**ACNP Summer Council Meeting Minutes**
**Wednesday, July 29, 2026**
**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST**

*Deanna Barch, Ph.D., Presiding*

Susanne Ahmari
Victoria Arango
Tracy Bale
Bill Carlezon
Cynthia Crawford
Neill Epperson
Paul Kenny
Helen Mayberg
Dost Ongur
David Rubinow
Rita Valentino

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| Council-Elect: | Olusola Ajilore<br>Carlos Bolanos-Guzman<br>Carolyn Rodriguez | (Have voice but no vote) |
| Associate Members on Council: | Andrea Goldstein-Piekarski<br>Hilary Marusak | (Have voice but no vote) |
| Executive Director: | Sarah Timm | |
| Staff: | Erin Shearon<br>Kat Coffen | |
| Apologies: | Yasmin Hurd | |

1. ***Program Committee Report*** – Tallie Z. Baram and Holly Lisanby, Program Committee chairs, presented the Program Committee report to Council. The chairs congratulated the Program Committee for completing their reviews on time. T. Baram advised that 157 proposals were reviewed with 15 discussed during the meeting. Forty-eight of those proposals were accepted based on scores prior to the meeting. The committee did not fill all available slots in the program, leaving 2.5 slots remaining. T. Baram also advised that the acceptance letters have been modified to include the request for including the potential clinical relevance of their discoveries at the onset or end of their talks based on feedback received from D. Barch and Council. It was questioned if there was a significant difference in the description of categories submitted versus accepted in comparison to last year's program. T. Baram noted there were fewer submissions last year on schizophrenia and this year eight were submitted and three were accepted in the program. It was advised the notification letters will be sent to the chairs later this week. T. Baram noted that the diverse makeup of the Program Committee represents the diversity and makeup of the membership. T. Baram also suggested that Council consider using one of the open slots

for a second Promising Targets session as this session is highly attended each year. The Promising Targets session showcases and promotes discussion around the most recent and exciting clinical and translational neuropharmacology findings. Submissions for this session will open in the fall. Council thanked the Program Committee for their hard work and thanked the chairs for their efficient and effective leadership this year. Council was reminded when viewing the accepted sessions to keep this confidential.

**Strategic Goal 3: Publications** - ***NPP, NPPR, DPN, and the ACNP website will continue to increase the impact of the journals and their value to our members while disseminating cutting-edge and diverse research in our field through our journals, website, and social media.***

2. ***DPN Principal Editor's Report*** – B. Carlezon presented the DPN Principal Editor's Report. He advised the journal is working with the same editorial team that launched DPN three years ago with the exception of Britton Barbee, who was added as the DPN Editorial Intern. He reminded Council that DPN is an open access, online only journal with the current article processing charge of $2,290 per article. A major accomplishment for DPN over the past few months is that it is now listed in PubMed, which required an application process. Now all DPN papers are visible on PubMed rather than only on the website. The journal applied to Clarivate last September to receive an impact factor. The evaluation period is between 12 and 15 months, so the journal is hoping for feedback later this year and an initial impact factor in 2027. Springer Nature provided an internal analysis on the journal and provided suggestions for the application before DPN applied. The suggestions included increasing an international representation on the Editorial Board and a consistent cadence of publishing to ensure articles are spread over month to month. One of the DPN article types is Primers, which are short papers. DPN has a consensus article that is almost ready to be published with 12,000 words on biomarkers in psychiatry. DPN added an Editorial Board member with expertise in medical ethics who specializes in the ethics of AI. DPN published its first Registered Report in April. This format allows authors to submit their methodology and the paper is accepted when the research is done, regardless of outcome. DPN is planning a collection on addition research in a digital era that will be co-edited by Chloe Jordan and Brenda Curtis. DPN has established a presence on Reddit and LinkedIn. This is consistent with ACNP's efforts to engage with both specialists and the lay public. The goals for the upcoming year are to continue staying the course while the journal waits for an impact factor. Springer Nature provided several vouchers when the journal launched to attract content for the journal. DPN's acceptance rate is 50%. DPN would like to join the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), which facilitates transfers from other journals and publishers. DPN continues to publish AI podcasts on every DPN paper. Although podcasts are AI-generated, the editor who handled the paper provides a brief introduction to maintain a human touch.

   B. Carlezon requested the support from Council to establish a top paper award, the DPN Align Award. This award will recognize research that increases alignment among psychiatry, neuroscience, digital technologies, and ways that advance mental health. The Align Award will emphasize the journal's central mission of aligning psychiatry and neuroscience. The award would consist of waived registration to the annual meeting, a plaque, and a $1,500 honorarium. In the case of a tie, the honorarium will be split in half but only one winner would receive waived registration. There was a motion, second, and all of Council approved the creation of the DPN Align Award. Bill Carlezon abstained from voting. Council thanked B. Carlezon and DPN staff for all their hard work and efforts. It was questioned if there was anything Council could do to amplify the engagement with DPN. B. Carlezon thanked Council for all their support.

3. ***NPP Co-Principal Editor's Report*** – Lisa Monteggia and Tony George attended the meeting to present the NPP Report to Council. Council apologized to the Principal Editors and Editorial Board for not involving them more in communicating the process for selection of NPP's new publisher. The Executive Committee met and discussed a plan to change the process moving forward to include feedback from the editors and assure there is a diverse representation on the task force with respect to members' association with other journals/publishers. D. Barch advised that the Principal and Senior Editors will receive a formal letter by end of week that outlines the process and changes moving forward to address the concerns raised during NPP Development Day. D. Barch emphasized that the editors' input is highly valued, but the lack of communication was due to potential conflicts of interest. The Principal Editors thanked Council for their apology, and advised that the Senior Editors were upset that they were not included and felt blindsided by the decision. She stated the journal is doing very well and continues to be transparent with the Editorial Board. L. Monteggia advised the impact factor rose to 7.6 with all metrics increasing across the board. For 2026, the number of submissions is up by 35%, set to increase another 12% this year and is on track to break the record number of submissions in 2020 (COVID-related year). NPP's time to first decision is 24 hours. For papers sent out for review, NPP is averaging around 30 days for feedback to authors. NPP's big initiative in 2026 is NPP Briefs, which is similar to a brief report; however, only has one figure or table and 1500 words. This can include negative data. The paper will either be accepted, rejected, or if there is a revision, no additional experiments are needed. The APC charge for NPP Briefs is discounted 50%. NPP announced the new article type during the January 2026 Annual Meeting and has received over 40 submissions. T. George reminded Council that the editors are handling more papers each year, with submissions increasing from 1,500 to 1,600. It was questioned if the increase to submissions is due to AI and if the journal has found any good solutions for identifying the AI-driven papers. The editors noted that they have seen more submissions from members of the College, and are still receiving volunteers from people to review. The Principal Editors are requesting an increase to the editors' stipends from $6,500 to $7,500 a year. There was a motion, second, and all of Council were in favor of supporting the increased stipend from $6,500 to $7,500. Council thanked the Principal Editors for their hard work.

   S. Timm advised that the Executive Office is working through the steps and timeline to communicate to membership and the scientific community regarding the transition of publishers. The roll-out plan will align with Elsevier's plan. The Elsevier contract was signed two weeks ago so the details of the transition plan are still being finalized. The Executive Office plans to continue to improve communication with the editors and then to membership. K. Coffen noted that the communication will be through a lens of the

Council and ACNP. S. Timm noted that the communication to members will include information on the discounted APCs for members as well as information on additional funds to assist members with APC charges given the government's recent changes with publications and open access. S. Timm also advised that our current royalties with Springer Nature are around 30-40% and will be closer to 50-60% with Elsevier. B. Carlezon questioned whether we were able to negotiate waivers for DPN once DPN transitions to Elsevier in 2028. S. Timm advised that we were able to secure some waivers around invited content such as reviews; however, that in the future we could discuss holding a set amount in the College's use of funds for waivers if needed.

4. ***Website Editor's Report*** – Todd Lencz attended the meeting to present the Website Editor's Report. T. Lencz advised that there is nothing novel to report and that they are recording numbers on the pages visited and this has been consistent over the years. He advised the home page slider has generated quite a bit of outbound traffic to the journals with around 1,000 outbound clicks per year. An additional several thousand outbound clicks are within the website such as the president's letter and other notifications. The functionality of the website works well; however, as discussed during the January Council Meeting, the website could use an update or refresh as it is almost ten years old. S. Timm advised that the website will be updated in 2027 once the new brand guide and communication strategy (to be discussed later in the agenda) is solidified. Council thanked T. Lencz for all his work on the website.

**Strategic Goal 1: Excellence in College Membership** - ***The College will include the most respected, diverse scientists focused on disorders of the brain, and these Members will present at the Annual Meeting while working to enhance the careers of talented investigators by providing mentorship and guidance.***

5. ***ACNP's Brand Review*** – Amanda Brahlek and K. Coffen, PMG, provided an update on ACNP's brand guide and communication strategy with recommendations on next steps. A. Brahlek advised the goal of creating the ACNP Brand Guide is to serve as a foundational nucleus for how people will represent the College. The brand guide includes at-a-glance who ACNP is, instructions for anyone drafting emails on behalf of the College, making website changes, or creating graphics for social media for example. This will provide continuity in terms of who is behind those communications. The mission, vision, core purpose, and core values are the heart and center in representing the College, and all communications and marketing should align with those. The brand guide includes a description of the audiences, which the communication strategy will expand upon. K. Coffen presented the communications strategy that is the verbal identity and overall communications framework to help protect the College's brand. The communication strategy establishes a guiding principle that provides consistency across every channel, audience, message, and communication delivered by the College. The overall goals include communicating what member science makes possible, being the trusted resource in this space around evidence-based information and bringing that complex research into practical application. K. Coffen emphasized the importance of doing this now given the apparent loss of public trust in science and research. Council has agreed to adopt the honest broker strategy which expands and clarifies the range of legitimate options the

evidence supports, so decision makers can choose among them. The College will communicate the truth and the reality around that. The College has established its audiences as the membership, the scientific community, and the policymakers and regulators. K. Coffen addressed the channel strategy including internal channels and external channels. The internal channels are the annual meeting, membership updates, partner updates, and year-round engagement. The external channels are advocacy callouts, science announcements, podcasts, publications, the ACNP website, and social media. The communications strategy establishes a specific frame of messaging and how/what we are going to be communicating, implementing message discipline, visibility gaps for both internal and external channels and message connection. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor of approving the brand guide and communications strategy.

6. ***Proposal from Experience & Resilience Committee on RWLE –*** Council reviewed the proposal from the Experience & Resilience Committee. As a reminder, Council requested the Experience & Resilience Committee to explore whether the ACNP should establish a researcher with lived experience (RWLE) subcommittee and to consider opportunities for increasing inclusion of RWLE in the College. The committee established a small working group that concluded it is premature to recommend establishing a formal RWLE subcommittee as additional information is needed to better understand the level of interest within the College and the most appropriate approach to engaging this community. The committee has requested to first conduct an anonymous member survey to better understand the prevalence of lived experience among members and to gauge interest in RWLE-related initiatives. The working group acknowledged that many researchers may not feel comfortable identifying themselves publicly due to the stigma associated with self-disclosure even though attitudes toward disclosure are evolving. Additionally, another approach to raising awareness and identifying interested members is to feature an interview in an upcoming ACNP Bulletin with a researcher who has lived experience. The committee will also discuss this topic for potential inclusion in the January 2028 Experience and Resilience Symposium or special topics session proposal. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor of the anonymous survey and upcoming Bulletin article.

**<u>Strategic Goal 2: Annual Meeting</u> - *The ACNP Annual Meeting will be consistently acknowledged as an exceptionally stimulating forum that provides attendees with opportunities to easily connect with one another and broaden their understanding of emerging research advances while providing the opportunity for early career scientists to emerge as future leaders in the field.***

7. ***Special Topics Session –*** D. Barch provided an overview of the Special Topics proposals submitted by committees and task forces. Council has 3.5 session slots that are open to fill for Special Topics sessions. After reviewing all proposals, it was suggested to not allow the committees who already have annual meeting scientific events (Career Development Committee, Empowerment Committee, and Experience & Resilience Committee) to submit Special Topics proposals in the future. After discussion, Council agreed to select the following Special Topics sessions based on review scores.

- Two-Hour Session – *Successes and failures in translational research: an honest accounting of animal models behind current clinical treatment* – Animal Research Committee
- Two-Hour Session – *Ethical Guardrails in AI in Mental Health: Confronting Bias, Harm, Privacy, and Equity* – Constitution, Rules, and Ethics Committee
- Two-Hour Session – *Developing Drugs for Symptom Domains versus Disorders: Practical and Regulatory Considerations* – Liaison Committee
- 50-Minute Session – *Research Resilience in Neuropsychopharmacology: Sustaining High-Impact Science Under Pressure* – Experience & Resilience Committee in collaboration with the BIPOC Subcommittee

Council suggested that the Experience & Resilience Committee consider working together with the Empowerment Committee who submitted a similar proposal. Council also suggested including a question in the application next year that asks if sessions can be adjusted to 50 minutes.

8. ***Annual Meeting Access and Affordability Task Force*** **–** D. Barch discussed the recommendations from the Annual Meeting Access and Affordability Task Force with Council for final review and approval.

- ***Empowerment and Experience & Resilience Committee Luncheons*** **–** The task force recommended proceeding as in past years with collecting RSVPs in the fall for both the Empowerment Luncheon and the Experience & Resilience Luncheon. Instead of plated lunches, each lunch will be served buffet-style, with the same menu as the main buffet lunch. Each luncheon is scheduled for two hours. The first hour would be reserved for attendees to go through the buffet line, finding their seat, and open networking. The second hour would be reserved for programming. This would eliminate the need for tickets to these events. The rooms would be set based on the RSVP numbers provided. This would start with the January 2027 Annual Meeting. There was a motion, second, and all of Council approved.

- ***Committees and Task Forces*** **–** The task force recommended limiting committee and task force events to two during the annual meeting. This would only affect the Experience & Resilience Committee who currently have three events (networking breakfast, luncheon symposium, and networking reception). The Experience & Resilience Committee would be able to choose which two events they would like to host.

  The task force also recommended limiting the networking receptions to only one drink ticket instead of providing two drink tickets. These receptions immediately follow the poster sessions where two drink tickets are already provided. It was questioned if attendees could use their unused drink tickets from the poster session for the networking receptions. S. Timm advised that the Meetings Manager will need to confirm this is possible with the hotel.

These recommendations would start with the January 2027 Annual Meeting. There was a motion, second, and Council approved both recommendations with the caveat that the hotel would allow the poster drink tickets to be used at the networking reception.

- ***Annual Meeting Program* –** The task force recommended reducing the travel stipend for panels and study groups to $3,000 from $4,000 and mini-panels from $2,500 to $1,500. Any changes recommended by the task force to Council would not go into effect until the January 2028 Annual Meeting as funding has already been communicated in the submissions for the January 2027 Annual Meeting. Council was reminded that Associate Members are eligible for the funding stipend every year while non-members cannot receive funding two years in a row.

  There was a motion, second, and all were in favor. It was suggested to track the finances over the next few years to see if Council would like to reduce the funding stipend for panels, mini-panels, and study groups even further.

- ***Annual Meeting Recordings*** – The task force recommended eliminating cameras in the session rooms and only record the audio and slides of presentations. This would not include the President's Plenary and Distinguished Lecture sessions. This would result in a reduction of $20,000 in recording costs. This recommendation would start with the January 2027 Annual Meeting. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor.

- ***CME Credits*** – The task force recommended increasing the cost of CME credits from $40 to $75. The cost of CME credits has not been increased in over ten years. This recommendation would start with the January 2027 Annual Meeting. D. Barch advised that the Executive Office did a cost comparison with other similar societies managed by PMG and ACNP's CME cost was lower compared to other associations. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor.

- ***Welcome Reception* –** Council discussed if the College should continue serving mixed drinks at the Welcome Reception and was provided the cost comparison data over the past few years. The 2024 data is misleading as their cocktails were not that much more expensive, and with the reception being outdoors in a tight space it was harder for people to make it to the bars. The hotel served pre-poured wine and distributed that at the entrance to the reception and at the bar lines to help alleviate the lines. The pricing for cocktails at the January 2027 Annual Meeting in San Diego is $6 more than beer/wine. The task force voted on this after their last meeting via email and the votes were mixed on if the College should continue serving mixed drinks or not. Concern was raised by Council that the College could receive complaints from attendees. There was a motion to not serve mixed drinks at the Welcome Reception, a second, and Council did not approve this motion. N. Epperson and D. Rubinow abstained from voting. Mixed drinks will continue to be served at the Welcome Reception.

9. ***Annual Meeting Additional Funding*** – D. Barch discussed ideas for additional funding for early-career faculty to attend the annual meeting. Council was reminded that the Early-Stage Investigator Assistance Program (ESI) will open in October. This initiative, led by the Career Development Committee, supports ESIs to attend the annual meeting. This program funding is needs-based, rather than merit-based. Eligible expenses include a five-night hotel stay, dependent care (i.e., childcare or eldercare), economy airfare, and ground transportation up to $2,500. Ten awards are given each year based on a randomized drawing. There was a proposal to add an additional ten awards for Associate Members only with no further criteria to apply. There was a second and all of Council approved.

**<u>Strategic Goal 4: Collaborative Relationships</u> - *Through collaborative relationships with academia, industry, government, and patient advocacy organizations, the College will be viewed as a valued resource and disseminator of information on brain disorders and their treatments.***

10. ***Participating Corporation Application*** – Council reviewed the participating corporation application from Ovid Therapeutics, Inc. The Participating Corporation subcommittee (reports to the Liaison Committee) recommended approval of Ovid Therapeutics, Inc. as a participating corporation. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor of approving Ovid Therapeutics as a participating corporation.

11. ***Discussion on Advocacy Efforts*** – During the January Council meeting, Council reviewed the College's current advocacy efforts and discussed if the College should be doing more to advocate for science. S. Timm reminded Council that as a 501c3 organization, we are not allowed to do anything other than educate, so the College has leaned into supporting other organizations such as the ABC and Research!America. S. Timm advised the College has been partnering/supporting on the following over the past year:

    - Partnering with the American Brain Coalition on congressional briefings
    - Sending updates to membership on key topics such as the Accelerating Medical Treatments for Serious Mental Illness Executive Order and OMB Proposed Rule on Federal Financial Assistance.
    - Partnering with Research!America on their advocacy efforts.

    K. Coffen advised that the College or ABC can employ a lobbyist to advocate and educate on behalf of the issues of ACNP; however, we cannot participate in any partisan-centered or focused advocacy initiatives or support any advocacy initiatives that are speaking to voting for a specific person or party. K. Coffen advised that College members can participate on Hill Days to educate and inform elected members of Congress about science-related issues. It was questioned if there was something bigger that Parthenon Management Group could take on such as a business prospect where PMG could advocate for other organizations PMG manages. After discussion, Council agreed to stay the current course as things are continuing to evolve and if the Executive Office finds another initiative that would be a good match for the College to join, to bring that to

Council for discussion. It was questioned if the College could widen our audience in communications and advocacy as we are primarily speaking to members of the College and scientific community. K. Coffen advised that we utilize the language to policymakers and regulators through things such as the OMB comments, as well as through participating on Hill Days. After the College has had a chance develop the communications strategy, there could be opportunity for the College to create resources and toolkits that can help empower and inform our membership about how they can take a position to act as an honest broker and address conversations they may be having with policymakers and regulators.

12. ***ACNP Translational Accelerator Program Proposal* –** N. Epperson and P. Kenny provided an overview of the proposal for an ACNP Translational Accelerator Program. It was advised that this proposal originated from the discussion in the January Council Meeting on how the ACNP Annual Meeting conflicts with the JP Morgan Meeting in January, and many of our industry colleagues attend the JP Morgan Meeting. Many ACNP members generate insightful and potentially transformative ideas about how to treat neuropsychiatric disorders, grounded in rigorous molecular, cellular, systems-level, and clinical science. However, there remains a gap between these discoveries and the development of patient-ready interventions for neuropsychiatric disorders. The Translational Accelerator Program would select between five and six of the most compelling ideas from applications from our membership that are looking to move from the lab to the clinic in a pitch showcase, similar to Shark Tank, where a core judging panel, distinguished translational advisors, industry and venture representatives, and invited observers could ask questions and the participants could receive direct feedback from judges and advisors. The selected recipient from the judges scores would receive a $10,000 prize in recognition of the strength and impact for their therapeutic concept. The goal would be for the awardee to move their idea to the next stage. This session at the annual meeting would be a closed-door session as the ideas pitched would be confidential. It was noted there may be additional costs outside the $10,000 to facilitate this type of session and a task force could be established to flush out the details. There was a motion for a task force to be established to work out the details and report back to Council for final approval, a second, and all of Council approved. S. Ahmari volunteered to participate on the task force.

**<u>Strategic Goal 5: Financial Stability and Use of Reserves</u>** - ***Earnings from investments and/or the investments themselves will first be used to ensure the stability of the College and then will be used to support programs and initiatives that advance activities important to the mission of the College.***

13. ***Treasurer's Report* –** It was advised that the Executive Office anticipates receiving the FY26 Audit Report in early fall. D. Rubinow presented the Treasurer's Report to Council. He advised that around 80% of our assets are invested in the stock market. The College has doubled the value of our investments since 2019. During that same time, the NASDAQ has risen 179% and the S&P 500 has risen 130%. The College has around $22M in total cash and investments. The total net assets are almost $29M which includes PMG and the building. D. Rubinow also pointed out that the cost of our annual meetings

continues to rise with the highest cost being for the January 2027 Annual Meeting in California.

An updated FY2027 Budget was presented to Council with an additional $10K added for ground transportation airfare for journal staff, interns, Special Project Managers, journal awardees, etc. that was not included in the budget presented in April. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor of the updated FY2027 Budget.

Council was also provided the June Income Statement Balance Sheets as well as investment reports from Olimpio Neu, Vanguard, and Wells Fargo.

14. ***National Academies' Neuroscience Forum Membership*** – Council reviewed the request from the National Academies' Neuroscience Forum to renew the 2026-2027 Forum membership which is $10K. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor of approval. It was advised that Sahib Khalsa, 2025 Liaison Committee chair, is the current ACNP representative.

**<u>Operational/Governance Items</u>**

15. ***New Office Building*** **–** S. Timm provided an update on the new office building. She advised that renovations are being finalized at the new building with contractors and the goal is to move into the new building by mid-October or early November. S. Timm plans to record a walk-through video of the new building once it is completed with renovations. She advised there is potential to host the summer Council meeting there in-person one day. PMG is in the process this week of moving from two floors in our current building to one floor while the new owner moves to the bottom level of the current building. Council congratulated S. Timm on the purchase of the new building and sale of the current building.

16. ***Temporary Hardship Membership Leave Policy*** **–** Council reviewed the proposed policy for a temporary hardship membership leave. The College recognizes that members may occasionally experience significant personal or professional hardships that temporarily prevent them from maintaining active membership. The purpose of this policy is to preserve long-term engagement with the College by allowing qualifying members to remain affiliated during periods of documented financial hardship. A Fellow, Member, or Associate Member in good standing may apply for a Temporary Hardship Membership Leave if they experience a substantial financial hardship resulting from circumstances including, but not limited to:

    - Loss of primary employment
    - Loss or non-renewal of grant funding resulting in unemployment or significant incomed reduction
    - Extended medical leave or disability affecting employment or income
    - Family medical circumstances creating significant financial hardship
    - Other extraordinary circumstances deemed appropriate by Council

Applicants must have been members in good standing for at least one year immediately preceding the request. Applications will include a written request describing the hardship, supporting documentation demonstrating financial hardship, and the anticipated duration of the hardship. All applications and supporting materials will be treated as confidential. Applications would be reviewed by the Executive Committee or other committee designated by Council, who will make recommendations for approval or denial. Either the Executive Committee or Council will make the final determination. The Temporary Hardship Membership Leave may be granted for up to one year with a max of three years total (does not have to be consecutive years). During the membership status leave, members may not participate in any College activities such as voting in elections, holding office, serve on committees, serve as a reviewer, moderator, speaker, or other official College representative, attend the annual meeting, submit abstracts to the annual meeting, invite guests to the annual meeting, nominate applicants for membership, travel awards, or other College programs, or receive any member discounts or benefits that require active membership. Members on leave will continue to receive College communications unless they request otherwise. Upon written notification that the qualifying hardship has ended and payment of the applicable annual dues, the member shall be restored to full active membership without reapplication. There was a motion, second, and all were in favor of approving the Temporary Hardship Membership Leave.

17. ***Slack*** – Council discussed if they would like to continue using Slack as a means for communication. It was advised the College currently pays $116-$142 per month for this service. Council agreed to continue to use Slack.

**Information Items:**

18. ***Committee & Task Force Reports*** **–** Council was provided the committee updates without action items.

19. ***Strategic Plan*** **–** Council was provided the update to the Strategic Plan.

20. ***Council Meetings During the Annual Meeting*** **–** As a reminder, Council will only meet on Saturday, January 9th from 12:00pm – 6:00pm and Tuesday, January 12th from 7:00pm – 9:30pm during the January 2027 Annual Meeting.

21. ***January 2026 Annual Meeting Carbon Footprint*** **–** Council was provided the below summary for the carbon footprint of the January 2026 Annual Meeting at the Atlantis in the Bahamas. The College will pay $14,837.81 to One Tree Planted and $14,837.81 to Charity:Water.

**<u>2026 Carbon Offset Summary</u>**

The estimated carbon footprint for the 2026 Annual Meeting was 1,595.46 metric tons of $CO_2$, resulting in an estimated carbon offset cost of $29,675.63. The calculation was based on 1,809 in-person attendees, with approximately 25.2% classified as long-distance travelers, 74.1% as middle-distance travelers, and less than 1% as short-distance travelers, for an average offset cost of $19.78 per attendee.

**Comparison to 2024**

Compared with the 2024 Annual Meeting, the estimated carbon footprint increased from 1,358.89 to 1,595.46 metric tons of $CO_2$, with the estimated offset cost increasing from $25,275.34 to $29,675.63. Although the 2026 meeting had fewer in-person attendees (1,809 vs. 2,061), the overall carbon footprint was higher, likely due to changes in travel patterns and other meeting-related operational inputs included in the calculator. Both meetings were four days in length, so the increase is not attributable to meeting duration.

***22. NNCI Update* –** Council was provided the latest update from NNCI.

***The meeting concluded at 2:54pm Eastern.***