

Constitution of the Dell Medical School Student Body

Preamble

We, the students of The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School, in order to facilitate effective representation of our diverse interests, foster a vibrant, health-conscious school culture, and empower future physician leaders in their personal, professional and academic development, do establish and endorse this constitution for the governance of our student body.

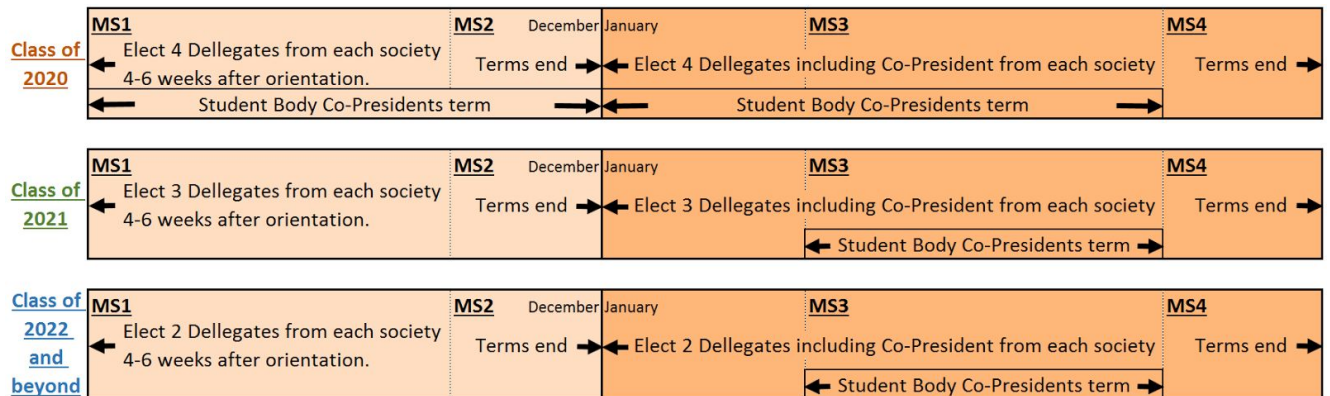
Article I: Membership

All students currently enrolled or on approved leave at Dell Medical School are members of the Dell Medical School Student Body.

Article II: Governance

The Medical Student Senate (MSS) exists to represent and serve the Student Body. The MSS will act as a clearinghouse to facilitate student activity, student interest, student life, and professional development in support of the empathy, integrity, and humanity of the Student Body. The MSS must communicate regularly and transparently with the Student Body, and all records of the MSS must be available for inspection by the Student Body.

Section 1: Elections and Recall



The Student Body elects representatives, also known as Delegates, by society to the MSS. The class of 2020 has elected 4 members from each society. These Delegates' terms will end in December of their MS2 year. That December, the class will again elect 4 members from each society. These Delegates will serve through the end of their MS4 year.

The Class of 2021 will elect 3 members from each society, 4-6 weeks after orientation. These Delegates' terms will end in December of their MS2 year. That December, the class will again elect 3

members from each society. These Delegates will serve through the end of their MS4 year.

The Classes of 2022 and beyond will elect 2 members from each society, 4-6 weeks after orientation. These Delegates will serve through December of their MS2 year. The Classes of 2022 and beyond will again elect 2 members from each society during December of their MS2 year. These Delegates will serve through the end of their MS4 year.

A current MSS Delegate will be responsible for the organization and execution of all election proceedings.

- *Voting Eligibility:* All members of the Student Body are eligible to vote in the elections for their class Delegates.
- *Candidate Eligibility:* All members of the Student Body in good academic and professional standing are eligible for election to the MSS.
- *Election Proceedings:* There will be no formal nominations or campaigns; instead students will anonymously submit their votes. Those students receiving the most votes will be privately offered the opportunity to serve on the MSS. If a student does not wish to serve, the position will be offered to the person who received the next most votes in their society; this process will continue until all positions are filled. Only after all positions are filled will the elected Delegates be made public.
- *Vacancies:* If a Delegate is no longer able or willing to serve for any reason, the next person on the list from that society's original election will be offered the position privately, as described in Election Proceedings.
- *Removal from Office:* In the event that a Delegate is not fulfilling their MSS duties, an absolute two-thirds of the MSS may vote to remove that Delegate from office. The position is filled according to the Vacancy guidelines above.

Section 2: Co-Presidents of the Student Body

Co-presidents of the Student Body are determined by society vote. They represent Dell Medical School's entire Student Body and lead the MSS from September of their MS3 year through August of the start of their MS4 year. Before and after their presidential term they serve as Delegates of the MSS. Each society president is the Delegate elected with the most votes in their MS2 December election.

Exceptions to Article II, Section 2:

- Co-presidents elected for the Class of 2020 in the MS1 election will serve through December of their MS2 year.
- Co-presidents elected for the Class of 2020 in the MS2 election will serve an extended term from January of their MS2 year through August of their MS4 year.

Section 3: MSS Meetings

The Medical Student Senate meets no less than once per semester, as determined by need. Meeting rules of order are defined in the bylaws. A quorum is required to conduct business.

A quorum is defined as a minimum of 60% of Delegates in attendance (rounded up to the nearest whole person) with at least one member per class present.

Article III: Committees

Students are represented on Dell Medical School committees because student input and contribution is essential in the formulation, review, and implementation of policy relating to the educational program and student life.

The MSS oversees appointment of representatives to the following committees:

- Admissions Committee
- C.D. Doyle Student-Run Free Clinic Committee
- Graduate Student Assembly
- Orientation Committee
- Special Events Committee
- Specialty Selection, Exploration, Matching and Oversight Committee
- Student Conduct Committee
- Student Handbook Committee
- Student Wellness Committee
- Undergraduate Medical Education Committees
- University Student Government

Committee positions are filled annually via an application process open to the Student Body and voted on by the MSS. The MSS may establish additional standing and temporary committees.

Article IV. Basic Financial Responsibilities

The MSS will be responsible for the allocation of funds from the Student Affairs office to eligible student organizations as determined by an annually established budget and as outlined in the bylaws. All expenditures not budgeted will be submitted to and must be approved by the MSS as described in the bylaws.

Article V. Amendments and Bylaws

Section 1: Constitution Amendments

Students may propose amendments to the constitution at any time. The number of students required on a petition must be at least 10% of the Student Body.

The proposed amendment must be brought to the attention of the MSS via written or electronic

communication and must include the text of the original article, the text of the proposed amendment, and the concrete reason the amendment is necessary. The MSS may ratify the amendment by a two-thirds vote of the entire MSS. If they do not ratify it, the MSS must refer the proposed amendment to a Student Body vote. Petitions received by the MSS must be voted on or referred to the Student Body within two months.

In the case of a Student Body vote, all proposed amendments must be submitted to the Student Body via written or electronic communication at least one week prior to the vote. An amendment must receive two-thirds of all votes cast in order to be ratified by the Student Body and will take effect immediately upon ratification. All members of the Student Body are entitled to vote on any proposed amendment submitted to the Student Body.

Section 2: Bylaw Creation and Amendments

Rules and regulations governing the operations and proceedings of the MSS that are not explicitly stated in the constitution may be contained in written bylaws. The purpose of bylaws is to allow the MSS flexibility to determine what aspects of its operations and proceedings are important enough to codify apart from the constitution. Any vote on bylaw creation or amendments requires a quorum of the MSS.

A bylaw or bylaw amendment must be proposed and discussed at an official meeting of the MSS. It may be proposed by any individual member of the MSS. A proposed bylaw must include its subject, the concrete reason the bylaw is necessary, and the text of the bylaw itself. A bylaw amendment must include the text of the original bylaw, the text of the proposed amendment, and the concrete reason the bylaw amendment is necessary.

All formal comments on the proposed bylaw or bylaw amendment must be addressed within an MSS meeting. The bylaw or bylaw amendment may be sent to committee for revisions or held for vote at the next meeting. Call for vote may not occur at the meeting in which the bylaw or bylaw amendment is initially proposed. Bylaws or bylaw amendments must be approved by a majority of all MSS members.

Article VI. Ratification

This constitution must receive approval from two-thirds of all votes cast in order to be ratified by the Student Body. The full text of the constitution will be provided to the Student Body at least one week prior to the close of the vote. It will become effective immediately upon ratification.