

Statement on student representation on MD Program committees

Approved by: Curriculum Committee

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As key partners in education, medical students are an integral part of decision-making processes in the MD Program. As such, they should be represented as full voting members on almost every MD Program committee, with the exception of small, senior bodies and those that are focused primarily on administrative issues. These exceptions are the Executive Committee, the Academy Directors' Committee, and the MedSIS Steering Committee. If new or existing committees wish to exclude student representation, rationale must be provided and authorization obtained from the Vice Dean, MD Program. This policy does not preclude committees from holding in camera meetings without student representation in order to examine individual student records or other sensitive data. This policy also does not preclude committees from establishing ad hoc, task-oriented sub-committees or working groups that do not have student representation, although student inclusion should be encouraged.

For their part, all student committee members, whether elected or appointed to their position, are expected to recognize and actualize the representative nature of their roles. Hence, they are expected to solicit broad feedback from their peers on the topics before the committee, and to facilitate dissemination of committee discussion points and decisions to the student body. At the same time, student members should not view themselves, nor be viewed, purely as advocates for their fellow students. Rather, they are full members of the committees on which they serve and as such their responsibility – like the responsibility of every other member – is to assist in making sound recommendations and decisions for the improvement of the MD Program as a whole.

As much as possible, scheduling of committee meetings will avoid conflicting with scheduled class time and examinations, recognizing that this will sometimes be unavoidable especially in the case of Clerkship students and committees that do not have a long-standing, fixed position in the monthly schedule. In general, attendance at meetings should take priority over routine educational activity, provided that students notify any clinical or small- group teachers in advance, and arrange to make up any critical activities in a timely fashion. If such notification is provided, no student shall be penalized for attending a faculty committee of which they are a member or invited speaker.