

REPORT OF THE UNDERREPRESENTED IN MEDICINE ADVOCACY SECTION  
GOVERNING COUNCIL

GC Report A-A-26

Subject: UMAS Internal Operating Procedures Amendment: Decoupling Chair and  
Alternate Delegate Officer Positions

Presented by: Joesphine Fowler, MD, Chair

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1 INTRODUCTION

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3 The Underrepresented in Medicine Advocacy Section (UMAS) Governing Council proposes an  
4 amendment to the Section’s Internal Operating Procedures (IOPs) that seeks to decouple the Chair  
5 and Alternate Delegate officer positions. Currently, the Chair is elected annually by the (9) voting  
6 members of the UMAS Governing Council, and, by default, assumes the additional officer position  
7 of Alternate Delegate. This amendment seeks to decouple these positions and require the UMAS  
8 Governing Council to elect the Chair and Alternate Delegate as two separate officer positions. As  
9 such, the UMAS Governing Council would elect the following three distinct officer positions:  
10 Chair, Vice Chair, and Alternate Delegate.

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12 This amendment also seeks to make technical changes throughout the IOPs to reflect the Section’s  
13 recent (A-25) name change from the “Minority Affairs Section”, or “MAS”, to the  
14 “Underrepresented in Medicine Advocacy Section” or “UMAS”.

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16 As work by the AMA Council on Constitution and Bylaws (CCB) is underway to introduce and  
17 implement streamlined IOP language across all twelve AMA Sections, this proposed amendment  
18 only addresses the substantive change of decoupling two officer positions and the Section’s recent  
19 name change. Language defining term limits and duties and responsibilities for each Governing  
20 Council position are expected to be set forth in the forthcoming IOP model language from CCB.

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22 RECOMMENDATION

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24 The Governing Council recommends that the following be adopted and the remainder of this report  
25 be filed:

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27 1. That the UMAS Internal Operating Procedures be amended to read as follows:

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29 VI. Governing Council

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- 31 A. Designations. The designated positions on the GC shall be as follows:  
32 1. Delegate  
33 2. National Medical Association (NMA) Representative  
34 3. National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) Representative  
35 4. Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) Representative  
36 5. Young Physician Section (YPS) Representative

- 6. Resident and Fellows Section (RFS) Representative
- 7. Medical Student Section (MSS) Representative
- 8. At-Large Members (2)
- 9. Immediate-Past Chair (non-voting)

Out of these individuals, the GC shall elect a Chair, ~~(who shall also serve as Alternate Delegate)~~ and a Vice-Chair, and an Alternate Delegate.

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IX. GC Duties and Responsibilities

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B. Election of Officers (Chair, ~~and Vice-Chair, and Alternate Delegate~~). The GC shall elect its Chair, ~~and Vice-Chair, and Alternate Delegate~~ for the upcoming year in a closed session at each Annual meeting. Each GC member in attendance shall vote (9 votes total). If ~~one or both officer a position positions are~~ is contested, each candidate for that contested position (in alphabetical order) shall give a two minute speech before a secret ballot election is conducted. A majority vote by those present and eligible to vote shall be required for each contested position to determine the winner. If no member receives a majority of the votes, balloting shall be repeated until a majority vote is reached. Following the election of the Chair, ~~and Vice-Chair, and Alternate Delegate~~, the GC will announce these officers at the business meeting of the MAS at each Annual meeting. The newly-elected Chair, ~~and Vice-Chair, and Alternate Delegate~~ shall assume their positions after the conclusion of the Annual meeting.

C. C. GC Responsibilities. All members of the GC are expected to attend all GC meetings and MAS functions, unless excused in advance by the Chair. All members shall participate regularly in email communications, when solicited and on scheduled teleconferences. If any GC member is not fulfilling his/her duties to satisfy adequate participation on the GC, the Chair may, with the approval of the other GC members, ask a GC member to vacate his/her position.

The Chair shall:

- Preside over all meetings and functions of the GC and the MAS Caucus
- Direct MAS activities in consultation with GC members and staff
- Serve as the primary spokesperson for the MAS outside the House of Delegates
- ~~• Serve as the Alternate Delegate~~
- Appoint standing and ad hoc committee Chairs and representatives to internal and external organizations, subject to AMA-BOT approval
- Represent the MAS on the Commission to End Health Care Disparities (CEHCD), subject to AMA-BOT approval
- Work in collaboration with the Vice-Chair
- Serve on the GC as Immediate-Past Chair at the conclusion of his/her term(s) as Chair unless he or she is serving on the GC in another designated position

The Vice-Chair shall:

- Assist the Chair, and in the absence of the Chair or if the Chair can no longer fulfill his/her duties, preside at any MAS meeting or function ~~including serving as Alternate Delegate~~

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- Serve as a liaison to other groups at the discretion of the Chair
- Attend Commission meetings and teleconferences if the Chair is unable to do so

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The Alternate Delegate shall:

- Assist the Delegate and, in the absence of the Delegate or if the Delegate can no longer fulfill their duties, perform the functions of the Delegate.