups and the service structure.
- Organize proposals into tiers of relevance.
- Provide brief summaries with possible benefits and concerns.
- Help members understand how proposals relate to ACAD Traditions, Concepts, and fellowship literature.
- Prepare members for informed group conscience voting before opening the formal WSO ballot vote.

The hope for this document is to help prevent confusion, support informed decision making, and allow our group to focus on the proposals most relevant to ACAD recovery, literature, and service structure while participating thoughtfully in the WSO ballot process.

TIER 1 – PROPOSALS MOST RELEVANT TO OUR ACAD SMR GROUP

"Proposal 2026-20 – Worldwide Voting on Ballot Proposals"

Why it matters: This proposal affects whether worldwide ACAD groups or conference delegates make the final decision on proposals.

As it stands: Ballot proposals are voted on by delegates at the Annual Business Conference.

Possible benefit: Broader participation from ACAD groups worldwide.

Possible concern: Conference discussion may have less influence on final outcomes.

"Proposal 2026-7 – Limit OPPM to WSO / Committees"

Why it matters: Major fellowship policies would go through the conference process rather than the operations manual.

As it stands: The OPPM currently contains both operational procedures and some fellowship policy guidance used by WSO and the conference.

Possible benefit: Clearer separation between operations and fellowship policy.

Possible concern: More matters may require conference approval.

"Proposal 2026-21 – Immediate Ballot Proposal Access to Delegates"

Why it matters: This provides groups more time to review proposals and form group conscience.

As it stands: Ballot proposals are released according to the current ABC ballot timeline, with delegates receiving them during the preparation period before the conference.

Possible benefit: More thoughtful fellowship review.

Possible concern: Minimal operational downside.

"Proposal 2026-22 – Revisions to WSO Analysis of Ballot Proposals"

Why it matters: This proposal focuses on transparency and allows additional fellowship input before final conference discussion.

As it stands: WSO provides an analysis of each proposal to help delegates understand the proposal and its potential impact before voting.

Possible benefit: Greater transparency and fellowship input.

Possible concern: May lengthen the review process.

"Proposal 2026-4 – Literature Price Increases Approved by Delegates"

Why it matters: This determines whether literature pricing decisions remain with WSO operations or require approval from delegates representing groups.

As it stands: Literature pricing decisions are currently handled by WSO operations, and delegates do not vote on price increases.

Possible benefit: Greater fellowship oversight of pricing.

Possible concern: Operational decisions may become slower.

"Proposal 2026-6 – Conference Approval of Budget for New Literature Projects"

Why it matters: This increases delegate oversight over how fellowship funds are used for literature development.

As it stands: Budgets for literature development are currently managed through WSO committees and the Board as part of operational planning.

Possible benefit: Greater transparency in fellowship spending.

Possible concern: Conference approval could slow project development.

TIER 2 – FELLOWSHIP STRUCTURE

"Proposal numbers: 2026-8, 2026-9, 2026-10, 2026-11, 2026-12": These proposals relate to governance procedures or service body processes within the fellowship. Examples include proposals addressing petition processes, regional certification, committee requirements, bylaw alignment and governance procedures. These proposals affect how ACAD service bodies operate but generally have less direct impact on individual meetings.

TIER 3 – LITERATURE AND FELLOWSHIP EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

"Proposal numbers: 2026-13, 2026-14, 2026-15, 2026-16, 2026-17, 2026-18, 2026-19": These proposals involve creating or developing literature or educational materials related to ACAD service or fellowship structure. They may influence how information is shared across the fellowship but do not directly change governance authority.

TIER 4 – OPERATIONAL / ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

"Proposal numbers: 2026-1, 2026-2, 2026-3, 2026-5, 2026-23, 2026-24, 2026-25, 2026-26, 2026-27, 2026-28, 2026-29": These proposals primarily address internal WSO operational processes or administrative procedures. While important for the functioning of WSO, they generally have limited direct impact on individual ACAD meetings

OVERVIEW PURPOSE...

This document is intended to help our ACAD SMR group focus on proposals that most directly affect governance, group participation, fellowship literature, and the relationship between ACAD groups and world services.