

NERCOMP Solutions Partners Committee Charter

August 9, 2016 – Updated August 2019

NERCOMP Board members have approved the following charter documenting the Solutions Partners Committee procedures and expectations for its work.

Committee Charge: Within the overarching goal of best serving our members, NERCOMP has specific goals for vendor and licensing agreements which define how to prioritize the range of possible services the Partners committee provides. In particular, our specific goals for agreements are to:

- Add value to our membership by negotiating licensing agreements with discounted pricing and negotiated terms and conditions with vendors for products and services members already use or are likely to use in the future to meet their tactical and strategic needs
- Simplify the licensing process for our members by negotiating and/or clarifying legal issues and/or terms with vendors, especially for complex agreements which can be difficult or time consuming for members to evaluate on their own
- Provide our members greater influence in the marketplace by creating a united group of institutions working together for mutual benefit
- Evaluate innovative new products or product areas and highlight up and coming vendors for consideration by our membership
- Work with Solutions Partners to create additional value for the membership through Professional Development opportunities

Leadership Appointment:

Each year, the NERCOMP Board will appoint Committee Chairs, typically from Board membership or NERCOMP staff. Subcommittee Chairs may be either Board or non-Board members. *(NOTE: Per Bylaws, Chairs of Board Committees, e.g. Governance, Finance and Executive, must be Trustees).*

Responsibilities of Chair:

The role of the chair is to provide leadership and accountability for the planning and coordination of the Partners committee to fulfill its charge. Specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Liaison with NERCOMP staff to create and distribute agendas and relevant materials in advance of meetings
- Lead/manage meetings to ensure agenda items are addressed, action/follow-up items are clearly identified and assigned, and all voices are heard
- Be accountable, and hold members accountable, for committee activities, including decision-making and deliverables
- Ensure committee work is progressing in a timely manner and aligned with the NERCOMP Strategic plan and goals
- Provide updates to the Board on Committee activities upon request

[Note: Delegation of tasks is acceptable as long as the chair is accountable and ensures completion.]

Committee Members' Role: Committee members are responsible for the evaluation of potential vendor partnership agreements. Committee members participate in the negotiation process with vendors chosen through the onboarding process outlined in the Vendor and Licensing Vendor Selection Guidelines and Policies (2015). Committee members also make final recommendation to the board for execution of said agreements.

Membership, Selection and Term Length:

- *Membership:* The Solutions Partners Committee shall consist of no less than **4 Board members** plus an additional number appointed from outside Board membership, as needed. The total number of Partners committee members **shall not exceed 15**. NERCOMP staff members who are assigned to each committee will be considered active members of the committee in addition to providing administrative support as necessary.

- Membership reflects the diversity of NERCOMP member institutions and represents a cross-section of the key constituencies involved in the use of information resources in higher education (i.e. Academic Technology, Libraries, Networks or Systems, User Support, Administrative Computing, Research Technology, Faculty, Higher Education Administration, and so on).
- *Selection:* Board members make committee commitments in April after the election of Officers. Potential non-Board members are appointed by the Partners Committee Chair, as needed, by July or as needed.
- *Term Length:* Members are expected to serve a one-year term at a minimum. Appointments are renewable at the discretion of the Partners Committee Chair for up to two additional years. Ideally, after three consecutive years, members rotate off the Committee for a period of at least one year before beginning a new term of service. At the end of each Committee member's service s/he will receive a letter of appreciation from the NERCOMP Board Chair.

Meetings:

Each committee meets as determined by the Partners Committee Chair and membership, no fewer than four times per year.

Decision-making and Procedural Details:

In accordance with NERCOMP's Bylaws, one-half of the total Committee members present shall constitute a quorum and the vote of a majority of the committee members present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall constitute an act of the Committee.

Responsibilities of Members:

Members of the Partners Committee are expected to participate actively in all activities of the committee. Additionally, they are expected to serve as representatives and advocates of NERCOMP in general. Attendance and assistance at the Annual Conference are also encouraged. As these activities represent a significant time and financial commitment, potential members are asked to carefully consider their involvement prior to joining the Partners Committee, including discussing their involvement with their supervisors. Members failing to meet these responsibilities may be removed at the discretion of the Committee Chair. Partners Committee members are also required to sign the Conflict of Interest Policy – Letter of Understanding each year and submit to the Partners Chair.

Reporting:

Based on the work of the committee, the Committee Chair will provide regular feedback to the Board at least four times per year. In accordance with NERCOMP's Bylaws, the Partners Committee will provide a record of each meeting to the Board, as well as make other reports as requested by the Board.