ACLS

ACLS Guidelines for Delegates

The ACLS Delegates are the representatives of ACLS member societies, professional bodies that serve a wide array of disciplines, interdisciplinary studies, and area studies in the humanities and social sciences.

The Role of the Delegates

The Delegates serve as the bridge between their academic societies and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). As trusted voices in their fields, they are integral to ensuring their societies' needs and concerns are represented in national and international academic discussions. Their functions include:

- *Representing the interests of member societies*: As the primary academic voice of each member society, Delegates convey the intellectual and professional concerns of their communities to ACLS. This helps shape the strategic direction of ACLS initiatives and helps align ACLS's priorities with the evolving needs of fields and disciplines.
- *Connecting ACLS with the societies*: Delegates are expected to contribute to enrich their society's knowledge of ACLS's aims and activities.
- *Setting the scope of ACLS membership*: Delegates are responsible for determining which societies may belong to ACLS.
- *Selecting the Haskins Prize recipient*: Through the EC, the Delegates select the recipient of ACLS's most prestigious award, the Haskins Prize.
- *Strengthening our fields*: Delegates are active contributors to the growth and vibrancy of the humanities and social sciences through their involvement in ACLS activities.

In concrete terms, Delegates are expected to:

- Elect an Executive Committee that selects the Haskins Prize winners and reviews society applications for membership in ACLS (both processes involving consultation with the Delegates community).
- Complete occasional surveys (typically once per year) that provide feedback on ACLS activities and convey issues/concerns from the member society to ACLS, and/or attend meetings for the same purpose.
- Share materials provided by ACLS staff with their society Board or membership, as appropriate.
- Attend Delegates meetings online and in person whenever possible.

Delegates are also invited to contribute in other ways, choosing the activity that is appropriate to their position, workload, experience, and especially their interests.

- Support grant and fellowship competitions: Delegates may recommend qualified reviewers or volunteer to serve as a reviewer themselves.

- Join a Delegates Forum on issues of critical relevance to ACLS and the future of the humanities and social sciences. These groups foster dialogue among Delegates about scholarly and professional norms and the challenges facing scholars today. Forums will be virtual and occur 2-3 times per year, though members may wish to gather and continue the conversation at ACLS events or conferences or other venues. Themes may include academic freedom, advocacy for HSS fields, doctoral education, scholarly norms, or increasing diversity. The members of the Executive Committee of the Delegates, working with ACLS staff, will determine the themes and co-host the meetings.
- Delegates are also invited to attend ACLS conferences and events, where they can participate in discussions, meet fellow scholars, and contribute to shaping the future of the humanities and social sciences.

In addition:

Delegates may be called upon for their expert advice on matters pertinent to their fields by the ACLS President or the Chair of the Board. Their understanding of academic trends, scholarly needs, and community-building initiatives allows them to offer valuable perspectives that inform ACLS's work and decision-making.

Delegate Selection and Organization

Delegates are nominated by the Executive Directors based on each society's individual process. Executive Directors will check in with their delegates annually to confirm their continued participation and notify ACLS of any changes. While there is no set maximum term for delegates, ACLS recommends a limit of eight years to encourage a diversity of perspectives from each society. Throughout the year, ACLS will offer orientations for new delegates, providing them with insights into the organization and the significance of their role.

Typically, Delegates are currently serving or have recently served on their own society's board. ACLS encourages the selection of Delegates with experience on society board committees responsible for professional matters, research and scholarship, publishing, and/or graduate education. Administrative experience is desirable, either in the college/university (e.g. chair, dean) or in the society, but it is not required. Delegates may be retired or working outside academia.

The Executive Committee of the Delegates (EC) will number approximately one tenth of the total society membership; for example, the EC would include eight members for a total society membership list of 80. Nominations for service in the EC of the Delegates will be solicited from the Delegates, the ACLS Board, and the Executive Committee of the CEO, and the final selection will be made by the ACLS Board Executive Committee. The Executive Committee must include representation from large, medium, and small societies and from different sectors in the humanities (history, languages/literatures, the arts, area studies, philosophy) and the social sciences. Its membership should embody broad demographic diversity.

The Chair of the Executive Committee of the Delegates sits on the ACLS Board. Executive Committee members may be offered a travel stipend to attend ACLS meetings or convenings.