

THE FACTS ABOUT OUR MEETING POLICY

March 2018



Q What have we done to our meetings policy?



A. We've revised the policy about guests attending our committee and board meetings, and we've provided guidance on implementation, giving individual chairpersons a degree of needed discretion.

Q Is it true that we went from an open meetings policy to a closed meetings policy?



A. No. Both the old and the new policy recognize that our meetings may have both public, or "open," and confidential, or "closed," portions as appropriate to the committee's purpose. We have always welcomed, and we continue to welcome, people with a genuine reason to attend and, in some cases, participate. Recently, for example, we were pleased to have a representative from the Treasury Department as a guest.

Q Why did we need to do this?



A. After at least two meetings' proceedings were inappropriately posted on blogs and other meetings experienced disruption, it became clear that we needed to update our policy to preserve our commitment to openness and participation, but at the same time maintain order and the high professional level of discussion necessary for committee and board business to be done.

Q What are the criteria for being admitted as a guest?



A. As always, we welcome members of the profession and others with a genuine interest in the subject matter of the meeting.

Q What would cause someone to be denied guest privileges?



A. We are not looking for reasons to exclude people. Our chairpersons have broad discretion. A request might be denied, for example, for conflict of interest, seeking inside information that would be improperly used, a history of interrupting or disrupting Academy meetings, or participating in a pending or threatened lawsuit against the Academy.

Q What is the overall policy goal of the guest rule?



A. To provide what we call "orderly transparency." Striking that balance builds trust in our committee processes, in the robustness and frankness of our committee deliberations, and the high professional quality of our outcomes, whether standards or policies.