

TICC Annual In-Person Meeting

5/19/2017

Attendance: Ashley, Pia, Scott, Ron, Tim J, Rich M., Mary, Tim T, Mandy, Andy, Jamie, Alian, Jennifer

Old Business:

- The committee discussed the ongoing need for the TICC to establish its role when individuals raise complaints about a TI member organization. The committee reiterated that the TI's purpose is an educational function and not a policing agency. Despite this, the TICC does have a responsibility to handle complaints with immediately referring the complaining individual to AAPOR Standards Committee. The TICC decided that when the chair of the TICC receives a complaint, they will inform the rest of the TICC and subsequently conduct an immediate review of the TI member organization. If the complaint is valid, they will work with the member organization to address said complaint. If the complaint is not related to TI disclosure elements, the TICC will refer the complaining individual to Standards Committee. This is consistent with the policy stated in the TI Terms and Conditions D7, which states: [Public complaints about an organization's non-compliance with the TI will be addressed by the TICC. The TICC will use reasonable efforts to investigate and address complaints within 30 days. If the TICC determines that the complaint has merit, the organization will be evaluated in the manner described for a biennial evaluation. Organizations will be allowed to appeal any such determination of the TICC to the AAPOR Standards Committee.](#)
- Initial applications still pending: Russian Opinion Research Center, St. Cloud State University
- Biennial Reviews still pending: [Biennial Evaluation Assignments.xlsx \(open link\)](#)

New Business:

The AAPOR TICC is recommending to Executive Council that AAPOR eliminate the application fee for organizations to join the Transparency Initiative. In the AAPOR Policies and Procedures for Transparency Certification, section A, item 3, it states that applicant organizations will be required to pay to AAPOR an initial application fee at the time that the Certification is submitted and, if applicable, an annual re-certification fee to cover AAPOR's costs associated with processing the TI application and providing ongoing TI monitoring. Since its inception, AAPOR has waived the application fee for organizations which has led to over 80 organizations successfully joining the TI. At this time, the TICC proposes that AAPOR eliminate the fees, in perpetuity. The current cost of the TI to AAPOR is approximately \$30,000, which is a nominal fee for AAPOR to absorb in order to commit the organization to encourage certain disclosure standards from its member organizations.

Peter moved, Mary seconded, unanimous to propose that we eliminate the fees in perpetuity.

Picture from AAPOR Transparency Initiative Panel

