



# AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

## BYLAW AMENDMENT MOTIONS TEMPLATE

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**PROPOSED BY:** The National Consortium of Clinical Educators

**TITLE:** AMEND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY TO ALLOCATE ONE POSITION FOR AN INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED IN CLINICAL EDUCATION

### **MOTION LANGUAGE:**

That the bylaws be amended on page 8 lines 12-13 in Article V. Officers, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Section 1: Composition by striking the words “consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five at large Directors” and adding the words “be the officers, and five Directors-at-Large. One position on the Board of Directors shall be designated for an individual involved in Clinical Education (i.e. Director of Clinical Education (DCE) or full-time core faculty member on the Clinical Education Team, Site Coordinator of Clinical Education (SCCE), Clinical Instructor, Clinical Administrator/Manager). The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member without vote.” so that it would read:

### **Section 1: Composition**

A) The Board of Directors of ACAPT shall ~~consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and five at large Directors.~~ **be the officers, and five Directors-at-Large. One position on the Board of Directors shall be designated for an individual involved in Clinical Education (i.e. Director of Clinical Education (DCE) or full-time core faculty member on the Clinical Education Team, Site Coordinator of**



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Clinical Education (SCCE), Clinical Instructor, Clinical Administrator/Manager). The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member without vote.

### **SUPPORT STATEMENT:**

ACAPT Consortia were the primary mechanism for members of the academic physical therapy community with shared interests to connect to the national organization. Consortia fostered engagement and networking within and across the organization and brought a large, diverse group of volunteers to ACAPT. As Consortia sunset and the new streamlined organizational structure begins to emerge throughout this year, there is a need to ensure continued engagement of this broad network of PT educators. The NCCE is proposing two independent but related motions for consideration with the goal of ensuring that all academic and clinical educators continue to feel that they belong in ACAPT. The two bylaw amendments provide options for (1) expanding the rights of individual members and/or (2) expanding leadership representation. Adopting these individually or collectively will help to ensure continued engagement of all members of the academic physical therapy community, which is critical for the continued success of the organization.

The purpose of this proposed revision to the ACAPT bylaws is to expand representation of the Board of Directors to be inclusive of both academic and clinical educators and promote a culture of team leadership. ACAPT has fostered a broad and inclusive vision of academic physical therapy since its inception. The organization strives to serve and represent all members of academic physical therapy including academic and clinical educators. Its strategic plan infuses academic and clinical education objectives within each goal, highlighting the importance of integrating these two components in the pursuit of excellence in academic physical therapy.

While ACAPT is strategically invested in the concept of PT education as a fully integrated whole, its leadership composition is more restricted. Current bylaws stipulate that only members that serve as their institution's ACAPT Representative are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee. With the vast majority of ACAPT's 265 Representatives being Program Directors/Chairs, it is not surprising that the Board and Nominating Committee have consistently been comprised of academic administrators (Program Directors, Chairs and Deans). To date, only one clinical education core faculty member has ever been slated for a Board position but was not elected. The need to tap into the expertise of clinical education faculty (academic and clinical) and expand the representation of the Board and Nominating Committee is integral to bringing ACAPT's strategic plan to fruition.

CAPTE recognizes the dual components (academic and clinical) of PT education and the integral role of both the program administrator and clinical education coordinator in overseeing these components. ACAPT also recognizes the value of the leadership team in PT education and is currently developing a leadership team training that will emphasize the importance of working cohesively. The [call for proposals](#) for development of this new workshop describes the leadership team, including the DCE, as the bedrock of PT programs. Purposefully allocating at least one position on the Board of Directors for a clinical education faculty member will foster this culture of leadership collaboration and teamwork within the profession and serve as a model for its member institutions.



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With the reorganization of ACAPT in 2023, the National Consortium of Clinical Educators (NCCE) will sunset making this a pivotal time to institute this bylaw amendment to ensure continued meaningful representation of the clinical education community within ACAPT. Since its inception in 2015, the NCCE provided a forum for clinical education faculty to engage with ACAPT, equally representing academic faculty and clinical partners through registration of an NCCE Institutional Pair. The NCCE served as the principle advisory voice for the clinical education community and created a place where clinical partners saw themselves as an integral part of *academic* physical therapy. Without a mechanism for meaningful clinical education representation within ACAPT leadership, we risk losing this valuable advisory role and the sense of belongingness that we have worked so hard to create for our clinical partners. Making this revision to the ACAPT bylaws will advance equity in leadership representation between the two integral components of academic physical therapy.

### **CURRENT BYLAWS:**

Language is compliant with 2018 ACAPT Bylaws.

[https://acapt.org/docs/default-source/bylaws-rules/acapt-bylaws-approved-by-members-oct-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=21bb8bd8\\_2](https://acapt.org/docs/default-source/bylaws-rules/acapt-bylaws-approved-by-members-oct-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=21bb8bd8_2)