



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 ALLOW ALL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS THE RIGHT TO HOLD OFFICE

MOTION LANGUAGE:

That the bylaws be amended on page 3 line 22 in Article III Membership, Section 3. Rights of Representatives of Member Institutions and Individual Members by adding the words “5) To hold office” and “6) To serve on task forces and committees” as new added lines and strike “To be elected to a leadership position of a Consortium” so that it would read:

Page 3 line 22

Section 2: Rights of Representatives of Member Institutions and Individual Members.

B) Individual Members shall have the following rights:

- 1) To attend all ACAPT business meetings
- 2) To speak and debate
- 3) To make motions that are co-sponsored by the Member Institution’s Representative
- 4) To serve in appointed positions
- 5) To hold office
- 6) To serve on task forces and committees

~~To be elected to a leadership position of a Consortium~~

That the bylaws be amended on page 8 line 20-21 in Article V. Officers, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Section 2: Qualifications by striking the words “Only the Representatives of Member Institutions” and adding the words “All ACAPT members in good standing” so that it would read:



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Page 8 lines 20-21

Article V. Officers, Board of Directors, Executive Committee

Section 2: Qualifications

~~Only the Representatives of Member Institutions~~ All ACAPT members in good standing are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors.

That the bylaws be amended on page 13 lines 4-5 in Article VI. Committees, Section 2: Nominating Committee by striking the word “Representatives of Member Institutions” and adding the words “ACAPT members in good standing” so that it would read:

Page 13 lines 4-5

Article VI. Committees

Section 2: Nominating Committee

- A) The Nominating Committee, elected by the Representatives, shall consist of three ~~Representatives of Member Institutions.~~ ACAPT members in good standing.

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 the rights of individual members to include “holding office.” This will broaden the pool of candidates eligible to run for the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee and promote inclusion within ACAPT’s leadership. ACAPT, as the principal voice of academic physical therapy, has fostered a broad and inclusive vision of academic physical therapy since its inception. The organization strives to serve and represent all members of the academic physical therapy community including academic and clinical administrative leaders, academic and clinical faculty, clinical educators, and students. The objectives set forth in ACAPT’s strategic plan speak to the importance of understanding the depth and breadth of academic physical therapy and creating a unified voice for academic physical therapy.

Since its inception, ACAPT’s Board of Directors has consistently been composed of academic administrators (Program Directors, Chairs and Deans) while the nine Consortia were led by representatives from the broader academic physical therapy community (academic faculty, DCEs, clinical education faculty, etc.). This make-up is a reflection of the current bylaws, which restrict service on the



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Board of Directors and Nominating Committee to only Representatives of Member Institutions while allowing Individual Members to serve on task forces and committees, which included Consortia. The vast majority of ACAPT's 265 Representatives are Program Directors/Chairs, thus limiting breadth in the pool of candidates for the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee leadership roles.

As ACAPT transitions to its new streamlined organization structure throughout 2023, the nine Consortia will sunset and eliminate a plethora of leadership opportunities for Individual Members. In the new organizational structure, all ACAPT members (Representatives and Individual Members) are eligible to serve as Chairs and Vice Chairs of the four new Institutes. Overall, the reorganization is resulting in a net loss of 37 elected leadership opportunities for Individual Members. This bylaws amendment would open the Board of Directors and Nominating Committee positions to all ACAPT members and provide equal access to all elected positions, not just Institute Chair and Vice Chair positions. Communication, contribution, and leadership reflective of all PT education members is necessary to work toward the excellence outlined in the strategic plan and will help to ensure that ACAPT is representing the voice of all stakeholders in academic physical therapy.

Throughout their lifetime, ACAPT Consortia concentrated their efforts on engagement and team building amongst all physical therapy education stakeholders. Their emphasis on collaboration and leadership development via grassroots efforts served to engage physical therapy educators that were either not engaged or were unaware of opportunities at the national level. There is now a larger, more diverse group of PT educators engaged in ACAPT. It is imperative to continue fostering their engagement and leadership to remain a dynamic force going forward. Extending the right to hold office to all ACAPT members will match the eligibility guidelines for the Institute Chairs and Vice Chairs and increase the depth and breadth of the pool available for Board of Directors and Nominating Committee positions. The prospect of having a meaningful voice in the organization will empower all members and will increase inclusivity and engagement, providing a sense of belongingness for all members.

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