

Membership and Ethics Standing committee Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation

1. Remit

- 1.1 The standing committee will take delegated responsibility on behalf of the RTPI Board of Trustees for managing entry to membership, growing and retaining existing membership and maintaining professional standards, ethics and discipline.
- 1.2 The standing committee receives its duties and responsibilities from the board. Responsibilities can be delegated to subordinate bodies but the committee is ultimately responsible for how these duties are discharged.

2. Composition and support

- 2.1 The standing committee shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees.
- 2.2. The standing committee's composition shall be determined by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the regulations.
- 2.3 Composition of the standing committee is outlined in the regulations
- 2.4 The chair and vice chair of the committee shall be appointed by the board on the recommendation of the chair of the board in consultation with the chief executive.
- 2.5 Either the chair or vice chair will be a board member.
- 2.6 The chair of a standing committee is appointed for a two-year term.
- 2.7 The maximum term on a standing committee is 6 years, after which there must be a break of at least one year.
- 2.8 Casual vacancies to the standing committee shall be filled by the RTPI Nomination Sub-Committee.

3. Quorum

- 3.1 The quorum necessary for the transaction of business shall be one third of the composition of the standing committee.
- 3.2 In the event of a tied vote, the chair of the committee shall exercise a casting vote as well as a first vote.

4. Conduct of Business

- 4.1 The standing committee shall meet three times a year. The chair shall determine whether business should be conducted face to face, electronically or by telephone.
- 4.2 Members can be present via electronic means with the prior approval from the chair.
- 4.3 Meetings of the standing committee shall be called by the secretary of the standing committee, at the request of the standing committee chair who shall determine the date.

- 4.4 Unless otherwise agreed, notice of each meeting confirming the type of meeting venue, time and date, together with an agenda of items to be discussed, shall be forwarded to each member of the standing committee and any other person required to attend no later than 5 working days before the date of the meeting. Supporting papers shall be sent to standing committee members and to other attendees as appropriate, at the same time.
- 4.5 Dates of meetings will be decided prior to 1st January of each year. Dates can only be varied upon agreement of the chair of the committee and the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

5. Minutes

- 5.1 The minutes secretary will ascertain, at the beginning of each meeting, the existence of any conflicts of interest and ensure that these are minuted.
- 5.2 The secretary shall minute the proceedings and resolutions of all standing committee meetings, including the names of those present and in attendance.
- 5.3. Minutes of the standing committee meetings shall be circulated promptly to all members of the standing committee.
- 5.4 Items or minutes which contain commercially sensitive information, contractual issues, issues relating to employment, legal proceedings, information provided in confidence or which identify an individual shall be marked as confidential.
- 5.5 Minutes and papers for the standing committee shall be in accordance with the Institute's service standards.

6. Reporting responsibilities

- 6.1. The standing committee chair shall report formally to the board on its proceedings after each meeting on all matters within its duties and responsibilities.
- 6.2. The standing committee shall make whatever recommendations to the Board it deems appropriate on any area within its remit where action or improvement is needed.

7. Decisions delegated to the Membership and Ethics Standing committee by the Board of Trustees

7.1 For determination

- Overseeing classes of membership and the criteria for admission to each class, including their structure.
- Consideration and approval/refusal of applications to¹;
 - Chartered Member
 - Associate Member
 - Technical Member (class to be closed as part of R2M Ph2)
 - Affiliate Member
 - Legal Associate

¹ The Board delegated to the Nominations Sub Committee the power to elect members to Fellowship

- Student Member
 - Licentiate Member
 - Retired Member
 - Reinstated Membership
 - Any other category of membership that the board sees fit.
- Custodian of the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) process and any other process associated with the above listed categories of membership.
 - Membership activities and support and the conduct of all members including any code or codes of conduct and the development of professional ethics.
 - Investigation and determination of complaints made against members.
 - Determination of appeals against non-accredited routes to chartered membership and other membership classes.

7.2 For consideration and recommendation back to the Board of Trustees for decision

- Any changes to the membership structure that includes alteration to the byelaws or regulations.
- Any substantial changes to the criteria for membership to any category.
- Changes to the membership function that have a material financial implication.
- Recommendations regarding application fees for membership.
- The appeals mechanism arising from the work of the committee in relation to any of the above classes.
- The establishment or disestablishment of subordinate bodies.

7.3 Delegation to Officers

The standing committee delegates the following to the Director of Professional Standards and Development or their nominee:

- Election to the following membership classes: Student, Licentiate, Affiliate, Reversion to Chartered, Transfers to Retired and Reinstatement to membership.
- Determination of appeals against individual APC decisions.

The Membership and Ethics Committee delegates the following to the Head of Membership

- Authority to backdate a membership (only in “exceptional” circumstances where the Institute is at fault. “Exceptional” will be at the discretion of the Head of Membership in consultation with the Chair).

The Membership and Ethics Committee delegates the following to the Chief Executive

- The authority to amend the Membership and Ethics Standing Committee Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation should any changes to the regulations or byelaws result in an inconsistency.