

SUBJECT: COMMISSION ON OSTEOPATHIC COLLEGE ACCREDITATION
(COCA), COMPOSITION OF

SUBMITTED BY: Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation and

REFERRED TO: AOA Board of Trustees

1 WHEREAS, pursuant to the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA)
2 Handbook, the composition of the COCA currently consists of seventeen (17)
3 members: one public college dean, one private college dean, two educators from
4 colleges of osteopathic medicine, but who are not the dean, one director of medical
5 education, one hospital administrator, three public members, and eight members at
6 large; and

7 WHEREAS, while the numerical composition of the COCA remained the same at seventeen
8 (17) members, the AOA Board of Trustees (BOT), at its July 2018, meeting, amended
9 the composition to reflect a different membership to reflect the changing nature of
10 undergraduate medical education and the evolving direction of U.S. Department of
11 Education policies, such as including a broader spectrum of representative interests on
12 accrediting agencies such as the COCA;

13 WHEREAS, the volume of the COCA's work has continued to increase and has placed
14 increased burdens on the volunteer commissioners of the COCA; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, that the composition of the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation
16 (COCA) be increased to nineteen (19) members; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, that the composition of the COCA be modified be as follows: Four (4) deans of
18 colleges of osteopathic medicine (COM); two (2) faculty members from COMs - one
19 biomedical science faculty member and one clinical science faculty member - who are
20 not deans, one (1) student services representative from a COM; two (2) graduate
21 medical education leaders; one (1) hospital or medical clinic administrator; one (1)
22 physician member of a state medical licensing board; one (1) DO resident or fellow
23 physician or, alternatively, a physician in practice for fewer than five years; three (3)
24 representatives of the public; and four (4) osteopathic physicians at large who are not
25 COM deans; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, that the term of each current commissioner of the COCA remain unaffected by
27 this resolution, and that upon this resolution's taking effect, the then current AOA
28 President shall appoint commissioners to implement the aforementioned modification
29 in composition of the COCA membership as each of the current commissioner's term
30 expires; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, that the appointments made by the AOA President for the 2019-2020 term of
32 the COCA shall be unaffected by this resolution; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, that all other aspects of membership on the COCA shall remain unchanged; and
2 be it further

3 RESOLVED, that the staggered change in composition as intended by this resolution shall
4 begin to take effect upon the inauguration of the AOA President in 2019 with final
5 appointments made in each successive year by succeeding AOA Presidents to realize the
6 full effect of this resolution; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, that the COCA Handbook be revised to reflect the foregoing modifications to
8 the COCA’s composition; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, that upon the expiration of a COCA commissioner’s term, any current
10 commissioner shall not be reappointed to serve an eligible subsequent term unless that
11 commissioner is eligible to be appointed to serve in a capacity reflected in the change in
12 the COCA’s composition stated herein.

Explanatory Statement: The change in composition is required to spread the work load of the COCA. With increasing interest in establishing new COMs, as well as with the work load generated by the existing 35 COMs (with 56 campuses), the COCA commissioners commit substantial time and effort to review voluminous materials in preparation for the 3-4 day meetings three times during the calendar year, as well as on a monthly basis related to committee work. The increased numbers of commissioners will help alleviate the work load and to re-distribute the work load to more individuals.

This resolution does not violate the Memorandum of Understanding as between AOA and the COCA. While the AOA cannot intervene with the COCA’s accreditation decisions or standard-setting functions, the AOA President – based on nominees from an education nomination committee and with approval of the AOA Board of Trustees– appoints members of the COCA. This resolution sets out criteria to be used in the appointment process and, therefore, is an appropriate issue for AOA to decide.

FISCAL IMPACT: The fiscal impact to the AOA is nominal. The addition of two more commissioners will result in added expenses for attending meetings (e.g., travel, accommodations, meals, etc.).

ACTION TAKEN _____

DATE _____