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Medical Student Council

## CONSTITUTION OF THE MEDICAL STUDENT COUNCIL AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

RATIFIED on the 3rd day of September 2002.

AMENDED on the 15th day of April 2003.

AMENDED on the 7th day of April 2004.

AMENDED on the 9th of February 2005.

AMENDED on the 19th of September 2005.

AMENDED on the 22nd of August 2006.

AMENDED on the 14th of April 2008.

AMENDED on the 7th of April 2009.

AMENDED on the 8th of December 2016.

AMENDED on the 18th of November 2024.

## **HISTORY AND LEGISLATIVE INTENT**

The constitution and by-laws were written in July 2002 by Nari Heshmati and rewritten in March 2003 by Nari Heshmati and Kimberly Ruscher-Rogers. The legislative intent of this constitution and by-laws is to create an organized method of government for the medical school student body governed in the form of the Florida State University College of Medicine Medical Student Council. The date of ratification of this constitution and by-laws and any future dates of amendment shall be listed below this section for the purpose of accurate record.

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### **ARTICLE I: PURPOSE**

The Medical Student Council (MSC) will oversee and coordinate all funding and activities which pertain to the Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) of the Florida State University College of Medicine (FSU COM). The MSC is the voice of the general FSU COM student body and has the authority to pass resolutions on behalf of the graduate, medical, and physician assistant students. The MSC will enhance the education at Florida State University by promoting a variety of speakers, conferences, and events. It is the goal of the MSC that the diversity and exceptional quality of such projects will provide unique and memorable opportunities that might not otherwise be possible. The Medical Student Council holds the mandate to educate and develop its students on the issues of financial, practice, and life management. By fostering financial success and personal fulfillment, we hope to enable physicians to give back to their communities in meaningful ways.

### **ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

#### **Section I. The Student Body**

Comprises all full time graduate and professional students at the Florida State University College of Medicine.

#### **Section II. The Executive Committee**

Comprises the President (Chairman), Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Congress of Graduate Students (COGS) Representatives holding the designated College of Medicine seats, and one Liaison from each program at the FSU COM, excluding that of which the MSC President is a member. Additional COGS Representatives can be added to the Executive Committee at the appointment of the President and unanimous approval of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall carry out administrative policies, and shall administer budgets, releases, resolutions, and special requests for final approval by the General Body. Specific powers of the Executive Committee shall be maintained in the MSC Bylaws.

### **Section III. The General Body**

Comprises one elected or appointed representative from each of the registered student organizations falling under the MSC umbrella, members-at-large, regional campus representatives, and the president of each currently enrolled class. The General Body is the Legislative branch of the MSC, voting on all matters not otherwise specified as within the power of the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE III: BYLAWS**

A set of bylaws should be maintained with all operating procedures and powers of the MSC. This document should be reviewed and, if necessary, amended on an annual basis by the MSC President.

## **ARTICLE IV: AMENDMENTS**

This document and the MSC Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the eligible voters of the General Body at quorum. Quorum, necessary to conduct official business at a general body meeting, is a majority of the total number of organizational representatives. Any amendments to these rules must first be reviewed by the Executive Committee for clarity and conformation to legal principles. A majority vote of the Executive Committee is required to submit an amendment to the General Body for debate. The Executive Committee may only deny an amendment on the grounds of clarity or conformation to legal principles.

Amendments may also be voted upon by the student body during the annual election. The Executive Committee may place an amendment on the ballot by a 2/3 vote of its members present and voting. Any medical student may, upon collection of signatures from 30% of the student body, submit an amendment to the Executive Committee for placement on the ballot. All amendments placed on the ballot will be clear in language, encompass only one issue, be under 150 words in length, and can be answered in a yes or no fashion.

## **ARTICLE V: CONFORMITY WITH LAWS**

The MSC Constitution and Bylaws cannot be in conflict with any part of Federal, State, Local, University, or Student Government laws. In the event that modifications are necessary to bring the MSC Constitution into conformity with either Federal, State, Local, University, or Student Government laws, such modifications may be passed by a majority vote of the MSC Executive Committee if such changes only encompass modifications necessary for conformity. Any changes not required for conformity must be passed by the provisions stated in Article V: Amendments.

## **ARTICLE VI: OPERATING IN THE SUNSHINE**

In order to ensure compliance with the provisions of the sunshine law, all meetings of the MSC must be open to everyone and be advertised in an accessible public place at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. This article does not ensure speaking privileges to those who attend either a general or executive meeting. Recognition of speakers is at the discretion of the chairperson.

Decisions by the chairperson may be challenged in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. This article also does not limit the chairperson's ability to remove disruptive individuals from a meeting.

## **ARTICLE VII: DISCRIMINATION LAW**

No university student may be denied membership on the basis of race, creed, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, parental status, or disability. Furthermore, no university student may be denied membership due to inability to pay dues. If a member is not able to pay dues, other arrangements will be made.

## **ARTICLE VIII: HAZING**

No hazing or discrimination will be used as a condition of membership in this organization

## **ARTICLE IX: ADVISOR**

The advisor shall be appointed by the Dean of the College of Medicine. The advisor shall serve as a mentor to the organization providing guidance to the officers and members. The advisor has no voting rights. The advisor position has no term limit other than he/she must be a current full-time FSU faculty or staff member.

The advisor will be notified in writing of the possible removal at least 72 hours prior to the vote and will be allowed to address the organization in order to relate to members any relevant defense prior to the voting for removal. Upon a 2/3 majority vote of eligible Executive Committee members the advisor will be removed from his/her duties. In the event that an advisor is removed or resigns, a new advisor shall be selected within 14 calendar days.