



**National Congress  
of  
Student Members**

**Governing Principles**

Amended December 2011



## **AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS NCSM GOVERNING PRINCIPLES**

**Article I. Purposes** The National Congress of Student Members (NCSM) consists of an annual meeting of medical students convened for the purposes of (1) electing officers and other student representatives of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), (2) providing educational courses and programs for medical students, (3) fostering interaction among medical students and (4) conducting such other business as may come before it, including the development of recommendations, policy statements and resolutions.

**Article II. Authority** The NCSM exists under the authority granted to it by the AAFP, through the AAFP Board of Directors. These Governing Principles provide the framework under which the NCSM shall conduct its business and the Principles may not be altered except by a majority vote of the AAFP Board of Directors.

**Article III. Rules of Order** The NCSM may adopt such Rules of Order as it deems necessary to conduct its business, providing such Rules of Order are consistent with these Governing Principles and the Bylaws of the AAFP. If a conflict exists between any NCSM Rules of Order and these Governing Principles or the AAFP Bylaws, the Governing Principles and/or AAFP Bylaws shall supersede the NCSM Rules of Order.

**Article IV. Time of Meeting and Participants** The NCSM shall meet annually at a time and place determined by the AAFP Board of Directors. Medical students who meet one of the following criteria are eligible to attend the annual meeting of the NCSM: (1) medical students training in an Liaison Committee of Medical Education (LCME)-accredited medical school or (2) medical students training in American Osteopathic Association (AOA)-approved college of osteopathic medicine.

**Article V. Function of Commission on Education** The Commission on Education (COE), or its successor as designated by the Board of Directors, shall be responsible for planning the annual meeting of the NCSM. During the interim between meetings of the NCSM, the COE shall be responsible for acting on behalf of the NCSM, subject to the approval of the AAFP Board of Directors. With the exception of recommendations for changes in these Governing Principles, all resolutions, recommendations and policy statements adopted by the NCSM shall be forwarded to the COE for appropriate disposition. Proposals from NCSM to change these Governing Principles shall go directly to the AAFP Board of Directors.

**Article VI. Privilege of the Floor and Voting at NCSM Business Sessions** All NCSM registrants meeting one of the requirements set forth in Article IV shall have the privilege of the floor during any NCSM business session. However, voting on any item of business coming before the NCSM other than voting during an election, which is addressed in Article VIII, shall be limited to those attendees who are student members of the AAFP.

Actions which must be forwarded to the COE (resolutions, recommendations and policy statements) require approval by a majority of those voting to be adopted. The vote required to adopt motions of a procedural nature, including amendments to the NCSM Rules of Order, shall be as specifically provided by the NCSM Rules of Order or the NCSM parliamentary authority. For purposes of voting on any item of business other than an election, a quorum shall be defined as a majority of the delegates registered for the NCSM.

**Article VII. Elected Positions** The NCSM shall be responsible for electing (1) one student nominee for the AAFP Board of Directors; (2) an NCSM chair; (3) two individuals who will serve as alternate delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates and who will serve the following year as delegates; (4) one National Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) Coordinator; (5) one nominee for the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) Board of Directors; and (6) one nominee for the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation Board of Trustees.

The terms of office for each of the elected positions set forth above shall be specified in the NCSM Rules of Order. No person may be elected who is not a student member of the AAFP in good standing.

**Article VIII. Voting in Elections** Those entitled to vote in any NCSM election shall consist of one delegate from each AAFP constituent chapter plus one delegate designated by the Minority Working Group. Each delegate must be a student member in good standing of the AAFP and must be registered at the NCSM as the delegate from the constituent chapter which he or she represents. The delegate designated by the Minority Working Group shall not also represent an AAFP constituent chapter as a delegate. A quorum for any election shall be a majority of the delegates registered for the meeting.

No candidate may be elected unless he or she receives the votes of a majority of those voting. The methodology for conducting elections and other rules governing the election process shall be as set forth in the NCSM Rules of Order.

**Article IX. Removal from Office and Filling Vacancies** The NCSM chair, student delegates and alternates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates, and the

National FMIG Coordinator may be removed from office for cause by a two-thirds vote of the AAFP Board of Directors. The student member of the AAFP Board of Directors may be removed from office in accordance with the provisions in the AAFP Bylaws relating to the removal from office of any AAFP director or officer. Those individuals selected by the NCSM as nominees to the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine and the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation Board of Trustees serve at the pleasure of that organization and can be removed from office only by that organization in accordance with their own rules and regulations.

Should a vacancy exist for any reason in any of the positions elected by the NCSM, such vacancy may, but need not be, filled by the AAFP Board of Directors. If the vacancy is to be filled, the Board shall first seek recommendations from the Commission on Education. Any vacancy which is filled by the AAFP Board of Directors shall be filled only until the next meeting of the NCSM, at which time the NCSM shall elect a successor.

**Article X. Parliamentary Authority** *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, Current Edition*, shall govern all proceedings of the NCSM, except when in conflict with the AAFP Bylaws, these Governing Principles or specific provisions in the NCSM Rules of Order.