

American Medical Student Association  
House of Delegates 2012  
**Resolution: A-7**

INTRODUCED BY:	Shazia Mehmood, Vice President for Leadership Development; David Marcovitz, Vice President for Membership; Matthew H. Moy, Vice President for Program Development; Sonia Lazreg, Health Justice Fellow; Kimberly Fe’Lix Kimes, Premedical Trustee; Nida Degesys, National Secretary Lindsay Martin-Engel, Chair for the Grassroots Organizing Committee; Megan Wolf, Chair for the Wellness and Student Life Committee;  Supporting Affiliates: Rebecca Snowden, Chair for Medical Professionalism Committee
SCHOOL:	Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; Vanderbilt University SOM; Rosalind Franklin University Chicago Medical School; Mount Sinai SOM; University of North Carolina- Charlotte; Northeast Ohio Medical University; University of Illinois-Chicago SOM; University of Pittsburgh SOM;
SUBJECT:	Creation of VP of Advocacy, linked to VPLD position
TYPE:	Resolution of Constitution & Bylaws, Internal Affairs

1 WHEREAS the Vice President of Leadership Development serves as a member of the AMSA  
2 Board of Trustees, which serves as the major policy and decision-making body for the  
3 Association between HOD meetings; and  
4  
5 WHEREAS the Vice President of Leadership Development position description has been  
6 changed this past year to extend jurisdiction toward leadership development efforts throughout  
7 the Association, while continuing to co-Chair the Action Committee and Team Executive Board;  
8 and  
9  
10 WHEREAS there is great potential and desire for the Association to expand advocacy campaigns  
11 and trainings  
12  
13 WHEREAS Association members and leadership identify a need for someone to serve in the role  
14 of propelling advocacy, a void that exists in part because of the discontinuation of the Legislative  
15 Director position; and  
16  
17 WHEREAS the Association benefits from having continuity on the Board of Trustees.  
18  
19 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Constitution & Bylaws, Art. VII, Sec. 2 be**  
20 **AMENDED to read:**  
21

22 Section 2—Term of Office

23

24 The term of office for all Officers and Trustees of the Association shall be for one (1) year, or  
25 until their successors are duly elected and qualified with the exception of the Secretary/Vice  
26 President for Internal Affairs **AND VP FOR ADVOCACY/VP FOR LEADERSHIP**  
27 **DEVELOPMENT**, who shall serve a two (2) year term. No Officer or Trustee may serve more  
28 than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position.

29

30 The above Officers and Trustees shall serve for a total of thirteen months with the final month as  
31 Outgoing Officers and Trustees with the exception of the Secretary/Vice President for Internal  
32 Affairs position, **VP FOR ADVOCACY/VP FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**, and  
33 President-Elect.

34

35 **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Constitution & Bylaws, Art. VII, Sec. 4, paragraph**  
36 **3 be AMENDED to read:**

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38 Section 4—Dismissal of the Officers

39 ...

40

41 With regard to the Vice President for ~~Leadership Development~~ **FOR ADVOCACY** and the Vice  
42 President for Program Development, the Executive Board of the Action Committees (ACT Exec)  
43 shall be empowered to dismiss the Trustee...

44

45 **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Constitution & Bylaws, Art. VII, Sec. 5 be**  
46 **AMENDED to read:**

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48 Section 5—Rules of Succession

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50 In the event of the inability of any Officer or Trustee to fulfill the duties of his/her position for  
51 any reason, the vacancy thus created shall be filled in the following manner: in the case of the  
52 vacancy in the position of President, the Vice President for Internal Affairs shall serve in that  
53 position for the remainder of the term; and in the case of a vacancy in the position of Vice  
54 President for Membership, **VICE PRESIDENT FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**,  
55 Vice President for Finance, or Secretary or Vice President for Internal Affairs, Premedical  
56 Trustee, Graduate Trustee, or International Trustee, the BOT shall designate an individual to  
57 serve in that position for the remainder of the term; and in the case of a vacancy in any of the  
58 positions of Regional Director, the Board of Regional Directors, with the approval of a majority  
59 of the Chapter representatives in said Region, shall designate individuals who meet the  
60 qualifications for holding said positions to serve in those positions for the remainder of the terms.

61

62 In the case of a vacancy of the Vice President for ~~Leadership Development~~ **ADVOCACY** and  
63 the Vice President for Program Development, the remaining members of ACT Exec shall arrange  
64 to elect a person to serve in that position for the remainder of the term. In the event of a vacancy  
65 of an Action Committee Chair, the remaining members of ACT Exec shall designate an  
66 individual to serve in that position for the remainder of the term

67

68 **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Internal Affairs, Sec. I(B) be AMENDED to read:**

69

70 President-Elect, Vice President for Membership, Vice President for Finance, Secretary,  
71 Vice President for ~~Leadership Development~~ **ADVOCACY**, and Vice President for Program  
72 Development

73 1. The House of Delegates shall elect the President, Vice President for Membership, Vice  
74 President for Finance, Secretary, Vice President for ~~Leadership Development~~ **ADVOCACY** and  
75 Vice President for Program Development of the Association. As soon as it is technologically  
76 feasible, with the approval of the BOT, a President-Elect shall be elected prior to the deadline for  
77 submitting a rank-list to the National Residency Matching Program. The President-Elect shall  
78 automatically assume the role of President of the Association in May following their election.

79 2. Candidates for President, President-Elect, Vice President for Membership, Vice President for  
80 Finance, Vice President for ~~Leadership Development~~ **ADVOCACY** and Vice President for  
81 Program Development offices shall have had prior AMSA leadership experience as either a  
82 national Trustee or Officer. In the event that less than two candidates with this experience  
83 requirement have declared their candidacy 30 days prior to election, the candidacies of medical  
84 student members without this prior experience shall be accepted. Candidates for these positions  
85 shall be required to declare candidacy seven (7) days prior to elections. No candidates for these  
86 positions shall be permitted to run from the floor.

87

88 **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Internal Affairs, Sec. II(A) be AMENDED to read:**

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90 Section II: Board of Trustees

91

92 A. The Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Association shall be composed of the President, Vice  
93 President for Membership, Vice President of Finance, Vice President for Internal Affairs, Vice  
94 President for Leadership Development, **VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVOCACY**, Vice  
95 President for Program Development, Secretary, Premedical Trustee, International Trustee,  
96 Graduate Trustee, and The New Physician Magazine Student Editor, all of whom are voting  
97 members of the BOT. In addition, the President-Elect, the Immediate Past President and the  
98 Executive Director shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members.

99

100 **FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Internal Affairs, Sec. VII be AMENDED to read:**

101

102 Section VII: Executive Board of the Action Committees and Teams (ACT Exec)

103

104 The Vice President for ~~Leadership Development~~ **ADVOCACY** and Vice President for Program  
105 Development shall co-chair the Executive Board of the Action Committees. Each Action  
106 Committee and Team Chair will serve as a voting member of the Board.

107 The President of the Association and Campaign Directors shall be ex officio members of the  
108 Executive Board. The National President is empowered to break ties when necessary in voting.

109 Addendum 1:  
110 Revised Position Description for VPLD

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112 **Position Description: Vice-President for Leadership Development**  
113 **Roles, Responsibilities, and Objectives**

114  
115 The National Vice-President for Leadership Development's role encompasses 2 key domains:  
116 1. Voting member of the National Board of Trustees (BOT) - Employs skills in strategic  
117 organizational thinking, long-term planning, resource allocation, and advocacy to:

- 118 • Inform the Board with content expertise with regard to AMSA's mission-driven  
119 leadership development efforts
- 120 • Steward AMSA's resources and participate in all board-level decisions of the  
121 Association.

122  
123 2. Leadership Development & Conflict Resolution:

- 124 • Serve as the key person for management of issues that could hinder the success of an  
125 AMSA leader and works to resolve conflicts and remedy deficiencies as they arise.
- 126 • Employs content expertise in effective communication, leadership, professional skills,  
127 feedback, and professional reflection and evaluation.
- 128 • Plan and executes leadership skill training, and serves as a resource for all leaders  
129 with regard to their personal and professional development during their tenure.
- 130 • Responsible for formal feedback and evaluations for all national leaders
- 131 • Oversees leadership awards for national leaders who excel in their position
- 132 • Conducts evaluations for AMSA programming in order to improve leadership  
133 experiences

134  
135 **Expectations & Accountability**

136 1 The term of VPLD is one year beginning at April 1 and ending March 31 of the  
137 following year, with a transition pe-riod from the close of National Convention in March through  
138 the beginning of the term in April.

139 2 The VPLD is accountable to her/his peers on the Board of Trustees

140 3 All leaders shall uphold the expectations and standards of conduct outlined in the  
141 National Leadership Handbook. Involvement in AMSA is a serious commitment, and should a  
142 leader be unable to fulfill the duties as outlined in this position description and the National  
143 Leadership Handbook, s/he may be asked to resign or be dismissed from her/his position.

144 4 Deadlines will be provided with sufficient lead time for successful completion. It is  
145 expected that deadlines be met and extensions requested prior to lapse of a deadline in order to  
146 continue participating in AMSA.

147 5 Travel (transportation to and from the meeting), hotel, and food are provided at  
148 required meetings.

149 6 Leaders can expect sufficient training and support to complete all duties and tasks  
150 asked of them. AMSA is a collaborative environment, and ideas and feedback are always  
151 encouraged and considered.

152  
153 **Required meeting dates for the Leadership Year 2013-2014:**

- 154 • Monthly BOT webinars

- 155 • Monthly ACT Exec Board webinars
- 156 • Optional attendance at fall conferences (no funding provided)
- 157 • All-Leadership Training Meeting, Sterling, VA, May 2013
- 158 • Board of Trustees Meetings (2), Sterling, VA, September 2013 & January 2014
- 159 • National Convention, March 2014

160  
161 Addendum 2:

162 Proposed position description for VP for Advocacy

163 **Position Description: Vice-President for Advocacy**

164 **Roles, Responsibilities, and Objectives**

165

166 The National Vice-President for Advocacy's role encompasses 3 key domains:

167 1. Voting member of the National Board of Trustees (BOT) - Employs skills in strategic  
168 organizational thinking, long-term planning, resource allocation, and advocacy to:

169 • Inform the Board with content expertise with regard to AMSA's mission-driven  
170 advocacy and programming work

171 • Steward AMSA's resources and participate in all board-level decisions of the  
172 Association.

173 • Represent the needs of the leadership of the Action Committees & Teams, Interest  
174 Groups, and other programming bodies to the Board of Trustees.

175

176 2. Co-Chair of the Executive Board of the Action Committees & Teams (ACT Exec) -

177 Employs skills in meeting facilitation, advising, management, conflict resolution, planning,  
178 and organization to:

179 • Oversee and support the Action Committee and Team Chairs as they plan and guide  
180 the work of their respective coordinators.

181 • Co-direct the programming arm of AMSA, including all of the Action Committees &  
182 Teams, Interest Groups, and all other programming bodies, serving in the capacity of advisor and  
183 steward.

184 • Co-plan and co-presides over all meetings of the programming arm of AMSA.

185

186 3. Advocacy Efforts:

187 • Employs content expertise in advocacy skills training, including grassroots, policy,  
188 and education

189 • Plan and executes advocacy skills training, including working with office fellows on  
190 the advocacy institute

191 • Serves as a liaison between membership and programming to improve advocacy  
192 efforts at the chapter level, working closely with the VPLD and VPM

193

194 **Expectations & Accountability**

195 1 The term of VPA is two years beginning at April 1 and ending March 31 of the  
196 following year, with a transition period from the close of National Convention in March through  
197 the beginning of the term in April. The VPA automatically ascends to the VPLD position during  
198 the following year.

199

200 2 The VPA directly oversees and advises Action Committee & Team Chairs, indirectly  
201 oversees AC&T Coordinators, and supports Interest Group Facilitators, and Campaign Directors.

202  
203 3 The VPA is accountable to her/his peers on the Board of Trustees, as well as those  
204 s/he supports within the Action Committees & Teams.

205  
206 4 All leaders shall uphold the expectations and standards of conduct outlined in the  
207 National Leadership Handbook. Involvement in AMSA is a serious commitment, and should a  
208 leader be unable to fulfill the duties as outlined in this position description and the National  
209 Leadership Handbook, s/he may be asked to resign or be dismissed from her/his position.

210  
211 5 Deadlines will be provided with sufficient lead time for successful completion. It is  
212 expected that deadlines be met and extensions requested prior to lapse of a deadline in order to  
213 continue participating in AMSA.

214  
215 6 Travel (transportation to and from the meeting), hotel, and food are provided at  
216 required meetings.

217  
218 7 Leaders can expect sufficient training and support to complete all duties and tasks  
219 asked of them. AMSA is a collaborative environment, and ideas and feedback are always  
220 encouraged and considered.

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222 **Required meeting dates for the Leadership Year 2013-2014:**

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- 226 • All-Leadership Training Meeting, Sterling, VA, May 2013
- 227 • Board of Trustees Meetings (2), Sterling, VA, September 2013 & January 2014
- 228 • National Convention, March 2014