

Section 8

International Activities

NUMBER 8.1 VICE PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Approved: Fall 2025

POSITION SUMMARY

The Vice President champions INFORMS' global engagement by working collaboratively with the Board, staff, committees, and members. The VP supports international outreach, encourages broader participation from members and prospective members worldwide, and represents INFORMS in international societies such as the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS), all within the framework of Board-approved strategy.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Committee Leadership
  - Chair the International Activities Committee (IAC), which includes geographically diverse members and the IFORS NORAM VP (ex-officio).
  - Ensure regional representation across Central/South America, Asia-Pacific, Europe/Middle East, and Africa, with no more than one member per country.
  - Liaise with other INFORMS committees, including Membership, Meetings, and Chapters and Forums.

- Strategic Engagement
  - Promote joint activities between INFORMS and IFORS, as well as IFORS regional groups, including the Association of European Operational Research Societies (EURO), the Latin American Association of Operational Research Societies (ALIO), the Asia-Pacific Operational Research Societies (APORS), and the North American Operational Research Societies (NORAM).
  - Support international chapters and subdivision-sponsored conferences, including coordination with national OR societies and IFORS when needed.
  - Participate in the evaluation of petitions to form geographic chapters outside the United States.
  - Communicate international issues and opportunities to the INFORMS Board.
  - Recommend products and services tailored to international members.

- Membership Development
  - Champion recruitment, retention, and re-engagement strategies for international members.
  - Support initiatives that enhance member value and experience globally, aligned with INFORMS' strategic goals.
  - Facilitate the exchange of information, ensuring that the needs of members and prospective members outside the United States are voiced, while also communicating organizational priorities back to the International Activities Committee.

- IFORS Representation
    - Serve as the official INFORMS National Representative to IFORS.
    - Coordinate INFORMS votes on IFORS proposals and ballots with the INFORMS Board, Executive Committee, or President.
    - Provide recommendations to the INFORMS President for candidates for the IFORS NORAM Vice President role (three out of every four terms).

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

INFORMS Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 2, General Procedures

NUMBER 8.2 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Revision Dates: Fall 2025; Winter 2010

POLICY

International Activities Committee Charge

The International Activities Committee is charged with advancing INFORMS' global engagement and representation. To fulfill this mission, the committee shall:

- Partner with the INFORMS Membership Committee to ensure the interests and needs of international members and prospective members are reflected in organizational initiatives and decisions.
- Coordinate with the INFORMS Meetings Committee to support the planning and execution of international conferences.
- Collaborate with the Sections and Societies Committee and the Chapters and Forums Committee to strengthen international chapters, international engagement, and support subdivision-sponsored international events.
- Foster strategic collaboration between INFORMS and international organizations, including IFORS and its regional groups (e.g., EURO, ALIO, APORS), to build mutual support, expand shared opportunities, and engage international members.
- Recommend enhancements to INFORMS web content to better serve a global audience.
- Identify and propose products and services tailored to members based outside the United States.
- Undertake additional responsibilities as assigned by the committee chair or INFORMS leadership to further international engagement.

PROCEDURES

Membership

The committee consists of the Chair and 4-7 additional members, plus the IFORS NORAM Vice President (ex-officio, voting). Members serve two-year terms staggered such that at least 1-2 new members are added each year. The Vice President International Activities serves as Chair and Board Liaison.

Committee members are nominated or discussed by the committee and approved by the INFORMS Executive Committee. To be eligible, nominated candidates must have held INFORMS membership for at least one year by the time of their appointment and must maintain active membership throughout their term of service.

To better represent geographical diversity and activities, the committee will include at least one representative from each region: Central/South America, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Middle East, and Africa, and no more than one member from the same country.

Relation to the Board

The International Activities Committee reports to the Board through the Vice President for International Activities. Reports are submitted in writing and should follow the format and schedule requested by the Board.

Meetings

The committee will convene as needed, with a minimum of one meeting per year. Additional meetings, including those of any subcommittees, may be held as necessary and conducted in any format (e.g., in-person, virtual) determined by the relevant chair.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:
INFORMS Policies and Procedures Manual, Section 2, General Procedures

NUMBER 8.3 NORAM VICE PRESIDENT

Revision Dates: Fall 2025; Fall 2024; Fall 2015

POLICY

INFORMS and CORS/SCRO (Canadian Operational Research Society /Sociéte Canadienne de Recherche Opérationnelle) are the constituent societies of NORAM, the Association of North American Operations Research Societies within IFORS. NORAM is entitled to elect one IFORS Regional Vice President to represent NORAM for a three-year term as specified in the IFORS Statutes and Bylaws. INFORMS and CORS/SCRO have agreed that the manner of election is that one of the two societies will be responsible for determining the Vice President.

INFORMS and CORS/SCRO have agreed that the responsibility for determining the NORAM Vice President shall alternate between the two societies according to the following schedule:

- Beginning with the 2016-2018 term, INFORMS shall appoint the Vice President for three consecutive 3-year terms (totaling 9 years).

- This is followed by one 3-year term appointed by CORS/SCRO.

- The cycle then repeats, with INFORMS again appointing the Vice President for three terms, followed by one term by CORS/SCRO.

The Vice President's term shall coincide with the term of the IFORS President and Vice President, beginning on January 1 of a year divisible by three.

The society responsible for the appointment must notify the other society of its selected candidate no later than seven months prior to the changeover date, as specified in Article 5.1 of the IFORS Statutes.

Schedule:

Term	Appointing Organization
2025–2027	CORS/SCRO
2028–2030	INFORMS
2031–2033	INFORMS
2034–2036	INFORMS
2037–2039	CORS/SCRO
2040–2042	INFORMS
2043–2045	INFORMS

2046–2048	INFORMS
2049–2051	CORS/SCRO
2052–2054	INFORMS
2055–2057	INFORMS
2058–2060	INFORMS

PROCEDURES

1. For the year during which CORS/SCRO selects the Vice President of NORAM:

    a) In the Spring of the year preceding the start of the term of office and every twelve years thereafter, INFORMS' Representative to IFORS will solicit from CORS/SCRO the name of their nominee for IFORS Vice-President and the background information necessary to prepare and submit a report to the INFORMS Vice President International Activities. This information will be sufficient to allow the INFORMS Board to discuss the CORS/SCRO nomination.

    b) The Board will consider this request within two months of receipt of the recommendation or request more time for consideration. The Board approves the nominee, or if not, agrees on a statement of concerns or objections that will be conveyed to CORS/SCRO by the Vice President, International Activities.

2. For the year during which INFORMS is to select the Vice President of NORAM:

    a) In the Spring of the year preceding the start of the term of office, and every succeeding three years, except every twelfth year when CORS/SCRO chooses the Vice President, the INFORMS Representative to IFORS will notify the INFORMS Vice President International Activities that INFORMS has responsibility for appointment of an IFORS NORAM Vice-President for the upcoming three-year terms.

    b) The Representative will recommend one or more candidates for consideration. The Vice President International Activities may also recommend one or more candidates for consideration. The Vice President, International Activities will determine one or more names to submit for consideration and ensure each would be willing to serve if asked.

    c) At its next meeting, the Executive Committee will receive a report from the Vice President International Activities that will contain one or more candidates and background information. The Executive Committee will select one candidate to be the proposed nominee for IFORS Vice President. The Vice President International Activities shall notify CORS/SCRO of the INFORMS nominee and solicit comment requesting that comments or assent be provided within two months if possible.

d) At the next INFORMS Board meeting, after receiving comments and/or agreement from CORS/SCRO, but no later than the Annual Meeting, the Vice President International Activities shall put forth a motion to the Board to vote to approve the appointment of the NORAM Vice President, noting the Executive Committee's action and comments and/or agreement received from CORS/SCRO.

e) The Vice President International Activities, will notify the IFORS Secretary of the final selection. The Vice President International Activities will coordinate with the IFORS to notify the candidate of their selection.