



**International Association  
of Business Communicators**

## **International Committee Candidate Briefing**

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for considering a position to serve on an IABC international committee.

IABC is the only global association connecting communicators with the people and insights they need to drive business results. Our international committees play a key role in helping us achieve our purpose to advance the profession, create connection and develop strategic communicators. As a volunteer serving on an international committee, your collaboration with a global community of industry peers will help us deliver on this mission -- which has never been more important than it is today.

This Committee Candidate Briefing sets out essential information for guiding your decision to serve including:

- Expectations, roles and responsibilities.
- Eligibility.
- Requirements.

Please study these materials carefully and don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions: [leader\\_centre@iabc.com](mailto:leader_centre@iabc.com).

Thank you for stepping up to serve, support, and make an impact at the global level.

Kamyar Naficy  
Immediate Past Chair, International Executive Board  
Chair, IABC Nominating Committee



## About IABC's International Committees

IABC's international committees and task forces help develop programs, represent member voices in decision-making and further the goals of IABC. Serving on an international committee is a wonderful opportunity for leadership experience working with leaders around the world.

A few things worth noting up front

- This is a self-nomination process.
- Terms start upon approval of the IEB slate during the June International Executive Board meeting.
- All committees meet via video-conference using Zoom Conferencing, usually monthly unless otherwise stated.
- Committee Chairs serve three consecutive one-year terms with automatic succession from Vice Chair to Chair and to Past Chair.

[You can find all IABC's international committees listed here.](#)

[Explore](#) the committee Terms of References.

### Why Serve?

Volunteer leadership at the international level can be an exceptionally rewarding experience, both professionally and personally.

#### Stretch your intellectual muscles.

Opportunity to leverage your expertise and use your knowledge of the field to help advance the profession.

#### Build your network and contacts!

Connect globally with amazing IABC thought leaders and learn from the best.

#### Dive deep into a new skill!

You will have the opportunity to focus on a specific area and either learn a new skill or enhance your knowledge base.

#### Have fun!

You will get to know your committee members, have some laughs (maybe a lot!) and have a chance to build professional connections that will last a lifetime.



## Current International Committees

Committees/task forces looking for applicants:

- Audit & Risk\*
- Awards
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Ethics
- Fellows
- Foundation Grant Selection Task Force
- Professional Development & Content
- World Conference Program Advisory Committee

*\*These committees are part of open-call, but not evaluated by the IABC Nominating Committee. Instead, these candidates are appointed directly by the IABC Chair.*

## Eligibility To Serve on an International Committee:

To be eligible to serve on the IABC international committee the applicant must:

- Be a current IABC member in good standing.
- Have no conflict of interest (e.g. may not serve concurrently on a competitive industry board or have another IABC commitment unless service term will end in time for the new committee term – July 2025).
- Complete all application requirements by the 16 March 2026 11:59 p.m. CDT deadline. (No late applications will be accepted.)
- Have the time available to fully participate (see below for time requirements).

*\*Candidate has not been found in violation of IABCs Code of Ethics for the Professional Communicator or in violation of the Code of Conduct.*

## Where to go from here?

1. Carefully review the committee descriptions.
2. Whether applying for one or more, please review the competencies and capacity page further along in this document
  - *Please note that you will use your IABC Profile login to access the application.*
3. Follow the Application Checklist carefully – and apply!



## Audit & Risk Committee\*

- Role:** The Audit & Risk committee is a regular standing committee whose role is to act on behalf of the international executive board to bring objective oversight to:
- material aspects of the association’s financial reporting, internal controls and external financial audit.
  - identification, evaluation and (where relevant) mitigation of risks, by management, the IEB and its committees.
- Responsibilities:**
- Financial reporting audit oversight.
  - Financial risks and controls oversight.
  - Risk management and mitigation oversight.
- Estimated time commitment:** Members can expect to dedicate anywhere from 3-5 hours per month.
- Current vacancies:**
- 2 Members (one-year term)

*Per IABC Bylaws Article 10, the IABC Chair appoints members of this committee.*

Learn more about Audit & Risk committee and IABC bylaws

<https://www.iabc.com/About/Purpose/Bylaws>



# Awards Committee

**Role:** The IABC Awards Committee is chartered to serve as partners with IABC staff in executing the IABC Gold Quill Awards, the leading awards program for communication professionals.

**Responsibilities:**

- Conduct reviews and contribute to documents on the Leader Centre, providing alignment information for chapter and region award programs.
- Collaborate with staff to develop an annual plan for the IABC Gold Quill Awards program.
- Contribute to the professional relevance of IABC awards programs through periodic reviews of entry categories, entry and evaluation processes, and recognition of award recipients.
- Ensure high quality evaluation of IABC Gold Quill awards, linked to the Global Standard, through evaluator selection and training.
- Protect and grow the reputation of IABC Gold Quill Awards through ensuring quality judging/evaluations globally.

**Estimated time commitment:** Members of this committee can expect to dedicate 1-2 hours per month on committee work. However, during March-April, hours may be up to 10 hours per month.

**Current vacancies:**

- Vice Chair (one-year term, 3-year commitment with automatic succession to Chair and Past Chair).
- 1 Member (two-year term).

Learn more about the Awards committee and Gold Quill Awards:

<https://gq.iabc.com/>



# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

- Role:** The IABC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee ensures that DE&I are woven into the fabric of the association at all times. In this capacity, the Committee executes on elements of IABC's DE&I strategy in conjunction with IABC staff.
- Responsibilities:**
- Collaborate with staff to develop high-level annual action plans and priorities based on the task force recommendations (e.g., diversity demographic dashboard) and other inputs from member and industry research.
  - Advise staff on the development of DE&I resources for members and the communications community.
  - Assist the International Executive Board (IEB) and other committees in incorporating diversity, equity and inclusion into the goals and objectives of the association.
  - Ensure IABC maintains a global and inclusive view of diversity.
  - Encourage all IABC volunteer leader's commitment to social and racial justice.
- Estimated time commitment:** Members can expect to spend anywhere from 1-3 hours per month.
- Current vacancies:**
- Vice Chair (one-year term, three-year commitment with automatic succession to Chair and Past Chair).
  - 4 Members (one-year term).



# Ethics Committee

**Role:**

The IABC Ethics Committee is responsible for input to the IABC International Executive Board (IEB) on policy, standards, strategic development, education and monitoring in relation to ethical matters and upholding the IABC Code of Ethics.

**Responsibilities:**

- Keep the IABC Code of Ethics current and aligned to the current Bylaws of IABC.
- Consider and adjudicate ethical issues and concerns brought before the committee, including issues with the Code of Conduct.

**Estimated time commitment:**

The work of this committee varies by term pending open ethic investigations. Members can expect to spend anywhere from 1-3 hours per month.

**Current vacancies:**

- Vice Chair (one-year term, 3-year commitment with automatic succession to Chair and Past Chair).
- 2 Member (two-year term).

*Per IABC Policy Manual Appendix A, the IABC Executive Committee conducts interviews and selects members of this committee.*

Learn more about the IABC Code of Ethics:

<https://www.iabc.com/About/Purpose/Code-of-Ethics>



# Fellows Committee

**Role:** The Fellows Committee is a regular standing committee of the Board responsible for evaluating annual nominations and making recommendations to the IABC Executive Board (IEB) for new IABC Fellows each year. This committee is also responsible for input to the IEB on policy, standards and strategic development of the IABC Fellows program.

**Responsibilities:**

- Selection of new IABC Fellows.
- Governance of the Fellows Program.

**Estimated time commitment:** Members of this committee can expect to spend 2-3 hours per month on committee work. However, during evaluations in January, expect up to 10-15 hours of work.

**Current vacancies:**

- Vice Chair (one-year term, 3-year commitment with automatic succession to Chair and Past Chair).
- 4 Member (two-year term, Fellow, Fellows Selection Sub-Committee).
- 1 Member (two-year term, Non-Fellow, Fellows Selection Sub-Committee).



# Foundation Grant Selection Task Force

**Role:** The IABC Foundation Grant Selection Task Force is a time-limited action team who conducts the evaluation, selection and recommendation of all IABC Foundation grants or scholarships. All recommendations are sent from the task force to the Foundation Trustees for final approval.

**Responsibilities:**

- Task-force will execute the established evaluation process against all IABC Foundation grant and scholarship programs.

**Estimated time commitment:** Members of this committee can expect to dedicate 1-3 hours per quarter on committee work.

**Current vacancies:**

- Chair (one-year term).
- 4 Members (one-year term).

*\*This is a working task force that operates at the direction of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.*

Learn more about the Gift of Excellence Grant Program:

<https://www.iabc.com/About/Purpose/IABC-Foundation>



# Professional Development Committee

- Role:** The Professional Development (PD) Committee oversees IABC's professional development programs, sets strategy for IABC's educational offerings to members and non-members, and surfaces ideas and topics for IABC's content platforms.
- Responsibilities:** The committee ensures that IABC's offerings are consistent and high-quality across platforms, including: World Conference, monthly webinars and other presentations offered to members and fee-based offerings for non-members, and IABC's online publication, *Catalyst*, and podcast, PodCatalyst.
- Estimated time commitment:** Members can expect 5-10 hours dedicated to the work of this committee each month.
- Current vacancies:**
- Vice Chair (one-year term, 3-year commitment with automatic succession to Chair and Past Chair).
  - 1 Member (two-year term).



# World Conference Program Advisory Committee

**Role:** The Program Advisory Committee (PAC) is a programmatic committee that works collaboratively with IABC Staff to put on a World Conference that delivers a phenomenal experience and unparalleled value to communication professionals from around the globe. We are seeking both PAC members and evaluators.

**Responsibilities (Member):**

- Conduct research and planning for programmatic theme, defining and developing relevant content programming.
- Provide counsel and recommendations to meet IABC strategic directives and measurable outcomes.
- Provide annual feedback and recommendations for addition to the World Conference Strategic Directions Framework.

**Responsibilities (Evaluator):**

- Responsible for evaluating up to 25 concurrent session submissions
- Attend two meetings throughout the year regarding responsibilities and finalized World Conference program

**Estimated time commitment:** Members of this committee can expect to dedicate 1-2 hours per month on committee work. However, during November-December, hours may be up to 10 hours per month during the evaluation period.

**Current vacancies:**

- Vice Chair (one-year term, 2-year commitment with automatic succession to Chair).
- 8 Members (one-year term).
- 10 + Evaluators (one-year term)

Learn more about World Conference, visit: <https://wc.iabc.com/>



# IABC's International Committee Structure

IABC has two different types of committees – board committees and programmatic committees. All committees report to the International Executive Board and work in alignment with the board approved strategy and budget as well as the association's mission and strategic plan.

## Board Committees

- Audit & Risk
- Ethics
- Finance
- Membership
- Nominating
- Council of Regions

## Programmatic Committees

- Awards
- DE&I
- Fellows
- PD & Content
- World Conference PAC
- Foundation Grant Selection TF

## Forms Required:

All members of the international committees must sign a confidentiality agreement, an acknowledgement of the Conflict of Interest policy and an intellectual property agreement when the committee turns over for a new term each year in July.



## Capacity

Being a volunteer-led association, IABC benefits from the generosity of members giving their time at international, regional and chapter levels. We do ask you to consider your capacity to take on a committee role if you are already an active volunteer for the association. As part of the application process we ask you to inform us of any other posts you currently hold within IABC.



# How to Apply

Please fill out the application form for the committee in which you'd like to serve. Ensure that your reference is aware they will be asked to provide a letter of recommendation. However, please note that they will be contacted directly by IABC with instructions on how to do that and what the letter should entail.

IABC uses an online form platform for committee applications called Open Water. We also use this system for various other programs at IABC such as Gold Quill and Leadership Institute. If you have never used Open Water before with IABC, you can login with your IABC Profile login. You will have the option to save as you go.

Any further questions about how to apply or the process, please reach out to [leader\\_centre@iabc.com](mailto:leader_centre@iabc.com).

## Timeline

- Closing date for applications ..... 16 March 2026
- Application review, referencing & scoring ..... March 2026
- Nominating Committee selection meeting ..... March 2026
- Final appointment and approval by full board ..... April 2026
- Outreach to all candidates ..... April 2026

