AC-1A-21

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

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

**MOTION LANGUAGE:**

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

B. Individual Members
1. A faculty member or clinical affiliate of a Member Institution who has been confirmed through the Member Institution’s Representative shall be admitted to membership as an Individual Member.
2. Individual Members shall be required to be members of the Association.

**SUPPORT STATEMENT:**

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

Allowing faculty who are not PTs to be individual members would have multiple benefits. **First,** it would allow such faculty to take full advantage of the resources, including networking, that are available to individual ACAPT members. This in turn would benefit the member institutions as it would enhance the teaching and scholarship of those faculty. **Second,** it would benefit ACAPT as a whole, because it would bring those faculty into the organization to share their knowledge.
experience, and scholarship with all other members. Finally, it would significantly broaden and extend the reach of ACAPT in the world of academic physical therapy, since ACAPT would now be an institution representing all faculty in academic physical therapy.

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

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