

Section 16

Emerging Fields & Technologies

NUMBER 16.1: VICE PRESIDENT – EMERGING FIELDS & TECHNOLOGIES

Approved: Spring 2026

POLICY

The Vice President – Emerging Fields & Technologies (VP-EFT) provides leadership to the Board regarding emerging fields and technologies that may influence INFORMS, its members, the broader profession, and the public.

Because emerging fields and technologies frequently intersect multiple portfolios, the VP-EFT shall work collaboratively within INFORMS' governance structure and in coordination with other Vice Presidents and committees.

PROCEDURES

Election and Term

The VP-EFT is elected in accordance with the INFORMS Bylaws. The term of office and eligibility for re-election are governed by the Bylaws.

Responsibilities

The VP-EFT shall:

- Chair the Committee on Emerging Fields & Technologies and guide its work;
- Monitor and assess emerging areas relevant to INFORMS, informed by member activity, conference activities, journal submissions and usage, industry practice, funding trends, academic enrollment, and other available indicators;
- Ensure that assessments of emerging areas are evidence-informed and grounded in systematic review of available information;
- Provide coordination by identifying duplication across INFORMS communities and committees and recommend opportunities for alignment, collaboration, and shared initiatives;
- Provide advice on a natural home within INFORMS (if one exists) for initiatives in an emerging field;
- Make publications aware of emerging fields as potential focus areas for that venue or potential special issues;
- Make recommendations to the Board and, as appropriate, to other Vice Presidents, related to emerging fields and technologies. Some potential examples include recommendations:
    - to ensure INFORMS is well-positioned as a thought leader in relevant emerging areas;
    - to elevate or increase the visibility of emerging areas within INFORMS activities for internal and external collaboration opportunities;

- where emerging technologies may affect INFORMS' internal operations or member services.

Reporting

The VP-EFT shall submit written reports to the Board twice per year in accordance with Section 2.1, General Committee Procedures.

Relationship to Other Bodies

The VP-EFT may consult with the Strategic Planning Committee and other standing committees as appropriate.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

INFORMS Constitution and Bylaws
INFORMS Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 2.1 General Committee Procedures
INFORMS Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 14 Strategic Planning
INFORMS Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 16.2 Committee on Emerging Fields & Technologies

NUMBER 16.2: COMMITTEE ON EMERGING FIELDS & TECHNOLOGIES

Approved: Spring 2026

POLICY

The Committee on Emerging Fields & Technologies is a standing committee of INFORMS. Its purpose is to support the Vice President – Emerging Fields & Technologies and the Board in identifying, assessing, and recommending actions related to emerging fields and technologies that may be of significance to INFORMS and its fields of interest.

For purposes of this Committee, a field or technology may be considered emerging when it demonstrates sustained or accelerating growth in relevance to INFORMS members, research, education, or practice. Indicators may include increasing activity across multiple INFORMS communities, expanding external investment or policy attention, growing presence in scholarly or professional discourse, or evolving impact on the profession's methods or applications.

The Committee's responsibility includes monitoring areas demonstrating established momentum as well as identifying developments at earlier stages. The Committee shall ground its assessments in systematic consideration of relevant indicators and available evidence. The Committee is expected to assess when proactive engagement or coordination may be appropriate and to provide recommendations to the Board accordingly.

PROCEDURES

Membership

The Committee consists of:

- The Vice President – Emerging Fields & Technologies, who serves as Chair and Board Liaison;
- Four to eight at-large voting members;
- Chairs of the committee's working groups (ex officio, voting);
- A staff liaison designated by the Executive Director (ex officio, non-voting).

At-large members shall be nominated by the VP-EFT and approved by the Executive Committee in accordance with Section 2.1.

At-large members serve two-year terms beginning January 1. Terms shall be staggered. Members may serve additional terms, with approval by the Executive Committee, but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms.

As INFORMS seeks to recognize and promote excellence through a broad range of achievements and inclusive participation within the membership and profession it represents, efforts shall be made to assemble the Committee with a range of expertise and backgrounds. The Committee

should aim for broad representation in professional experiences, employer type, career and education level, areas of expertise, demographics, lived experiences, and other related considerations.

Functions

The Committee shall:

- Systematically assess emerging fields and technologies using relevant quantitative and qualitative indicators to identify meaningful trends and inflection points, which may include patterns in conference submissions and attendance, journal submissions and usage, student enrollment trends, professional demand, funding priorities, and activity spanning multiple INFORMS communities;
- Identify fragmentation or overlap across INFORMS communities and committees and recommend opportunities for alignment or collaboration;
- Recommend how INFORMS may appropriately engage with or elevate emerging areas;
- Advise on emerging technologies that may affect INFORMS' internal operations, processes, or member services;
- Provide oversight and strategic guidance to Working Groups, including reviewing their analyses, integrating their findings into broader Committee deliberations, and facilitating coordination across related efforts;
- Recommend when an emerging area should transition into a stable, long-term governance home within INFORMS;
- Recommend the creation, continuation, or sunset of Working Groups.

Working Groups

Working Groups may be established under the Committee to focus on specific emerging fields or technologies.

Working Groups:

- Operate within the purview of the VP-EFT and report through the Committee;
- Are advisory in nature;
- May include members from outside of the Committee, but must be chaired by a member of the Committee;
- May include members from multiple subdivisions or functional areas;
- Provide updates to the Committee.

While there is no formal cap on the number of active Working Groups, it is recommended that no more than three operate at any given time. This recommendation is intended to maintain strategic focus and manageable workload and to encourage Working Groups either to sunset upon completion of their purpose or to transition into a stable governance home within INFORMS.

Because Working Groups function as subcommittees, their internal governance processes are not specified in this section. The Committee may establish procedures that best reflect the needs, scope, and maturity of each Working Group.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least twice per year and more frequently as determined by the Chair. A quorum shall consist of the Chair and a majority of voting members.

Relation to the Board

The Committee reports to the Board through the VP-EFT. Reports shall be submitted twice per year in accordance with Section 2.1.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

INFORMS Constitution and Bylaws
INFORMS Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 2.1 General Committee Procedures
INFORMS Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 14 Strategic Planning
INFORMS Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 16.1 Vice President - Emerging Fields & Technologies