

ACR Electioneering Policy

Introduction

In 1997, the ACR Council approved the recommendations of the report of the Governance Committee. In one of its recommendations, the Governance Committee “strongly suggest(ed) that strict limits on electioneering be imposed.” In addition, the committee expressed concern that the election process itself could become a time-consuming distraction for the Council that already meets too infrequently. In response, the initial ACR Policies and Procedures discouraged campaigning but did not outright prohibit this practice. No current formal ACR policy addresses campaigning.

Current policy does provide a mechanism for candidates to communicate their views as follows:

- a. A submission in the ACR Election Manual provided in advance of the meeting to all councilors. The Election Manual includes a photo of each candidate as well as a standardized CV, which includes relevant biographical information and personal comments provided by the candidates.
- b. An opportunity to provide a two-minute speech to the ACR Council during the Annual Meeting.
- c. An opportunity to address individual councilors at a “Meet the Candidates” Forum during the Annual Meeting.

In 2008, the ACR Council passed Resolution 41, directing the ACR Council Steering Committee to develop and implement binding regulations for candidate communications and to publish those regulations in the ACR Election Manual as well as directly to the candidates.

The Council Steering Committee is considering the following approach to fulfill the intent of Resolution 41.

- I. Prohibition against mass distribution of campaign materials via e-mail, FAX, phone and other electronic media (including all forms of social media).
- II. Prohibition against mass mailing of campaign materials to councilors or alternate councilors.
- III. Prohibition against distribution of campaign buttons, stickers, pens, or any similar items prior to or at the ACR Annual Meeting.
- IV. Prohibition against display or distribution of campaign posters, balloons or other visual aids at the ACR Annual Meeting and at any other meeting or event where multiple ACR members, councilors, alternate councilors, members of the Board of Chancellors, or officers of the College are expected to be present.

- V. Candidates may make a limited number of personal phone calls to support their candidacy.
- VI. Candidates may visit the geographic and specialty caucuses that they would normally attend at the ACR Annual Meeting. They may be introduced to the caucus, but may not deliver a campaign speech.
- VII. Failure to abide by these election rules may result in the disqualification of the involved candidate for the elections held during the affected ACR Annual Meeting. Any candidate who violates these rules may, at the discretion of a committee composed of the speaker, vice speaker and chair of the College Nominating Committee, be declared ineligible for election in that year and have his or her name stricken from the ballot.
- VIII. Questions concerning the appropriateness of electioneering activities should be directed to the ACR Office of Governance and Member Engagement at 800-227-5463 ext. 4998 or tbehbahani@acr.org.