MOTIONS TEMPLATE

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PROPOSED BY: A.T. Still University, Mesa, AZ

TITLE: That ACAPT promotes the Alternate Approval Process developed by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy to ease the administrative burden of various stakeholders during the initial processes of students entering the physical therapy community.

SUPPORT STATEMENT: The Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT) administers the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) to approximately 10,000 individuals to enter the profession of physical therapy every year. The FSBPT also administers the National Physical Therapy Examination for physical therapist assistants to an equally substantial number of applicants every year.
The program administrator for each academic institution must report (to the FSBPT) and manage each cohort of students through the FSBPT website. The program administrator also must validate the graduation status of each student in a given cohort so that the student/graduate can be eligible to take the NPTE. Because of the fixed-date testing, many students opt to take the NPTE prior to graduation (early) so as not to delay their employment upon graduation. For students to take the NPTE early, the program administrator must notify each regulatory jurisdiction, often in multiple states. Some states require that the state board of physical therapy approve candidates for the NPTE before they are cleared to take the NPTE. This means that the candidates' names must be submitted to the board in time to be put on the agenda for the board's next meeting. The administrative burden working with the multiple regulatory jurisdictions (state boards) can be daunting.

The FSBPT had developed new processes to help with the applicants for initial physical therapist and physical therapist assistants licenses, regulatory boards, and other stakeholders. One process is the Alternate Approval Process (AAP). The AAP was created to allow program directors to directly provide the FSBPT with information on whether students are making satisfactory progress towards graduation. Boards from regulatory jurisdictions use this information to determine eligibility of students to take the NPTE and ultimately be licensed. The AAP eliminates a process where program directors need to communicate with each regulatory board on the status towards graduation for individual members of a cohort from an academic institution. This reduces the administrative burden to regulatory boards, program administrators, and applicants for licenses. The intent of this motion is that ACAPT promotes and encourages the use the Alternate Approval Process, and that members of ACAPT advocate to State Governmental Affairs committees and Jurisdictional Regulatory Boards amendments to laws and rules that further enhance its use.

It is our intent that program administrators and faculty bring forward the importance of the Alternate Approval Process. ACAPT can bring this issue forward with information in newsletters and other announcements to keep this option at the forefront for physical therapy education. The Alternate Approval Process (AAP) takes away a level of administrative burden from academic administrators, and it simplifies the processes for the student as they apply for licenses.

The administrative burden is not really with the FSBPT. The program director must enter a cohort of graduating students and certify by checking a box that the student is making satisfactory progress towards graduation. The true administrative burden is with interactions with the regulatory board, or boards, to qualify student applicants to take the NPTE to become licensed. Use of the Federation's AAP eliminates this burden.

CURRENT POSITION/STANDARD/GUIDELINE/POLICY/PROCEDURE: none

RELATED POSITION/STANDARD/GUIDELINE/POLICY/PROCEDURE: none