

MEDICAL RESPECT LIFE ORGANIZATION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATION NAME

MEDICAL RESPECT LIFE ORGANIZATION (MeRLO)

ARTICLE II: ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

Many medical caregivers desire to maintain a personal and professional posture that is consistent with a respect for life, but the sheer variety of Life Issues and the ambiguous legal status surrounding some of them can make it difficult to develop a logically coherent and personally satisfying ethical "code" in this regard. The Medical Respect Life Organization endeavors to add clarity by promoting civil discussion about these Life Issues in the context of invited presentations, small group meetings, and recommended readings. Life Issues of particular interest to the Medical Respect Life Organization include: end-of-life care; physician-assisted suicide; elective abortion; human embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, and the status of human embryos in reproductive medicine; defining human death, and the ethical procurement of human organs for transplantation; direct or indirect use of fetal human cells and/or products therefrom as medical therapeutics.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: REQUIRMENTS

Membership shall be limited to currently enrolled Florida State University Medical School students. This organization agrees to adhere to the University non-discrimination statement: No university student may be denied membership on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veterans' or marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other protected group status. 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. No hazing or discrimination will be used as a condition of membership in this organization.

SECTION 2: REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership may be revoked without mutual agreement for non-participation, misconduct, or violations of any provisions of the Constitution. The member will be notified in writing of the possible revocation 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. Membership can only be revoked upon a 2/3 majority vote of eligible members. Revocation of membership will be valid for up to three (3) semesters.

SECTION 3: APPEALS PROCESS

Any student whose membership is revoked will have seven (7) calendar days to appeal the revocation. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the President and Secretary, and must include any relevant information that has not already been presented. The President will then submit the appeal to the Appeals Committee. This committee consists of 3 executive board

members and 4 general members. This committee will then render a decision at the next general body meeting or in seven (7) calendar days, whichever occurs first.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

SECTION 1: ELIGIBILITY

Any current student of the medical school shall be eligible to run for a position on the executive board

SECTION 2: TITLES AND DUTIES

1. The duties of the MeRLO PRESIDENT shall be:
 - a. To preside over all meetings
 - b. To act as spokesperson for the organization
 - c. Chair the Executive Board on all administrative matters
 - d. Shall determine the MeRLO General and Executive Meeting Schedule
 - e. Shall act in accordance with the Treasurer of the MeRLO and the finance rules of Student Government on all financial matters.
 - f. Shall have the power to appoint Ad-hoc committees and their chairmen as deemed necessary with approval from the MeRLO General Body.
 - g. To divide duties among Executive Members when necessary
2. The duties of the MeRLO VICE PRESIDENT shall be:
 - a. To assume the duties of President when necessary.
 - b. To coordinate all Public Relations efforts of the Board.
 - c. To coordinate monthly calendar of events.
3. The duties of the MeRLO SECRETARY shall be:
 - a. To keep accurate minutes of all meetings and post said minutes in a location accessible to all members
 - b. To keep voting records of all meetings
 - c. To attend to all correspondence of the organization
4. The duties of the MeRLO TREASURER shall be:
 - a. To chair the Executive Board on all financial matters
 - b. To coordinate all financial matters of the MeRLO

ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF OFFICERS, INCLUDING

SECTION 1: ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

All current students of the medical school will be eligible to vote for all positions.

SECTION 2: NOMINATION PROCESS

Any current student of the medical school is eligible to submit an intent to run for any position to the current president of the MeRLO. A candidate is only eligible to run for one position within the organization.

SECTION 3: ELECTION PROCESS

- a. The election of officers shall occur during the fall semester.
- b. Candidates for each position shall submit a paragraph of their qualifications and motivations for running which will be available for review by voters.

- c. The order of the elections for each office shall be in sliding order, from President to Treasurer
- d. The voting shall be by secret ballot from the medical school student body.
- e. The winner of the election must win by a majority vote. In the event of a tie, a run-off election must take place.
- f. The elected officers will take office beginning in the spring semester.

SECTION 4: TERM OF OFFICE

All executives of the MeRLO shall serve a term of one year. The length of term that MeRLO executive committee members serve will be till the end of the Fall Semester, during which time it is the responsibility of the existing officers to transition the day to day business duties to the officers-elect. In the event of vacancies in any of the offices, the term of the newly elected/appointed replacement officer will be concurrent with the previous officer's term of office.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICER VACCANCIES, INCLUDING

SECTION 1: REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

An executive board officer of the MeRLO can be impeached on the basis of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance. The impeachment process:

1. May be by way of written petition calling for impeachment and must be signed by at least 2/3 of the organization members. This statement must be presented to the faculty advisor of the MeRLO, who will then proceed with the impeachment process.
2. Shall be invoked after the faculty advisor of the MeRLO calls the executive board (minus the officer in question) to schedule and announces a special hearing of the MeRLO within five days of the officer in question's request.
3. This special hearing of the MeRLO will be open to the public, and reasonable effort must be made to inform the general medical student body of the date and time of the hearing. All students within the medical student body may attend and vote at this special hearing.
4. Requires a vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the medical student body present and voting (minus officer in question) to impeach an officer.
5. Provides no basis for appeal in the event of impeachment

SECTION 2: RESIGNATION

Officers no longer wishing to serve on the board must submit their resignation to the President at least two (2) weeks in advance. Prior to the officer's final day he/she shall provide all documents relating to the organization and brief his/her replacement of current projects in his/her care.

SECTION 3: EXECUTIVE BOARD VACANCIES

If an office is declared vacant, the Executive Board shall accept applications from students interested in filing the position. The Executive Board will screen the applicants and select a replacement. In the case the office of MeRLO President is declared vacant, the Vice-President will become President and the Vice-President's seat will become vacant to be filled as stated above. Additionally, if the Vice-President were unable to replace the President, a special general election would be held. Any medical student can vote in the annual elections or in the special election held for the President.

ARTICLE VII: ADVISOR

SECTION 1: ADVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The advisor shall serve as a mentor to the organization, providing guidance to the officers and members. The advisor has no voting rights.

SECTION 2: NOMINATION AND ROLE

The advisor must be a current full-time FSU faculty or staff member. There is no term limit.

SECTION 3: REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT

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 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 elected by the executive board within 14 calendar days.

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCES

SECTION 1: DUES

Dues will never be a requirement for MeRLO. The treasurer shall maintain all financial records and shall co-sign with the president for all organization transactions.

SECTION 2: SPENDING MONEY

For the protection of the organization and its officers, it is required that two authorized signatures sign all monetary transactions. Only the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Faculty Advisor can be signers on the organization's account. Organizational funds may be spent on items such as office supplies, events/activities, publicity, travel, conference fees, etc., but will not be used for anything illegal under University, local, state, and federal laws.

SECTION 3: DISSOLUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION

If MeRLO were to become inactive, all funds would return to the Medical Student Council.

ARTICLE IX – PUBLICATIONS

SECTION 1: COMPLIANCE

All advertisements of the organization must comply with the University Posting Policy (<http://www.posting.fsu.edu/>).

SECTION 2: APPROVAL

The Treasurer and President of MeRLO must approve all publications, shirts, etc. prior to duplication and distribution.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

A majority vote of the members during a general body meeting is required to submit an amendment to the Executive Board for debate. This document may be amended by a 2/3 vote

of the MeRLO Executive Board. Any amendments to these rules must first be reviewed by the Executive Board for clarity and conformation to legal principles. The Executive Board may only deny an amendment on the grounds of clarity or conformation to legal principles.