

Consensus and Voting

This is the new recommended language on consensus included in the revised PGS Plan. The language was developed by the GRC to clarify processes to help committees achieve consensus.

- All committees shall use the consensus method to reach decisions and make recommendations.
- Consensus is reached when members mutually agree to a decision and feel their concerns regarding the issue have been adequately addressed. It is not unanimity.
- A quorum should be present when taking action on an item.
- The chair should ensure that enough time is taken so all voices are heard and understood before any effort to finalize a decision.
- When working to build consensus, the Chair can poll the members to determine the level of consensus among the group as follows:

Level One:

I can easily accept the decision or action.

Level Two:

I can accept the decision or action, but it may not be my preference.

Level Three:

I accept the will of the group, but I don't necessarily agree with the decision or action.

Level Four:

I cannot accept the decision or action.

- If consensus cannot be reached after 2 meetings or if the chair or co-chairs determine that consensus is not possible and further discussion would jeopardize committee timelines, a vote will be taken.
 - A simple majority (50% plus one) will carry the motion.
 - The group(s) in the minority will have the option to forward a minority report along with the recommendation.