



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

1 **AC-1A-21**

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11 **PROPOSED BY:** James Gordon University of Southern California

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13 **TITLE: AMEND AC-1-21 Individual Members Qualifications**

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15 **MOTION LANGUAGE:**

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17 That AC-1-21 be amended on page 2 line 42 in Article III Membership, Section 1 Categories and
18 Qualification of Membership B. Individual Members by striking the words “ 2. Individual
19 Members shall be required to be members of the Association” so that it would read:

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21 B. Individual Members

22 1. A faculty member or clinical affiliate of a Member Institution who has been confirmed
23 through the Member Institution’s Representative shall be admitted to membership as
24 an Individual Member.

25 ~~2. Individual Members shall be required to be members of the Association.~~

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28 **SUPPORT STATEMENT:**

29 The purpose of the proposed revision to AC-1-21 the Full Revision of the ACAPT Bylaws is to
30 allow faculty members at member institutions who are not physical therapists (PTs) to become
31 individual members of ACAPT. Although there is no specific statement in the ACAPT Bylaws
32 that requires individual members to be PTs, the Bylaws as currently written require that individual
33 members of ACAPT also be members of APTA. Since APTA membership is limited to PTs, this
34 effectively prevents faculty who are not PTs from joining ACAPT as individual members.

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36 Allowing faculty who are not PTs to be individual members would have multiple benefits. **First**,
37 it would allow such faculty to take full advantage of the resources, including networking, that are
38 available to individual ACAPT members. This in turn would benefit the member institutions as it
39 would enhance the teaching and scholarship of those faculty. **Second**, it would benefit ACAPT as
40 a whole, because it would bring those faculty into the organization to share their knowledge,



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1 experience, and scholarship with all other members. **Finally**, it would significantly broaden and
2 extend the reach of ACAPT in the world of academic physical therapy, since ACAPT would now
3 be an institution representing all faculty in academic physical therapy.

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5 The population of faculty who are currently excluded from being members of ACAPT is large.
6 According to CAPTE (personal communication), there are 219 core faculty who are not physical
7 therapists at 134 programs. This represents 14% of all core faculty. In addition, there are 494
8 associated faculty at 189 programs. This represents 22% of associated faculty. Finally, 81% of all
9 PT programs accredited by CAPTE report at least one faculty member who is not a physical
10 therapist.

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12 The most important number here is the over 700 highly accomplished faculty who could be
13 brought into ACAPT and who could be contributing to the advancement of academic physical
14 therapy. Making this revision to our bylaws will be an important step to becoming a more
15 inclusive organization that is dedicated to “engagement and empowerment for direct and open
16 participation, discussion and decision making among all stakeholders.” (see ACAPT Core Values)

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