



USACM – The U.S. Public Policy Council of ACM

Mission

The U.S. Public Policy Council of ACM (USACM) is chartered as the focal point for ACM's interaction with U.S. government organizations, the computing community, and the U.S. public in all matters of U.S. public policy related to information technology and computing, except issues in science and math education relevant to computing and computer science, which is the responsibility of the Educational Policy Committee (EPC). The USACM Council supersedes the former ACM U.S. Public Policy standing committee.

The USACM is authorized to take official policy positions. These positions reflect the position of the USACM and not necessarily that of ACM. Policy positions of USACM are decided by a majority vote of the USACM Executive Committee.

Organization

The USACM Council is composed of a Chair, a Vice Chair, an Executive Committee and other members as described below. In addition, the USACM Council may establish Committees to address specific policy areas.

The Council

Chair

The USACM Chair is appointed by the ACM President for a term of two years, beginning July 1 in even-numbered years. The Chair must be an ACM member in good standing, a U.S. citizen, preferably with seniority in the field, several years experience with USACM, and an established expertise in public policy issues related to computing. The ACM President may appoint co-Chairs.

Vice Chair

The USACM Vice Chair is appointed by the USACM Chair, in consultation with the ACM President. The term length and qualifications for the Vice Chair are the same as for the Chair. The USACM Chair may appoint Co-Vice Chairs.

SIG Representatives

The SIG Governing Board selects two individuals for the USACM Council. These individuals serve staggered two-year terms starting July 1, and may be reappointed. These members are expected to represent SIG interests and concerns to the USACM.

General Members

The Chairs of all USACM Committees (see below) are members of the Council. In addition the general membership of the Committees votes to elect six of their members to the Council. These individuals serve two-year terms, starting January 1, with half elected in alternating years. Candidates must have at least one year of active service in a Committee before standing as a candidate.

All former chairs of USACM are general members of the Council.

Ex Officio Members

The following people are ex officio, nonvoting members of the Council and its Executive Committee (see below):

- The ACM CEO
- The chair of ACM's Education Policy Committee
- The chair of the ACM Europe Policy Committee
- The ACM President or the President's designee, if any
- The director of ACM's Policy Office

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chair, Vice Chair, immediate Past Chair, the SIG Board representative with the longest tenure in USACM, and four additional Council members selected by the Chair. The four additional Council members will be chosen two from committee chairs, and two from generally-elected representatives. The Chair's selections will be approved by the USACM Council for a term of 1 year, starting January 1. Appointed members may have their terms renewed for no more than 3 additional terms.

Committees

The Council may establish Committees to address specific policy areas of interest to USACM. These Committees report to the Council. Committee Chairs are appointed by the Chair of USACM in consultation with the Executive Committee.

Committees shall not make representations on behalf of USACM or ACM.

Any member of ACM in good standing may join one of the Committees with the approval of the Chair of USACM upon consultation with the appropriate Committee Chair. The combined voting membership of all Committees forms the general membership of USACM.

Qualified ACM members may be members of any number of Committees simultaneously or serially. There is no time limit on Committee membership so long as good standing in ACM is maintained, and so long as there is active participation in those Committees.

All members of Council are ex officio members of all Committees.

The Council may establish or remove a Committee on a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of its members.

Operating Procedures

Developing Policy Positions

USACM's positions may be developed within its Committees, its Council, or its Executive Committee. Positions are vetted within the Council when time permits. Decisions are made in one of three manners:

- a) the Council holds an in-person meeting with at least one week notice, with a simple majority of voting members constituting a quorum. A simple majority vote of those present is required for a decision; or
- b) an on-line or phone vote of the full Council is taken, with a simple majority of all voting members required for a decision; or
- c) in person, by phone, or on-line, a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the voting members of the EC required for a decision.

The USACM Chair will decide if a vote will be asked of the EC or the full Council, except that the EC must vote on any issue that requires a decision in less than 72 hours from the time voting is initiated. No voting period will extend for longer than 7 full days.

Electing Council General Members from USACM Committees

A nominations committee shall be appointed by the Chair of USACM by October 15th of each year to solicit candidates; the committee shall be chaired by one of the elected members of the Council whose term does not expire at the end of the current year, and will include the Vice Chair.

Qualified members may also establish candidacy upon submission of a petition of at least 10% of current general membership of USACM within 15 days of the announcement of the selections of the nominating committee.

The election shall be supervised by the USACM Council.

Filling Vacancies for Council General Members

When one of the Council positions for general members becomes vacant before October 1, the nominations committee empaneled for the most recent USACM election will have up to 1 month to develop a list of zero or more candidates for the position. Those candidates must be drawn from the general committees membership and meet all requirements for the position. The USACM Council will vote on the candidates, and the individual receiving a majority of positive votes will fill the vacant position for the remainder of its defined term.

Bylaws Changes

These Bylaws may be modified by a 2/3 vote of the USACM Council conducted with at least one week's notice. Any Bylaw change must be ratified by the ACM Executive Committee.

Adopted: March 27, 2009. Revised: February 9, 2012 (amending appointment year for the Chair and amending establishment of committees); July 23, 2013 (amending the voting approval process for policy positions); March 4, 2015 (amending appointments of the Vice Chair and Council General Members); January 8, 2016 (adding ACM Europe Policy Committee Chair as ex officio).