

Speaker Communiqué – March 2016

Dear Colleagues:

I hope this email finds you well as we await the arrival of spring. In this Speaker's Communiqué I would like to discuss an often discussed topic over the past few years: delegate engagement.

AACP has a well-established structure and flow to the roles and responsibilities for AACP Delegates and the House of Delegates. I would like to not only outline that for us, but to challenge our way of thinking about it to increase when and how delegates can participate in the policy process as well as identify more opportunities to debate policy than we thought.

Before the Annual Meeting:

Beginning in May the Delegates have the opportunity to participate in the Policy Webinars to learn about what has been brought forward with respect to resolutions, policies, etc. Two dates are provided, May 10th at 3pm EDT and May 18th at 4pm EDT, to ensure that you have a chance to participate in one.

These are important because they allow you as a delegate to work with the faculty and administrators at your institution to discuss any relevant issues and bring forward comments and/or concerns. Some topics, such as our new Strategic Plan, have far-reaching implications for our academy as a whole and as a result our own institutions as well. Given the challenges we collectively face it is important that we all use our voices. The topline priorities that frame the new plan were released during the 2016 Interim Meeting in Tampa last month and were included in the February delegates [Bulletin](#) you just received. If you have any comments please feel free to email them to: 2016plan@aacp.org

At the Annual Meeting (July 23 – 27):

As was presented in the last House of Delegates Bulletin, your schedule at the Annual Meeting is:

- Sunday, July 24 – 7:00 a.m. Delegate Sign-In
- Sunday, July 24 – 10:00 a.m. First Session of the House of Delegates
- Monday, July 25 – TBD Special Session: Reports of Standing Committees
- Tuesday, July 26 – Noon Open Hearing: Bylaws and Policy Development Committee
- Wednesday, July 27 – 7:00 a.m. Delegate Sign-In
- Wednesday, July 27 – 10:00 a.m. Final Session of the House of Delegates

Historically we have operationalized the actions of the House of Delegates into two sessions, the first session and the final session, with the final session being when delegates vote on any action items brought before the House.

I would like to present a different slightly out of the box view that reflects that our academy actually has three House of Delegate sessions. In between the first session and the final session of the House of Delegates is the Open Hearing: Bylaws and Policy Development Committee (BPDC). At this session each

action item being put forth is presented for open discussion with all comments being recorded by the BPDC members.

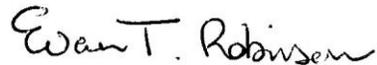
So....since this is a session where Delegates and non-delegates are presented with action items being considered by the House of Delegates, and there is the opportunity to ask questions and debate, this certainly sounds like a pseudo-meeting of the House of Delegates! Furthermore, it is my intent to extend an invitation to each recommending body (i.e. section, SIG, committee, etc.) to send a representative to the Open Hearing to ensure that if clarifications are needed they would be available to the Delegates in real-time.

So as you plan for the AACP Annual meeting this summer in Anaheim, plan to attend the Open Hearing with the intent of asking questions and engaging in discussion. Our academy has a lot to consider going forward in addition to the 2016 Strategic Plan, so it is important that we all get involved! As you can see, as a Delegate you have a unique and important role in this process.

Should you have any questions or comments throughout the upcoming year please feel free to contact either [me](#) or House Secretary [Lucinda Maine](#) at any time.

All my best and I hope to hear you on one of our upcoming Webinars as well as chat with you in Anaheim!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evan T. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Evan Robinson
Speaker, House of Delegates