



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PHYSICAL THERAPY

1 AC-2-21

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

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13 **TITLE:** AMEND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PHYSICAL
14 THERAPY TO ALLOW FACULTY WHO ARE NOT PHYSICAL THERAPISTS TO BECOME
15 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

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17 *Note: Triple asterisks (* * *) indicate language that is not being amended and therefore has not been*
18 *included in order to make the document more concise*

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20 *Note: This is a motion with two conforming amendments: Parts A-B*

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22 **MOTION LANGUAGE:**

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24 **That the Bylaws of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy be amended to grant individual**
25 **membership to faculty who are not physical therapists**

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28 **PART A**

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30 **That the bylaws of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy, Article III Membership,**
31 **Section 1: Categories and Qualifications of Members, B) Individual Members 1) be amended by striking**
32 **the words of the last sentence “Individual Members shall be required to be members of the Association”:**

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35 * *

36 Article III Membership

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39 Section 1: Categories and Qualifications of Members

40 * *

41 B) Individual Members

42 A faculty member or clinical affiliate of a Member Institution who has been confirmed
43 through the Member Institutions Representative shall be admitted to membership
44 as an Individual Member. ~~Individual Members shall be required to be~~
45 ~~members of the Association.~~

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PART B

That the bylaws of the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy, Article III Membership, Section 4: Good Standing B) Individual Members 1) be amended by striking the words of the last sentence “is in good standing with the association and” so that it would read:

* *

Article III Membership

* *

Section 4: Good Standing

* *

B) Individual Members

An Individual Member is in good standing within the meaning of these Bylaws if the member ~~is in good standing with the Association and~~ is a faculty member or clinical affiliate confirmed by the Representative of the Member Institution-

***PROVISO:**

This motion will not be in order if AC-1-21 passes

SUPPORT STATEMENT:

The purpose of the proposed revision to 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.



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

CURRENT BYLAWS:

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109 **Note: might we provide a link to our current bylaws (the pdf file of them)**
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