



BYLAWS

Revised October 2024

Bylaws

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BYLAWS

October 2024

ARTICLE I — NAME

This corporation, an association of physicians active in emergency medicine organized under the laws of the State of Texas, shall be known as the AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS (hereinafter sometimes referred to as “ACEP” or the “College”). The words “physician” or “physicians” as used herein include both medical and osteopathic medical school graduates.

ARTICLE II — MISSION, PURPOSES, AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1 — Mission

The American College of Emergency Physicians exists to support quality emergency medical care and to promote the interests of emergency physicians.

Section 2 — Purposes and Objectives

The purposes and objectives of the College are:

1. To establish guidelines for quality emergency medical care.
2. To encourage and facilitate the postgraduate training and continuing medical education of emergency physicians.
3. To encourage and facilitate training and education in emergency medicine for all medical students.
4. To promote education in emergency care for all physicians.
5. To promote education about emergency medicine for our patients and for the general public.
6. To promote the development and coordination of quality emergency medical services and systems.
7. To encourage emergency physicians to assume leadership roles in out-of-hospital care and disaster management.
8. To evaluate the social and economic aspects of emergency medical care.
9. To promote universally available and cost effective emergency medical care.
10. To promote policy that preserves the integrity and independence of the practice of emergency medicine.
11. To encourage and support basic and clinical research in emergency medicine.
12. To encourage emergency physician representation within medical organizations and academic institutions.

ARTICLE III — COLLEGE MEETINGS

All meetings of the Board of Directors of the College (the “Board of Directors” or the “Board”), the Council, and College committees shall be open to all members of the College. A closed session may be called by the Board of Directors, the Council, or any College committee for just cause, but all voting must be in open session.

ARTICLE IV — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 — Eligibility

Membership in the College is contingent upon the applicant or member showing a significant interest in emergency medicine and being of good moral and professional character. Members agree to abide by the “Code of Ethics for Emergency Physicians.” No person shall be denied membership because of sex, race, age, political or religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or real or perceived gender identity.

Section 2 — Classes of Membership

All members shall be elected or appointed by the Board of Directors to one of the following classes of membership: (1) regular member; (2) candidate member; (3) honorary member; or (4) international member. The qualifications required of the respective classes, their rights and obligations, and the methods of their election or appointment shall be set forth in these Bylaws or as otherwise determined by the Board of Directors in the extraordinary case of an individual who does not satisfy all of the criteria of any particular class. Benefits for each class of membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2.1 — Regular Members

Regular members of the College are physicians who devote a significant portion of their medical endeavors to emergency medicine. All regular members must meet one of the following criteria: 1) satisfactory completion of an emergency medicine residency program accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA); 2) satisfactory completion of an emergency medicine residency program approved by an ACEP-recognized accrediting body in a foreign country; 3) satisfactory completion of a subspecialty training program in pediatric emergency medicine accredited by the ACGME; 4) primary board certification by an emergency medicine certifying body recognized by ACEP; or 5) eligibility for active membership in the College (as defined by the College Bylaws then in force) at any time prior to close of business December 31, 1999.

Regular members shall be assigned by the Board of Directors to one of the following statuses: (1) active, (2) inactive, or (3) retired. Members who qualify will additionally be assigned to life status. All applicants for regular membership shall, hold a current, active, full, valid, unrestricted, and unqualified license to practice medicine in the state, province, territory, or foreign country in which they practice, or be serving in a governmental medical assignment. All regular members must either continue to maintain a valid license to practice medicine or have voluntarily relinquished the license upon leaving medical practice. A license to practice medicine shall not be considered voluntarily relinquished if it was surrendered, made inactive, or allowed to expire under threat of probation or suspension or other condition or limitation upon said license to practice medicine by a licensing body in any jurisdiction.

Regular members who are unable to engage in medical practice may, upon application to the Board of Directors, be assigned to inactive status. The inactive status designation shall be for a period of one year, renewable annually upon re-application.

Regular members who have retired from medical practice for any reason shall be assigned to retired status.

Any regular member who has been a member of the College for a minimum of 30 years in any class shall be assigned to life status. Any member previously designated as a life member under any prior definition shall retain life status.

Regular members, with the exception of those in inactive status, may hold office, may serve on the Council, and may vote in committees on which they serve. Regular members in inactive status shall not be eligible to hold office, to serve on the Council, or serve on committees.

Section 2.2 — Honorary Members

Persons of distinction who are not members of the College, but have rendered outstanding service to the College or to the specialty of emergency medicine may be elected to honorary membership by the Board of Directors. Individual members and Council component bodies may propose candidates for honorary membership in the College to the Board of Directors. Honorary members cannot be eligible for other categories of College membership. Honorary members are considered members for life and shall not be required to pay any dues. Honorary members may not hold office and may not serve on the Council. Honorary members may vote in committees on which they serve.

Section 2.3 — Candidate Members

Candidate members must meet one of the following criteria: 1) medical student or intern interested in emergency medicine; 2) physician participating in an emergency medicine residency training program; 3) physician participating in a fellowship training program immediately following an emergency medicine residency; 4) physician participating in a pediatric emergency medicine fellowship training program; or 5) physician in the uniformed services while serving as

general medical officer. General medical officers shall be eligible for candidate membership for a maximum of four years. All candidate members will be assigned by the Board of Directors to either active or inactive status.

The rights of candidate members at the chapter level are as specified in their chapter's bylaws. At the national level, candidate members shall not be entitled to hold office, but physician members may serve on the Council. Candidate members appointed to national committees shall be entitled to vote in committees on which they serve.

Candidate members whose training is interrupted for any reason may, upon application to the Board of Directors, be assigned to inactive status. The inactive status designation shall be for a period of one year, renewable annually upon re-application. Candidate members in inactive status shall not be eligible to hold office, serve on the Council, or serve on committees.

Section 2.4 — International Members

Any physician interested in emergency medicine who is not a resident of the United States or a possession thereof, and who is licensed to practice medicine by the government within whose jurisdiction such physician resides and practices, shall be eligible for international membership. All international members will be assigned by the Board of Directors to either active or inactive status. Members who qualify will additionally be assigned to life status.

International members who are unable to engage in medical practice may, upon application to the Board of Directors, be assigned to inactive status. The inactive status designation shall be for a period of one year, renewable annually upon re-application.

Any international member who has been a member of the College for a minimum of 30 years in any class shall be assigned to life status. Any member previously designated as a life member under any prior definition shall retain life status.

International members may not seek election to or serve on the national Board of Directors, may not seek election to or serve as Council Speaker or Council Vice Speaker, may not serve as a councillor or alternate councillor, and may not serve on a Council committee. With the exception of those in inactive status, international members may serve as voting members of College committees to which they are appointed but may not serve as committee chairs, may participate as voting members in sections of membership, and may serve as a section officer except for the positions of councillor and alternate councillor.

Section 3 — Agreement

Acceptance of membership in the College shall constitute an agreement by the member to comply with the ACEP Bylaws. The Board of Directors shall serve as the sole judge of such member's right to be or to remain a member, subject to Article IV, Section 4 of these Bylaws and the due process as described in the College Manual.

All right, title, and interest, both legal and equitable, of a member in and to the property of this organization shall cease in the event of any of the following: a) the expulsion of such member; b) the striking of the member's name from the roll of members; c) the member's death or resignation.

Section 4 — Disciplinary Action

Members of the College may be subject to disciplinary action or their membership may be suspended or terminated by the Board of Directors, or a designated body appointed by the Board of Directors for such purpose, for good cause. Procedures for such disciplinary action shall be stated in the College Manual.

Section 5 — Dues, Fees, and Assessments

Application fees and annual dues shall be determined annually by the Board of Directors. Assessments of members may not be levied except upon recommendation of the Board of Directors and by a majority vote of the Council. Notice of any proposed assessment shall be sent to each member of the College by mail or official publication at least 30 days before the meeting of the Council at which the proposed assessment will be considered. The Board of Directors shall establish uniform policies regarding dues, fees, and assessments.

Any member whose membership has been canceled for failure to pay dues or assessments shall lose all privileges of membership. The Board of Directors may establish procedures and policies with regard to the nonpayment of dues and assessments.

Section 6 — Official Publications

Each member shall receive *Annals of Emergency Medicine* and *ACEP Now* as official publications of the College as a benefit of membership.

ARTICLE V — ACEP FELLOWS

Section 1 — Eligibility

Fellows of the College shall meet the following criteria:

1. Be candidate physician, regular, or international members for three continuous years immediately prior to election.
2. Be certified in emergency medicine at the time of election by the American Board of Emergency Medicine, the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine, or in pediatric emergency medicine by the American Board of Pediatrics.
3. Meet the following requirements demonstrating evidence of high professional standing at some time during their professional career prior to application.
 - A. At least three years of active involvement in emergency medicine as the physician's chief professional activity, exclusive of residency training, and;
 - B. Satisfaction of at least three of the following individual criteria during their professional career:
 1. active involvement, beyond holding membership, in voluntary health organizations, organized medical societies, or voluntary community health planning activities or service as an elected or appointed public official;
 2. active involvement in hospital affairs, such as medical staff committees, as attested by the emergency department director or chief of staff;
 3. active involvement in the formal teaching of emergency medicine to physicians, nurses, medical students, out-of-hospital care personnel, or the public;
 4. active involvement in emergency medicine administration or departmental affairs;
 5. active involvement in an emergency medical services system;
 6. research in emergency medicine;
 7. active involvement in ACEP chapter activities as attested by the chapter president or chapter executive director;
 8. member of a national ACEP committee, the ACEP Council, or national Board of Directors;
 9. examiner for, director of, or involvement in test development and/or administration for the American Board of Emergency Medicine or the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine;
 10. reviewer for or editor or listed author of a published scientific article or reference material in the field of emergency medicine in a recognized journal or book.

Provision of documentation of the satisfaction of the above criteria is the responsibility of the candidate, and determination of the satisfaction of these criteria shall be by the Board of Directors of ACEP or its designee.

Section 2 — Fellow Status

Fellows shall be authorized to use the letters FACEP in conjunction with professional activities. Members previously designated as ACEP Fellows under any prior criteria shall retain Fellow status. Maintenance of Fellow status requires continued membership in the College. Fees, procedures for election, and reasons for termination of Fellows shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI — CHAPTERS

Section 1 — Charters

This corporation may grant charters to chapters of the College according to procedures described in the College Manual.

Section 2 — Chapter Bylaws

A petition for the chartering of a chapter shall be accompanied by the proposed bylaws of the chapter. No charter shall be issued until such bylaws are approved by the Board of Directors of the College. Chartered chapters must ensure that their bylaws conform to the College Bylaws and current approved chapter bylaws guidance documents. Proposed amendments to the bylaws of a chapter shall be submitted in a format and manner designated by the College not later than 30 days following the adoption of such proposed amendments by the chapter, pursuant to its bylaws and procedures. No proposed amendment shall have any force or effect until it has been approved by the Board of Directors of the College. A proposed amendment shall be considered approved if the Board of Directors or its designee fails to give written notice of any objection within 90 days of receipt as documented by the College.

No chapter is permitted to act on behalf of, or to appear to third parties to be acting on behalf of, the College. In accepting or retaining a charter as a chapter of the College, the chapter and its members acknowledge the fact that the chapter is not an agent of the College notwithstanding that the College has the authority to establish rules governing actions of the chapter which may give the appearance of a principal-agent relationship.

Section 3 — Qualifications

The membership of a chapter shall consist of members of the College who meet the qualifications for membership in that chapter. To qualify for membership in a chapter, a person must be a member of the College and have residential or professional ties to that chapter's jurisdiction. Likewise, with the exception of members who are retired from medical practice regardless of membership class, each member of the College must hold membership in a chapter in which the member resides or practices if one exists. If membership is transferred to a new chapter, dues for the new chapter shall not be required until the member's next anniversary date.

A member with professional and/or residential ties in multiple chapters may hold membership in these chapters, providing the member pays full chapter dues in each chapter. Such members with multiple chapter memberships shall designate which single chapter membership shall count for purposes of councillor allotment. A member of a chapter who retires from medical practice regardless of membership class and changes state of residence may retain membership in a chapter of prior professional practice/residence.

A member of a chapter who changes residential or professional location may remain a member of that chapter if there is no chapter at the new location.

Section 4 — Component Branches

A chapter may, under provisions in its bylaws approved by the Board of Directors, charter branches in counties or districts within its area. Upon the approval of the Board of Directors of the College, such component branches may include adjacent counties or districts.

Section 5 — Charter Suspension – Revocation

The charter of any chapter may be suspended or revoked by the Board of Directors when the actions of the chapter are deemed to be in conflict with the Bylaws, or if the chapter fails to comply with all the requirements of these Bylaws or with any lawful requirement of the College.

On revocation of the charter of any chapter by the Board of Directors, the chapter shall take whatever legal steps are necessary to change its name so that it no longer suggests any connection with the American College of Emergency Physicians. After revocation, the former chapter shall no longer make any use of the College name or logo.

Section 6 — Ultimate Authority by College

Where these Bylaws and the respective chapter bylaws are in conflict, the provisions of these Bylaws shall be supreme. When, due to amendment, these Bylaws and the chapter bylaws are in conflict, the chapter shall have two years from written notice of such conflict to resolve it through amendment of chapter bylaws.

ARTICLE VII — SECTIONS

The College may have one or more groups of members known as sections to provide for members who have special areas of interest within the field of emergency medicine.

Upon the petition of 100 or more members of the College, the Board of Directors may charter such a section of the College. Minimum dues and procedures to be followed by a section shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII — COUNCIL

The Council is an assembly of members representing ACEP's chartered chapters, sections, the Emergency Medicine Residents' Association (EMRA), the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP), the Association of Academic Chairs in Emergency Medicine (AACEM), the Council of Emergency Medicine Residency Directors (CORD), and the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM). These component bodies, also known as sponsoring bodies, shall elect or appoint councillors to terms not to exceed three years. Any limitations on consecutive terms are the prerogative of the sponsoring body.

Section 1 — Composition of the Council

Each chartered chapter shall have a minimum of one councillor as representative of all of the members of such chartered chapter. There shall be allowed one additional councillor for each 100 members of the College in that chapter as shown by the average membership roll of the College of the preceding calendar year. The average will be calculated by using the count of primary members in each chapter on the first day of the month then adding together each month's total and dividing by 12. However, a member holding memberships simultaneously in multiple chapters may be counted for purposes of councillor allotment in only one chapter. Councillors shall be elected or appointed from regular and candidate physician members in accordance with the governance documents or policies of their respective sponsoring bodies.

An organization currently serving as, or seeking representation as, a component body of the Council must meet, and continue to meet, the criteria stated in the College Manual. These criteria do not apply to chapters or sections of the College.

EMRA shall be entitled to eight councillors, each of whom shall be a candidate or regular member of the College, as representative of all of the members of EMRA.

ACOEP shall be entitled to one councillor, who shall be a regular member of the College, as representative of all of the members of ACOEP.

AACEM shall be entitled to one councillor, who shall be a regular member of the College, as representative of all of the members of AACEM.

CORD shall be entitled to one councillor, who shall be a regular member of the College, as representative of all of the members of CORD.

SAEM shall be entitled to one councillor, who shall be a regular member of the College, as representative of all of the members of SAEM.

Each chartered section shall be entitled to one councillor as representative of all of the members of such chartered section if the number of section dues-paying and complimentary candidate members meets the minimum number established by the Board of Directors for the charter of that section based on the membership rolls of the College on December 31 of the preceding year.

A councillor representing one component body may not simultaneously represent another component body as a councillor or alternate councillor.

Each component body shall also elect or appoint alternate councillors who will be empowered to assume the rights and obligations of the sponsoring body's councillor at Council meetings at which such councillor is not available to participate. An alternate councillor representing one component body may not simultaneously represent another component body as a councillor or alternate councillor.

Councillors shall be certified by their sponsoring body to the Council secretary on a date no less than 60 days before the annual meeting.

Section 2 — Powers of the Council

The Council shall have the right and responsibility to advise and instruct the Board of Directors regarding any matter of importance to the College by means of Bylaws and non-Bylaws resolutions and other actions or appropriations enacted by the Council. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, the Council shall have the right to amend the College Bylaws and College Manual, amend or restate or repeal the College Articles of Incorporation, and to elect the Council officers, the president-elect, and the members of the Board of Directors.

The Council shall have, in addition, the following powers:

1. To prepare and control its own agenda.
2. To act on any matter brought before it by a councillor or the Board of Directors.
3. To originate and act on resolutions.
4. To form, develop, and utilize committees.
5. To develop, adopt, and amend its rules of procedure (the Council Standing Rules) and other procedures for the conduct of Council business, which do not require action by the Board of Directors.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, voting rights with respect to enactment of resolutions directing the activities of the College, amendment of the Bylaws, amendment of the College Manual, amendment or restatement or repeal of the Articles of Incorporation, and election of the Council officers, the president-elect, and the members of the Board of Directors, are vested exclusively in members currently serving as councillors and are specifically denied to all other members. These rights are not applicable at the chapter level unless specifically permitted in a chapter's bylaws.

Section 3 — Meetings

An annual meeting of the Council shall be held within or outside of the State of Texas at such time and place as determined by the Board of Directors. Notice for the annual meeting is not required. Whenever the term "annual meeting" is used in these Bylaws, it shall mean the annual meeting of the Council.

Special meetings of the Council may be held within or outside of the State of Texas and may be called by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire Board of Directors, by the speaker with concurrence of a two-thirds vote of the entire Steering Committee, or by a petition of councillors comprised of signatures numbering one-third of the number of councillors present at the previous annual meeting, as certified in the final report of the chair of the Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee, provided that the time and place of such meeting shall be announced not less than 40 nor more than 50 days prior to the meeting.

Voting by proxy shall be allowed only at special meetings of the Council. The proxy of any councillor can be revoked by that councillor at any time. The results of any vote that includes proxy ballots will have the same force as any other vote of the Council.

Councillors eligible to vote at a special meeting of the Council are those who were credentialed by the Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee at the previous annual meeting of the Council.

All members of the College shall be notified of all Council meetings by mail or official publication.

Section 4 — Quorum

A majority of the number of councillors credentialed by the Tellers, Credentials, and Elections Committee during each session of the Council meeting shall constitute a quorum for that session. The vote of a majority of councillors voting in person or represented by proxy (if applicable) shall decide any question brought before such meeting, unless the question is one upon which a different vote is required by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws.

Whenever the term "present" is used in these Bylaws to determine a quorum present, with respect to councillor voting, "present" is defined as either in person or participating by approved remote communication technology.

Section 5 — Voting Rights

Each sponsoring body shall deposit with the secretary of the Council a certificate certifying its councillor(s) and alternate(s). The certificate must be signed the president, secretary, or chairperson of the sponsoring body. No councillor or alternate shall be seated who is not a member of the College. College members not specified in the sponsoring body's certificate may be certified and credentialed at the annual meeting in accordance with the Council Standing Rules.

ACEP Past Presidents, Past Speakers, and Past Chairs of the Board, if not certified as councillors or alternate councillors by a sponsoring body, may participate in the Council in a non-voting capacity. Members of the Board of Directors may address the Council on any matter under discussion but shall not have voting privileges in Council sessions.”

Whenever the term “present” is used in these Bylaws with respect to councillor voting, it shall mean credentialed as certified by the chair of the Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee.

Section 6 — Resolutions

Resolutions pertinent to the objectives of the College or in relation to any report by an officer or committee of the College shall be submitted in writing at least 90 days in advance of the Council meeting at which they are to be considered. Resolutions submitted within 90 days of the Council meeting shall be considered only as provided in the Council Standing Rules. Each resolution must be signed by at least two members of the College.

In the case of a resolution submitted by a component body of the Council or by a committee of the College, such resolution must be accompanied by a letter of endorsement from the president or chairperson representing the submitting body. Upon approval by the Council, and except for changes to the Council Standing Rules, resolutions shall be forwarded immediately to the Board of Directors for its consideration.

Section 7 — Nominating Committee

A Nominating Committee for positions elected by the Council shall be appointed annually and chaired by the speaker. The speaker shall appoint five members, at least one of which shall be a young physician, defined as a member under the age of 40 or within the first ten years of practice, and the president shall appoint the president-elect plus two additional Board members. A member of the College cannot concurrently accept nomination to the Board of Directors and Council Office. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Section 8 — Board of Directors Action on Resolutions

The Board of Directors shall act on all resolutions adopted by the Council, unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, no later than the second Board meeting following the annual meeting and shall address all other matters referred to the Board within such time and manner as the Council may determine.

The Board of Directors shall take one of the following actions regarding a non-Bylaws resolution adopted by the Council:

1. Implement the resolution as adopted by the Council.
2. Overrule the resolution by a three-fourths vote. The vote and position of each Board member shall be reported at the next meetings of the Steering Committee and the Council.
3. Amend the resolution in a way that does not change the basic intent of the Council. At its next meeting, the Steering Committee must either accept or reject the amendment. If accepted, the amended resolution shall be implemented without further action by the Council. If the Steering Committee rejects the amendment, the Board at its next meeting shall implement the resolution as adopted by the Council, propose a mutually acceptable amendment, or overrule the resolution.

The ACEP Council Speaker and Vice Speaker or their designee shall provide to the College a written summary of the Council meeting within 45 calendar days of the adjournment of the Council meeting. This summary shall include:

1. An executive summary of the Council meeting.
2. A summary and final text of each passed and referred resolution.

Thereafter, the Board of Directors shall provide to the College written and comprehensive communication regarding the actions taken and status of each adopted and referred resolution. A summary of the Board of Directors' intent, discussion, and decision for each referred resolution shall be included. These communications shall be provided at quarterly intervals until these communications demonstrate that no further Board action is required according to the Bylaws listed previously in this section.

Bylaws amendment resolutions are governed by Article XIII of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 — Authority

The management and control of the College shall be vested in the Board of Directors, subject to the restrictions imposed by these Bylaws.

Section 2 — Composition and Election

Election of Directors shall be by majority vote of the Councillors present and voting at the annual meeting of the Council.

The Board shall consist of 12 elected directors, plus the president, president-elect, immediate past president, and chair if any of these officers is serving following the conclusion of an elected term as director. The outgoing past president shall also remain a member of the Board of Directors until the conclusion of the Board meeting immediately following the annual meeting of the Council. In no instance may a member of the Board of Directors sit as a member of the Council.

The term of office of directors shall be three years and shall begin at the conclusion of the Board meeting following the annual meeting at which their elections occur and shall end at the conclusion of the Board meeting following the third succeeding annual meeting. No director may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms unless specified elsewhere in these Bylaws.

Section 3 — Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet at least three times annually. One of these meetings shall take place not later than 30 days following the annual meeting of the College. The other meetings shall take place at such other times and places as the Board may determine. Meetings may take place within or outside of the State of Texas. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Subject to the provisions of these Bylaws with respect to notice of meetings of the Board of Directors, members of the Board of Directors may participate in and hold additional meetings of such Board by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, and participation in a meeting pursuant to this section shall constitute presence in person at such meeting, except where a director participates in such meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action to be taken, shall be signed by all of the members of the Board of Directors and Council officers, and such a consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the members of the Board of Directors at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the president or the chair of the Board with not less than 48 hours notice to each director, either personally or by other appropriate means of communication. Special meetings also may be called by one-third of the current members of the Board in like manner and on like notice. Such notice of a special meeting of the Board of Directors shall specify the business to be transacted at, and the purpose of, such special meeting.

Section 4 — Removal

Any member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office at any meeting of the Council by a three-quarters vote of the councillors present, as certified by the chair of the Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee. A removal must be initiated by a petition signed by councillors present at that meeting. The number of signatures on the removal petition shall be not less than one-third of the number of councillors present at the meeting at which the member of the Board of Directors was elected, as certified in the final report of the chair of the Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee.

Section 5 — Vacancy

Any vacancy filled shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term.

A vacancy created by removal shall be filled by a majority vote of the councillors present and voting at the Council meeting at which the removal occurs. Nominations for such vacancy shall be accepted from the floor of the Council.

Vacancies created other than by removal may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Board if more than 90 days remain before the annual Council meeting. If there are more than three concurrent vacancies, the Council shall elect directors to fill all vacancies via special election. If fewer than 90 days remain before the annual Council meeting, then the vacancies will not be filled until the annual Council meeting.

ARTICLE X — OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Section 1 – Officers

The officers of the Board of Directors shall be president, president-elect, chair, immediate past president, vice presidents, and secretary-treasurer. The officers of the Council shall be the speaker and vice speaker. The Board of Directors may appoint other officers as described in these Bylaws.

Section 2 — Election of Officers

The chair, vice-presidents, and secretary-treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote at the Board meeting immediately following the annual meeting. The president-elect shall be elected each year and the speaker and vice speaker elected every other year by a majority vote of the councillors present and voting at the annual meeting.

Section 3 — Removal

Any officer of the Council, the president, and the president-elect may be removed from office at any meeting of the Council by a three-quarters vote of the councillors present, as certified by the chair of the Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee. A removal must be initiated by a petition signed by councillors present at that meeting. The number of signatures on the removal petition shall be not less than one-third of the number of councillors present at the meeting at which the Council officer was elected, as certified in the final report of the chair of the Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee.

Removal of an individual from the position of chair, vice president, or secretary-treasurer without removal as a member of the Board of Directors shall be carried out by the Board of Directors. Removal as chair shall also remove that individual from the Board of Directors if the chair is serving only by virtue of that office. Removal shall require a three-quarters vote of the full Board excluding the officer under consideration. Replacement shall be by the same process as for regular elections of these Board officers.

Section 4 — Vacancy

Vacancies in the offices of the Board of Directors and the Council occurring for reasons other than removal shall be filled in accordance with sections 4.1 through 4.4 of this Article X. Vacancies occurring by removal shall be filled in accordance with sections 4.5 and 4.6 of this Article X. Succession or election to fill any vacated office shall not count toward the term limit for that office.

Section 4.1 — President

In the event of a vacancy in the office of the president, the president-elect shall immediately succeed to the office of the president for the remainder of the unexpired term, after which their regular term as president shall be served.

Section 4.2 — President-Elect

In the event of a vacancy in the office of the president-elect, the Board of Directors, speaker, and vice speaker may fill the vacancy by majority vote for the remainder of the unexpired term from among the members of the Board. If the vacancy in the office of president-elect is filled in such a manner, at the next annual Council meeting, the Council shall, by majority vote of the credentialed councillors, either ratify the elected replacement, or failing such ratification, the Council shall elect a new replacement from among the members of the Board. The Council shall, in the normal course of Council elections, elect a new president-elect to succeed the just-ratified or just-elected president-elect only when the latter is succeeding to the office of president at the same annual meeting.

Section 4.3 — Chair, Vice President, & Secretary-Treasurer

In the event of a vacancy in the office of chair, vice president, or secretary-treasurer, election to the vacant office shall occur as the first item of business, after approval of the minutes, at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 4.4 — Council Officers

In the event of a vacancy in the office of vice speaker, the Steering Committee shall nominate and elect an individual who meets the eligibility requirements of these Bylaws to serve as vice speaker. This election shall occur as the first item of business, following approval of the minutes, at the next meeting of the Steering Committee, by majority vote of the entire Steering Committee. If the vacancy occurs during the first year of a two-year term, the vice speaker will serve until the next meeting of the Council when the Council shall elect a vice speaker to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

In the event of a vacancy in the office of speaker, the vice speaker shall succeed to the office of speaker for the remainder of the unexpired term, and an interim vice speaker shall then be elected as described above.

In the event that the offices of both speaker and vice speaker become vacant, the Steering Committee shall elect a speaker to serve until the election of a new speaker and vice speaker at the next meeting of the Council.

Section 4.5 — Vacancy by Removal of a Board Officer

In the event of removal of an officer of the Board of Directors, excluding the president, replacement shall be conducted by the same process as for regular elections of those officers. If the president is removed, the vacancy shall be filled by the president-elect for the remainder of the unexpired term, after which their regular term as president shall be served.

Section 4.6 — Vacancy by Removal of a Council Officer

In the event of removal of a Council officer, nominations for replacement shall be accepted from the floor of the Council, and election shall be by majority vote of the councillors present and voting at the Council meeting at which the removal occurs. In the event that the speaker is removed and the vice speaker is elected to the office of speaker, the office of vice speaker shall then be filled by majority vote at that same meeting, from nominees from the floor of the Council.

Section 5 — President

The president shall be a member of the Board of Directors, and shall additionally hold ex-officio membership in all committees. The president's term of office shall begin at the conclusion of the first ensuing annual meeting of the Council following the meeting at which the election as president-elect occurred and shall end at the conclusion of the next annual meeting of the Council, or when a successor is seated.

Section 6 — Chair

The chair shall be a member of and shall chair the Board of Directors. Any director shall be eligible for election to the position of chair and shall be elected at the first Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting of the Council. The chair's term of office shall begin at the conclusion of the meeting at which the election as chair occurs and shall end at the conclusion of the first Board of Directors meeting following the next annual meeting of the Council or when a successor is elected. No director may serve more than one term as chair.

Section 7 — Vice Presidents

There shall be two vice president positions. The vice presidents shall be members of the Board of Directors. A director shall be eligible for election to a position of vice president if at least one year remains as an elected director on the Board and shall be elected at the first Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting of the Council. A vice president's term of office shall begin at the conclusion of the meeting at which the election as a vice president occurs and shall end at the conclusion of the first Board of Directors meeting following the next annual meeting of the Council or when a successor is elected.

Section 8 — President-Elect

Any member of the Board of Directors excluding the president, president-elect, and immediate past president shall be eligible for election to the position of president-elect by the Council. The president-elect shall be a member of the Board of Directors. The president-elect's term of office shall begin at the conclusion of the meeting at which the election as president-elect occurs and shall end with succession to the office of president. The president-elect shall be elected by a majority vote of the councillors present and voting at the annual meeting of the Council. The president-elect shall succeed to the office of president at the conclusion of the first ensuing annual meeting of the Council following the meeting at which the election as president-elect occurred and shall end at the conclusion of the next annual meeting of the Council, or when a successor is seated.

Section 9 — Secretary-Treasurer

The secretary-treasurer shall be a member of the Board of Directors. The secretary-treasurer shall cause to be kept adequate and proper accounts of the properties, funds, and records of the College and shall perform such other duties as prescribed by the Board.

A director shall be eligible for election to the position of secretary-treasurer if at least one year remains on the Board as an elected director and shall be elected at the first Board of Directors meeting following the annual meeting of the Council. The secretary-treasurer's term of office shall begin at the conclusion of the meeting at which the election as secretary-treasurer occurs and shall end at the conclusion of the first Board of Directors meeting following the next annual meeting of the Council or when a successor is elected. No secretary-treasurer may serve more than two consecutive terms.

The secretary-treasurer shall deposit or cause to be deposited all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the College with such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The secretary-treasurer shall disburse the funds of the College as may be ordered by the Board of Directors; shall render to the Board of Directors, whenever it may request it, an account of all transactions as treasurer, and of the financial condition of the College; and shall have such powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or these Bylaws. Any of the duties of the secretary-treasurer may, by action of the Board of Directors, be assigned to the executive director.

Section 10 — Immediate Past President

The immediate past president shall remain a member of the Board of Directors for a period of one year following the term as president, or until such time as the regular term as a Board member shall expire, whichever is longer. The term of the immediate past president shall commence at the conclusion of the second annual meeting of the Council following the meeting at which the election of president-elect occurred and shall end at the conclusion of the third annual meeting following the election. The outgoing past president shall also remain a member of the Board of Directors until the conclusion of the Board meeting immediately following the annual meeting of the Council.

Section 11 — Speaker

The term of office of the speaker of the Council shall be two years. The speaker shall attend meetings of the Board of Directors and may address any matter under discussion. The speaker shall preside at all meetings of the Council, except that the vice speaker may preside at the discretion of the speaker. The speaker shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, the agendas for the Council. The speaker may appoint committees of the Council and shall inform the councillors of the activities of the College. The speaker's term of office shall begin immediately following the conclusion of the annual meeting at which the election occurred and shall conclude at such time as a successor takes office. The speaker shall not have the right to vote in the Council except in the event of a tie vote of the councillors. During the term of office, the speaker is ineligible to accept nomination to the Board of Directors of the College. No speaker may serve consecutive terms.

Section 12 — Vice Speaker

The term of office of the vice speaker of the Council shall be two years. The vice speaker shall attend meetings of the Board of Directors and may address any matter under discussion. The vice speaker shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the speaker if the speaker so requests or if the speaker is unable to perform such duties. The term of the office of the vice speaker shall begin immediately following the conclusion of the annual meeting at which the election occurred and shall conclude at such time as a successor takes office. During the term of office, the vice speaker is ineligible to accept nomination to the Board of Directors of the College. No vice speaker may serve consecutive terms.

Section 13 — Executive Director

An executive director shall be appointed for a term and at a stipend to be fixed by the Board of Directors. The executive director shall, under the direction of the Board of Directors, perform such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors. The executive director shall keep or cause to be kept an accurate record of the minutes and transactions of the Council and of the Board of Directors and shall serve as secretary to these bodies. The executive director shall supervise all other employees and agents of the College and have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or these Bylaws. The executive director shall not be entitled to vote.

Section 14 — Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Annually, the ACEP Board of Directors shall appoint an individual to serve as assistant secretary-treasurer. The assistant secretary-treasurer shall serve as an officer of the corporation without authority to act on behalf of the corporation, except (i) to execute and file required corporate and financial administrative and franchise type reports to state, local, and federal authorities, or (ii) pursuant to any authority granted in writing by the secretary-treasurer. All other duties of the secretary-treasurer are specifically omitted from this authority and are reserved for the duly elected secretary-treasurer. The assistant secretary-treasurer shall not be a member of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI — COMMITTEES

Section 1 — General Committees

The president shall annually appoint committees and task forces to address issues pertinent to the College as deemed advisable. The members thereof need not consist of members of the Board, nor shall it be necessary that the chair of a committee be a member of the Board. A majority of the voting membership of a committee shall constitute a quorum.

The president shall appoint annually committees on Compensation, Bylaws, and Finance.

Section 2 — Executive Committee

The Board of Directors shall have an Executive Committee, consisting of the president, president-elect, vice presidents, secretary-treasurer, immediate past president, and chair. The speaker shall attend meetings of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Board, subject to ratification by the Board at its next meeting.

Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at the call of the chair or president. A report of its actions shall be given by the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors in writing within two weeks of the adjournment of the meeting.

Section 3 — Steering Committee

A Steering Committee of the Council shall be appointed by the speaker of the Council. The committee shall consist of at least 15 members, each appointed annually for a one-year term. It shall be the function of the committee to represent the Council between Council meetings. The committee shall be required to meet at least two times annually, and all action taken by the committee shall be subject to final approval by the Council at the next regularly scheduled session. The speaker of the Council shall be the chair of the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee cannot overrule resolutions, actions, or appropriations enacted by the Council. The Steering Committee may amend such instructions of the Council, or approve amendments proposed by the Board of Directors, provided that such amendment shall not change the intent or basic content of the instructions. Such actions to amend, or approve amendment, can only be by a three-quarters vote of all the members of the Steering Committee and must include the position and vote of each member of the Steering Committee. Notice by mail or official publication shall be given to the membership regarding such amendment, or approval of amendment, of the Council's instructions. Such notice shall contain the position and vote of each member of the Steering Committee regarding amendment of or approval of amendment.

Section 4 — Bylaws Interpretation Committee

In addition to the College Bylaws Committee, there shall also be a Bylaws Interpretation Committee, appointed annually and consisting of five ACEP members. The president shall appoint two of the members and the Council speaker shall appoint three members. The chair of this committee shall be chosen by a vote of its members. When petitioned to do so, the Bylaws Interpretation Committee shall be charged with the definitive interpretation of Articles VIII – Council, IX – Board of Directors, X – Officers/Executive Director, XI – Committees, and XIII – Amendments, of these Bylaws. Interpretation of other articles of these Bylaws shall be by the Board of Directors.

Any member shall have the right to petition the Bylaws Interpretation Committee for an opinion on any issue within its purview. If the petition alleges an occurrence of improper action, inaction, or omission, such petition must be received by the executive director no more than 60 days after the occurrence. In the event of a question regarding whether the subject of the petition is addressed by a portion of the Bylaws which falls within the committee's jurisdiction, or a question of whether the time limit has been met, such question shall be resolved jointly by the president and the speaker. The committee shall then respond with an interpretation within 30 days of receipt of the petition. An urgent interpretation can be requested by the president, the Board of Directors, the speaker, or the Council in which case the interpretation of the committee shall be provided within 14 days. The Board shall provide the necessary funds, if requested by the committee, to assist the committee in the gathering of appropriate data and opinions for development of any interpretation. The Bylaws Interpretation Committee shall render its response to the petitioner as a written interpretation of that portion of the Bylaws in question. That response shall be forwarded to the petitioner, the officers of the Council, and the Board of Directors.

Section 5 — Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall be appointed by the president. The committee shall be composed of the president-elect, secretary-treasurer, speaker of the Council or the speaker's designee, and at least eight members at large. The chair shall be one of the members at large. The Finance Committee is charged with an audit oversight function and a policy advisory function and may be assigned additional objectives by the president. As audit overseers, the committee performs detailed analysis of the College budget and other financial reports ensuring due diligence and proper accounting principles are followed. In addition, expenses incurred in attending official meetings of the Board, shall be reimbursed consistent with amounts fixed by the Finance Committee and with the policies approved by the Board.

Section 6 — Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee shall be appointed by the president. The Bylaws Committee is charged with the ongoing review of the College Bylaws for areas that may be in need of revision and also charged with the review of chapter bylaws. The Bylaws Committee may be assigned additional objectives by the president or Board of Directors.

Section 7 — Compensation Committee

College officers and members of the Board of Directors may be compensated, the amount and manner of which shall be determined annually by the Compensation Committee. This committee shall be composed of the chair of the Finance Committee plus four members of the College who are currently neither officers nor members of the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee chair, the Finance Committee chair, plus one other member shall be presidential appointments and two members shall be appointed by the speaker. Members of this committee shall be appointed to staggered terms of not less than two years.

The recommendations of this committee shall be submitted annually for review by the Board of Directors and, if accepted, shall be reported to the Council at the next annual meeting. The recommendations may be rejected by a three-quarters vote of the entire Board of Directors, in which event the Board must determine the compensation or request that the committee reconsider. In the event the Board of Directors chooses to reject the recommendations of the Compensation Committee and determine the compensation, the proposed change shall not take effect unless ratified by a majority of councillors voting at the next annual meeting. If the Council does not ratify the Board's proposed compensation, the Compensation Committee's recommendation will then take effect.

ARTICLE XII — ETHICS

The "Code of Ethics for Emergency Physicians" shall be the ethical foundation of the College. Charges of violations of ethical principles or policies contained in the "Code of Ethics for Emergency Physicians" may be brought in accordance with procedures described in the College Manual.

ARTICLE XIII — AMENDMENTS

Section 1 — Submission

Any member of the College may submit proposed amendments to these Bylaws. Each amendment proposal must be signed by at least two members of the College. In the case of an amendment proposed by a component body of the Council or by a committee of the College, each amendment proposal must be accompanied by a letter of endorsement from the president or chairperson representing the submitting body. Such submissions must be presented to the Council secretary of the College at least 90 days prior to the Council meeting at which the proposed amendments are to be considered. The Bylaws Committee, up to 45 days prior to the Council meeting, with the consent of the submitters, may make changes to Bylaws resolutions insofar as such changes would clarify the intent or circumvent conflicts with other portions of the Bylaws.

If a proposed Bylaws amendment is a Contested Amendment, as hereinafter defined, then such Contested Amendment shall be considered already to have fulfilled the submission obligation.

Section 2 — Notice

For any proposed Bylaws amendment, including a Contested Amendment as hereinafter defined, the executive director of the College shall give notice to the members of the College, by mail or official publication, at least 30 days prior to the Council meeting at which any such proposed Bylaws amendment is to be considered for adoption.

Section 3 — Amendment Under Initial Consideration

A proposed Bylaws amendment which, at any meeting of the Council, has received an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the councillors present, as certified by the chair of the Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee, shall be deemed an Amendment Under Initial Consideration. The Board of Directors must vote upon an Amendment Under Initial Consideration no later than the conclusion of the Board's second meeting following said Council meeting. If the Amendment Under Initial Consideration receives the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors, then it shall be adopted and these Bylaws shall be so amended immediately.

Section 4 — Contested Amendment

If an Amendment Under Initial Consideration fails to receive an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors, then such proposed Bylaws amendment shall be deemed a Contested Amendment.

The positions and vote of each member of the Board regarding such Contested Amendment shall be presented to the Council's Steering Committee at the Steering Committee's first meeting following said vote of the Board of Directors. The Council's component bodies and councillors shall be notified within 30 days of the Board action. The Steering Committee shall not have the authority to amend or adopt a Contested Amendment. The speaker may call a special meeting of the Council to consider a Contested Amendment. The time and place of such meeting shall be announced no less than 40 and no more than 50 days prior to the meeting.

The Contested Amendment, identical in every way to its parent Amendment Under Initial Consideration, and the positions and vote of each member of the Board of Directors regarding such Contested Amendment, shall be presented to the Council at the Council's first meeting following said vote of the Board of Directors.

If the unmodified Contested Amendment receives the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the councillors present at that Council meeting, as certified by the chair of the Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee, then such proposed Bylaws amendment shall be adopted, and these Bylaws shall be so amended immediately.

If a Contested Amendment is modified in any way, and then receives the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the councillors present at that Council meeting, as certified by the Tellers, Credentials, & Elections Committee, such Contested Amendment shall then be deemed an Amendment Under Initial Consideration and be subject to the process for adoption defined herein.

ARTICLE XIV — MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1 — Inspection of Records

The minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors and of the Council, the membership books, and books of account shall be open to inspection upon the written demand of any member at any reasonable time, for any purpose reasonably related to the member's interest as a member, and shall be produced at any time when requested by the demand of 10 percent of the members at any meeting of the Council. Such inspection may be made by the member, agent, or attorney, and shall include the right to make extracts thereof. Demand of inspection, other than at a meeting of the members, shall be in writing to the president or the secretary-treasurer of the College.

Section 2 — Annual Report

The Board of Directors shall make available to the members as soon as practical after the close of the fiscal year, audited financial statements, certified by an independent certified public accountant.

Section 3 — Parliamentary Authority

The parliamentary authority for meetings of the College shall be the current edition of *The American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure*, except when in conflict with the Bylaws of the College or the Council Standing Rules.

Section 4 — College Manual

The College shall have a College Manual to address such matters as may be deemed suitable by the Board of Directors and the Council.

Amendments to the College Manual may be made by majority vote of both the Council and the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XV — MANDATORY INDEMNIFICATION

Section 1 — Policy of Indemnification and Advancement of Expenses

To the full extent permitted by the Texas Business Organizations Code, as amended from time to time, the College shall indemnify all Directors, Officers, and all Employees of the College against judgments, penalties (including excise and similar taxes), fines, settlements and reasonable expenses (including court costs and attorneys' fees) actually incurred by any such person who was, is or is threatened to be made a named defendant or respondent in a proceeding

because the person is or was a Director, Officer, or Employee of the College and the College shall advance to such person(s) such reasonable expenses as are incurred by such person in connection therewith.

Section 2 — Definitions

For purposes of this Article XV:

1. “Director” means any person who is or was a director of the College and any person who, while a director of the College, is or was serving at the request of the College as a director, officer, partner, venturer, proprietor, trustee, employee, agent, or similar functionary of the College or of another foreign or domestic corporation, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise.
2. “Officer” means any person who is or was an officer of the College and any person who, while an officer of the College, is or was serving at the request of the College as a director, officer, partner, venturer, proprietor, trustee, employee, agent, or similar functionary of the College or of another foreign or domestic corporation, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise.
3. “Employee” means an individual:
 - a. Selected and engaged by ACEP;
 - b. To Whom wages are paid by ACEP;
 - c. Whom ACEP has the power to dismiss; and
 - d. Whose work conduct ACEP has the power or right to control.
4. “Proceeding” means any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, arbitrate, or investigative, any appeal in such action, suit, or proceeding, and any inquiry or investigation that could lead to such an action, suit, or proceeding.

Section 3 — Non-Exclusive; Continuation

The indemnification provided by this Article XV shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the person claiming indemnification may be entitled under any agreement or otherwise both as to any action in the individual’s official capacity and as to any action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who shall have ceased to be a Director, Officer, or Employee of the College engaged in any other enterprise at the request of the College and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person.

Section 4 — Insurance or Other Arrangement

The College shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance or another arrangement on behalf of any person who is or was a Director, Officer, or Employee of the College, or who is or was not a Director, Officer, or Employee of the College but is or was serving at the request of the College as a Director, Officer, or Employee or any other capacity in another corporation, or a partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in such capacity, arising out of such person’s status as such, whether or not such person is indemnified against such liability by the provisions of this Article XV.

Section 5 — Exclusion of Certain Acts from Indemnification

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article XV, no Director, Officer, or Employee of the College shall be indemnified for any dishonest or fraudulent acts, willful violation of applicable law, or actions taken by such person when acting outside of the scope of such person’s office, position, or authority with or granted by the College or the Board of Directors.