

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 003  
(A-24)

Introduced by: Medical Student Section

Subject: Amendments to AMA Bylaws to Enable Medical Student Leadership  
Continuity

Referred to: Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws

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1 Whereas, terms on the Medical Student Section (MSS) Governing Council, as the medical  
2 student member on an AMA Council or the AMA Board of Trustees, or as the MSS  
3 representative on the Minority Affairs Section or Women Physicians Section Governing Councils  
4 are one year in length and commence after the Annual Meeting; and  
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6 Whereas, the AMA Bylaws defining cessation of eligibility for these positions state that if the  
7 medical student leader “graduates from an educational program within 90 days prior to an  
8 Annual Meeting,” they shall be permitted to continue to serve “until the completion of the Annual  
9 Meeting”; and  
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11 Whereas, some students graduate off-cycle during the fall semester rather than the spring  
12 semester, including some in November, over 180 days prior to the AMA Annual Meeting; and  
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14 Whereas, graduation off-cycle is more common for students with disabilities or chronic illness,  
15 students who have taken leave of absence for personal or familial reasons, students who have  
16 overcome medical or personal challenges, students from underrepresented backgrounds,  
17 students who have pursued unique opportunities, and students who have faced obstacles  
18 during their educational journey; and  
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20 Whereas, students who graduate off-cycle would technically be forced under the AMA Bylaws to  
21 vacate their AMA national leadership position, leading to discontinuity of Medical Student  
22 Section leadership, disrupting MSS internal operations and priorities, and curtailing these  
23 students’ opportunity to grow as leaders; and  
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25 Whereas, the MSS Assembly has repeatedly unanimously expressed their desire that students  
26 who graduate off-cycle should be able to complete their leadership terms; therefore be it  
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28 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association amend AMA Bylaws 3.5.6.3, 6.11, 7.3.2,  
29 7.7.3.1, and 7.10.3.1 to allow medical students to serve on the Medical Student Section  
30 Governing Council, on the AMA Board of Trustees, on AMA Councils, and as Section  
31 Representatives on other Governing Councils for up to 200 days after graduation. (Modify  
32 Bylaws)  
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Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000

Received: 4/5/2024

## RELEVANT AMA POLICY

### **Medical Student Trustee - Cessation of Enrollment B-3.5.6.3**

The term of the medical student trustee shall terminate and the position shall be declared vacant if the medical student trustee should cease to be eligible for medical student membership in the AMA by virtue of the termination of the trustee's enrollment in an educational program. If the medical student trustee graduates from an educational program within 90 days prior to an Annual Meeting, the trustee shall be permitted to continue to serve on the Board of Trustees until completion of the Annual Meeting.

### **Term of Resident/Fellow Physician or Medical Student Member B-6.11**

A resident/fellow physician or medical student member of a Council who completes residency or fellowship or who graduates from an educational program within 90 days prior to an Annual Meeting shall be permitted to serve on the Council until the completion of the Annual Meeting. Service on a Council as a resident/fellow physician and/or medical student member shall not be counted in determining maximum Council tenure.

### **Medical Student Section - Cessation of Eligibility B-7.3.2**

If any officer or Governing Council member ceases to meet the membership requirements of Bylaw 7.3.1 prior to the expiration of the term for which elected, the term of such officer or member shall terminate and the position shall be declared vacant. If the officer or member graduates from an educational program within 90 days prior to an Annual Meeting, the officer or member shall be permitted to continue to serve in office until the completion of the Annual Meeting.

### **Minority Affairs Section - Section Representatives on the Governing Council B-7.7.3.1**

If a representative of the Medical Student Section, Resident and Fellow Section or Young Physicians Section ceases to meet the criteria for membership in the section from which elected within 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting, such member shall be permitted to serve in office until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting in the calendar year in which he or she ceases to meet the membership requirement of the respective section.

### **Women Physicians Section - Section Representatives on the Governing Council B-7.10.3.1**

If a representative of the Medical Student Section, Resident and Fellow Section or Young Physicians Section ceases to meet the criteria for membership in the section from which elected within 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting, such member shall be permitted to serve in office until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting in the calendar year in which she or he ceases to meet the membership requirement of the respective section.