



VISION STATEMENT MISSION STATEMENT BYLAWS

Vision Statement

The Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine vigorously promotes a global agenda of excellence in clinical care for patients with comorbid psychiatric and general medical conditions by actively influencing the direction and process of research and public policy and promoting interdisciplinary education.

Mission Statement

The Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine represents psychiatrists dedicated to the advancement of medical science, education and healthcare for persons with comorbid psychiatric and general medical conditions and provides national and international leadership in the furtherance of those goals.

Bylaws of the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine, Inc. (As amended November 2014)

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CHAPTER I. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

The Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine, Inc. (“Academy”) shall have nine categories of membership: Full Member, Associate Member, Member-in-Training, Fellow, Life Member, Life Fellow, Honorary Member, Inactive Member, and Inactive Fellow.

Section 2.1 Full Member

Any psychiatrist who is actively engaged in psychosomatic medicine or consultation-liaison psychiatry (hereafter referred to in these bylaws by the term “psychosomatic medicine psychiatry” and which incorporates “consultation-liaison”) is eligible to become a Member of the Academy.

Section 2.2 Associate Member

Any individual with an advanced degree who is actively engaged in psychosomatic medicine psychiatry is eligible to become an Associate Member of the Academy.

Section 2.3 Member-in-Training

Any medical student or any physician who is enrolled in a full-time residency or fellowship training program is eligible to become a Member-in-Training of the Academy.

Section 2.4 Credentials for Membership

Credentials of prospective Full Members, Associate Members, and Members-in-Training will be reviewed and approved by the Membership Committee and accepted by the Council.

Section 3.1 Fellow

- A. A Fellow of the Academy shall be a Full Member who has made significant and continued contributions to the field of psychosomatic medicine psychiatry as defined by standards approved by the Council.
- B. To be eligible for fellowship a Full Member must have been a member of the Academy for at least three years following the completion of training.
- C. Fellowship status may only be held by current and Inactive (see Section 5.1 Inactive Membership) Fellows.

Section 3.2 Applications for Fellowship

Applications for fellowship will be reviewed and approved by the Membership Committee and accepted by the Council. Candidates for fellowship must attend the awards ceremony at an annual meeting in order to become a Fellow of the Academy, unless an exception is made by the Council.

Section 4. Life Membership

- A. Full Members or Fellows may apply for elevation to status of Life Member or Life Fellow.
- B. Life membership requires that the candidate's years of age plus years of membership in the Academy total 95 or more.
- C. Applications for Life membership will be reviewed and approved by the Membership Committee and accepted by the Council.
- D. The Council may confer Life membership by waiving the above requirements in special instances.
- E. Life Members or Life Fellows as of 2012 are exempt from paying dues, but those elevated to Life Member or Life Fellow status beginning in 2013 will pay annual dues set by Council.
- F. Life Members or Life Fellows retain all the privileges of membership.

Section 5. Honorary Fellow

- A. Persons of outstanding personal character, meritorious achievement and significant contributions to the field of psychosomatic medicine psychiatry and the mission of the Academy but who do not qualify for Academy membership under existing categories, may qualify for Honorary fellowship.
- B. Honorary fellowship may only be given by a majority vote of the Council.
- C. Honorary Fellows do not pay dues, vote or hold office in the Academy.

Section 6. Inactive Membership

- A. Full Members, Life Members, Associate Members, Fellows and Life Fellows of the Academy, who are temporarily disabled or have other acceptable reason, may apply for Inactive status.
- B. The term of Inactive status shall be recommended by the Membership Committee and approved by the Council. If a petition for return to active status is not received after three years, the person shall be dropped from membership in the Academy.
- C. Inactive members do not pay dues, vote, or hold office in the Academy.

Section 7. Privileges

- A. Only Full Members, Life Members, Fellows, and Life Fellows of the Academy may vote at meetings and elections of the Academy.
- B. Only Fellows qualify for election to the Council.
- C. Only Fellows who have completed a term on the Council qualify for election to office in the Academy.
- D. All members of the Academy who pay dues shall receive the journal of the Academy.

Section 8. Termination of Membership

- A. Membership in the Academy may be terminated upon display of:
 - 1) Unethical conduct as determined by the Governance Committee and ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Council;
 - 2) Upon a two-thirds vote of the Council for any action considered injurious or detrimental to the objectives and good name of the Academy, including conviction of a felony;
 - 3) Termination of membership in the major association of his or her primary professional group for violation of its code of ethics;
 - 4) Nonpayment of dues after one year.
- B. Procedures for terminating membership on account of unethical conduct have been developed by the Governance Committee and have been approved by Council [see [Chapter VIII, Section 7 \(C & D\)](#)]. Other than for nonpayment of dues, members have a right to present a defense and be represented by legal counsel.
- C. Members who are terminated may reapply for membership in the Academy after five years.
- D. Members who resign in good standing with all dues paid may apply for reinstatement.

CHAPTER II. MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting

- A. An annual meeting with scientific, educational and business agenda will be held at a time and place determined by the Council.
- B. A ceremony for the presentation of awards and installation of Fellows will be held at the annual meeting.

Section 2. Business Meeting

- A. A business meeting of the Academy will be held at the annual meeting.
- B. The agenda for the business meeting will include, but not be limited to, reports of various committees, reports of officers, and election of officers.
- C. At the business meeting a quorum shall be the presence, in person or by proxy, of one hundred (100) members with voting privileges.

Section 3. Additional Business Meetings

- A. Business meetings of the Academy may be called by: 1) the Executive Committee by a majority vote; 2) the Council by a majority vote; 3) or by petition of one hundred (100) voting members of the Academy sent to the Secretary.
- B. The call for an additional business meeting will explain reasons and agenda for the meeting. At the meeting, only the agenda publicized to the membership may be considered and acted upon.

- C. The call for an additional business meeting will be circulated to the membership not less than ten (10) nor more than fifty (50) days prior to the meeting, which will be scheduled at a convenient time and place.

Section 4. Additional Scientific Meetings

- A. The Council may recommend, approve or authorize additional scientific meetings of the Academy.
- B. Additional scientific meetings may be international, national, regional or local in design and purpose.
- C. The Council may also approve Academy co-sponsorship of scientific meetings upon satisfying itself that the program is of high quality and that the objectives of the Academy will be served. The opinion and advice of the Education Committee will be sought in these instances.

Section 5. Proxies

- A. Members entitled to vote at a meeting of members, or to express consent or dissent without a meeting, may authorize and instruct (either by a writing or electronic transmission) another person or persons to act by proxy for the member.
- B. A proxy must be signed (either manually or electronically) by the member, or his or her attorney-in-fact, and submitted to the Secretary no later than seven (7) days prior to the meeting then called. No proxy shall be valid after the expiration of three (3) months from the date thereof unless otherwise provided in the proxy. A proxy shall be revocable at the pleasure of the member executing it, except as otherwise required by the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law (as amended from time to time or any successor statute governing New York nonprofit corporations).
- C. The authority of the holder of a proxy to act shall not be revoked by the incompetence or death of the member who executed the proxy unless, before the authority is exercised, written notice of adjudication of such incompetence or of such death is received by the Secretary.

CHAPTER III. THE COUNCIL

Section 1. Membership

- A. The governing body of the Academy is the Council.
- B. The Council will be composed of: the Officers of the Academy (President, President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary); the two most recent Immediate Past Presidents (Governors); five standing committee chairs; and four at-large Councilors.
- C. The Executive Director is an ex officio member of the Council, without vote.
- D. The Editor of the journal is an ex officio member of the Council, without vote.
- E. The Chair of the Board of Directors of the Foundation of the Academy of Psychosomatic Medicine is an ex officio member of the Council, without vote.

Section 2. Duties of the Council

- A. The Council shall oversee all efforts to pursue the mission of the Academy, and shall concern itself with maintaining the standards and effectiveness of the Academy.
- B. The Council shall have the authority to fill any vacancies on the Council or among the Officers, except as otherwise provided for or limited by the Certificate of Incorporation or bylaws.
- C. The Council shall accept applications for membership and fellowship in the Academy as recommended by the Membership Committee.
- D. The Council shall arrange for election of Officers and members of the Council and for their installation.

- E. The Council shall approve the time and place of the annual scientific meeting and shall approve the program for this meeting as proposed by the Annual Meeting Committee. It may also approve other meetings of the Academy as are deemed necessary and authorized by the [Bylaws, Chapter II](#).
- F. The Council shall determine dues for all classes of membership by a majority vote.
- G. The Council shall oversee and direct the fiscal and financial affairs of the Academy. It shall approve an annual budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.
- H. The Council shall, in cooperation with the Editor, exercise direction and assume responsibility in all matters related to publication of the Academy's journal. It shall approve its editorial policies.
- I. The Council shall assist the President in overseeing the functioning of all committees.
- J. The Council shall hire the Executive Director or a management company and shall define the duties and responsibilities of that position.
- K. The Council may propose, direct and authorize such additional functions, organizational components or activities of the Academy as may be necessary to achieve the mission of the Academy in business or professional areas not otherwise specified in the bylaws, but compatible with the Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws.

Section 3. Meetings of the Council

The Council shall meet during the annual meeting and at mid-year. Additional meetings may be called by the President or by petition of five members of the Council. Two weeks' written or electronic transmission notice shall be required unless such notice is unanimously waived by the Council.

Section 4. Council Quorum

A quorum for official actions of the Council shall consist of a majority of voting members.

Section 5. Chair of the Council

The President is chair of the Council. In his or her absence, the President-Elect or the Vice President, in that order, may be pro tem chair. In absence of these officers, a pro tem chair may be elected by a majority of the voting members of the Council present and voting.

Section 6. Removal from the Council

- A. An Officer, Councilor, or Governor, who is unwilling or unable to attend three consecutive Council meetings is presumed to have resigned from the Council.
- B. For good and sufficient reason, including written explanation and affirmation of continuing interest in the office, the Council, by a two-thirds vote, may extend, for an additional six months, the time before declaring such a vacancy.
- C. Upon return to duty the matter will be dropped or, when the six-month period of inactive duty expires, the Council will declare the office vacant.

Section 7. Governors

- A. The two most recent Past Presidents of the Academy are designated as Governors.
- B. The Governors are members of the Council with power to vote.
- C. Should a Governor be unable or unwilling to serve, s/he may be presumed to have resigned. In this instance, his or her position is declared vacant and is not refilled.
- D. A Governor is not eligible for re-election to the Council or to other office until one year after completion of his or her term as Governor.

CHAPTER IV. OFFICERS

Section 1.1 President

The President-Elect will automatically become President at the annual business meeting following completion of the President-Elect's full term of office. The President's term is one year. Presidents may not succeed themselves.

Section 1.2 Duties of the President

- A. The President is the chief executive officer of the Academy.
- B. The President shall chair meetings of the Council, Executive Committee, the annual business and other meetings of the Academy.
- C. The President shall appoint, with Council approval, members and chairs of the Standing Committees ([Bylaws, Chapter VIII](#)), and appoint ad hoc committees. S/he is an ex officio member of all committees.
- D. Officers of the Academy, the Executive Director and committee chairs report to the President.
- E. The President is the spokesperson for the Academy. As such s/he expresses and interprets the objectives or positions of the Academy to the membership and to the public, with the approval, advice, direction and/or participation of the Council.
- F. The President may, in consultation with the Executive Committee, authorize the expenditure of amounts up to but not exceeding \$2,500.

Section 2.1 President-Elect

The President-Elect will succeed the President upon the President's completion of his or her full term. The term of President-Elect is one year.

Section 2.2 Duties of the President-Elect

The President-Elect will function at the direction of the President and familiarize him/herself with the various activities of the Academy to prepare for the presidency the following year. With the President, the President-Elect will receive reports of committees, subcommittees, and task forces. S/he will oversee and report to the President the activities of, and coordination among, these committees, subcommittees, and task forces.

Section 2.3 Vacancy of the President

Should the office of President become vacant or should the President be unable to serve, the President-Elect will complete the President's term of office and then serve a full term as President.

Section 2.4 Vacancy of the President-Elect

Should the office of the President-Elect become vacant, or should the President-Elect be unable to serve, the unexpired term of office will not be filled. In this event, a President and President-Elect for the upcoming terms will be elected at the next annual business meeting.

Section 3.1 Vice President

The Vice President is elected for a one-year term. The Vice President does not automatically succeed to other offices and may not succeed themselves.

Section 3.2 Duties of the Vice President

- A. The Vice President will chair various meetings of the Academy should the President and the President-Elect be absent.
- B. The Vice President will function at the direction of the President. S/he will assist the President and the President-Elect in such functions and activities as are deemed appropriate.
- C. The Vice President will act as Parliamentarian at Council and annual business meetings, and will be guided by *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* to the extent to which they are consistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Academy may adopt.
- D. The Vice President shall report regularly to the Council on the status of the Academy's strategy plan.

Section 4.1 Treasurer

The Treasurer is the chief financial officer of the Academy and is elected for a one-year term. The Treasurer does not automatically succeed to other offices and may not succeed themselves.

Section 4.2 Duties of the Treasurer

- A. The Treasurer will function at the direction of the President.
- B. The Treasurer shall maintain records, using accounting methods approved by the Council or the Finance Committee, of all funds received, expended or maintained by the Academy.
- C. The Treasurer shall authorize all payments made by the Academy.
- D. The Treasurer shall authorize all contracts with a value, in part or whole, of less than \$10,000.
- E. The Treasurer shall cause notices of annual dues to be sent to the Academy membership and shall receive the payment of such dues.
- F. The Treasurer shall prepare, at least semi-annually or more often if directed by the Council, summaries and reports of assets and liabilities, income and expenditures and other financial data.
- G. The Treasurer shall explain, cooperate, recommend and advise the Officers, the Council, the Finance Committee and the membership concerning financial matters as required.
- H. The President, President-Elect, and Treasurer are authorized to sign checks.
- I. The Treasurer may arrange for certain of the above duties to be assumed by the Executive Director, including authorizing payments and signing checks as specified in Section 4.2 (G) of this Chapter. In doing so, the Treasurer retains responsibility and must continue ongoing supervision of the Executive Director.

Section 5.1 Secretary

The Secretary is elected for a one-year term. The Secretary does not automatically succeed to other offices and may not succeed themselves.

Section 5.2 Duties of the Secretary

- A. The Secretary will function at the direction of the President and shall serve as vice chair of the Finance Committee.
- B. The Secretary shall maintain an accurate and current list of the membership together with their addresses and other appropriate information.
- C. The Secretary shall notify the membership of the time, place and agenda of the annual business and other meetings of the Academy no more than sixty (60) days prior to such meetings.
- D. The Secretary shall supply the Editor of the newsletter with such notices, news and business of the Academy as are to be published.
- E. The Secretary shall see that minutes of the Council and Executive Committee are made and filed. S/he will receive interim and annual reports of all committees and maintain these in permanent file.

- F. The Secretary shall notify candidates of election to membership and of changes in membership status.
- G. The Secretary shall consult and cooperate with the Officers, Councilors, committees and membership as appropriate.
- H. The Secretary shall collect proxy votes submitted by members for all meetings at which voting is scheduled and report on such to the chair of the duly noticed meeting.

Section 5.3

The Secretary may arrange for any or all of the above duties to be assumed by the Executive Director. In doing so, the Secretary retains responsibility for and must continue to oversee the work of the Executive Director.

Section 6. Duties of the Immediate Past President

- A. The Immediate Past President shall be a Member of the Nominating Committee.
- B. The Immediate Past President will be an advisor to the President, as decided by the President.

CHAPTER V. ELECTIONS

Section 1.1 Election of Officers

Officers are Fellows of the Academy who have served a minimum of one term as Councilor. Officers are elected at an annual business meeting of the Academy.

Section 1.2 Nomination of Officers

Nominations for Academy officers are made by the Nominating Committee. The names of nominees are published to the membership two months prior to the meeting at which a vote is to be taken ([Bylaws, Chapter VIII, Section 3](#)).

Section 2.1 Election of Councilors

- A. In order to be elected to the office of Councilor a candidate must be a Fellow of the Academy. Councilors are elected at the annual business meeting of the Academy for three-year terms. Councilors may succeed themselves for a second three-year term not counting partial terms.
- B. The Council by a majority vote may elect an interim Councilor to fill a vacancy arising for any reason. The interim Councilor will serve until the next election is held. At that time a candidate, nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the membership, will fill the remainder of the unfinished term. An incomplete term does not count as a full term for the sake of determining eligibility for future elections as Councilor.

Section 2.2 Nomination of Councilors

Nominations for Councilor are made by the Nominating Committee or by the membership in the manner specified in Chapter V, Section 3. Nominations by Petition.

Section 3. Nominations by Petition

Nominations for office may also be made by petition of thirty (30) members of the Academy with voting privileges. The petition must include a statement by the candidate indicating his or her intention to serve if elected. The petition must be delivered to the Secretary two months prior to the meeting at which a vote is to be taken and, if the petition is valid, the nominee's name must be published to the voting membership one month prior to the meeting at which a vote is taken.

Section 4.1 Voting at Annual Meetings

Voting at the annual business meeting for elections may be by acclamation and the Secretary may record a unanimous vote if the candidate is unopposed. If more than one candidate runs for any office the vote will be by secret ballot ([Bylaws, Chapter V, Section 4.2](#)).

Section 4.2 Voting Procedures

- A. If more than one candidate for office is proposed, the election shall be conducted by a majority vote of the members, in person or by proxy, voting at the annual business meeting.
- B. When more than two candidates are nominated for any office, voting at a business meeting will be according to the preferential method of secret ballot.
- C. According to the preferential method of voting, the names of all nominees for any office will be listed on the ballot in an order established by the drawing of lots.
- D. Voters will rank the nominees in order of their preference (i.e., first, second, third, etc.).
- E. Tellers will identify the two candidates who received the most first-place votes. These two become the final candidates. Voters will then cast ballots for one of these candidates after which a winner of the election will be declared.

Section 5. Time of Assuming Office

- A. Newly elected officers and councilors shall take office immediately after the annual business meeting.
- B. Should the election of officers and councilors be delayed beyond the time of the annual business meeting, they shall take office immediately after the certification of their election.

Section 6. Special Circumstances

- A. Should sudden or unplanned circumstances prevent the holding of an annual business meeting electronic proxy ballots will be sent to the voting membership immediately. Electronic proxy ballots must be returned within one month and elected candidates will take office immediately the results are certified by the Council.
- B. The previous Council will continue to function in the interim but no longer than two months without exceptional justification.

Section 7.1 Tellers

In the event of a secret ballot at an annual business meeting or other meeting of the Academy, the President will appoint tellers to count the ballots and report the vote. The counting of ballots may be observed by Full Members.

Section 7.2

In the event of a mail ballot, the President will appoint tellers to count the ballots and report the vote. The counting of ballots may be observed by Full Members.

CHAPTER VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**Section 1. Title**

The Council may secure the services of an Executive Director or a management company. The Executive Director shall not be a member of the Academy.

Section 2.1

The Executive Director or the management company employing the Executive Director shall have a formal contract for a length of time and at such compensation as agreed by the Council. Such contract shall not be valid until approved by the Council.

Section 2.2

- A. The Executive Director shall function under the direction of and be responsible to the President of the Academy and shall be responsible for such administrative services as are required for adequate functioning of the organization.
- B. S/he shall receive direction from and be responsible to the Secretary for office and record keeping functions and to the Treasurer for fiscal and financial matters. The Executive Director shall also provide administrative support for the Council and other officers of the Academy.

Section 2.3 Duties of the Executive Director

- A. The Executive Director will maintain and direct the office of the Academy.
- B. S/he shall assist the Secretary and Treasurer in carrying out their responsibilities.
- C. S/he shall assist the President in discharging the duties of his or her office.
- D. S/he shall arrange for and notify members of the time, place and agenda of meetings of the Academy.
- E. S/he shall prepare an annual budget for approval of the Treasurer and Finance Committee.
- F. S/he shall prepare and distribute financial reports and prepare tax forms.
- G. S/he shall prepare and maintain records of financial transactions.
- H. S/he shall provide administrative assistance to the Council and committees of the Academy.
- I. S/he shall process membership applications and maintain membership records and directories.
- J. S/he shall make reports of activities and recommendations to the Council.
- K. S/he is an ex officio member of the Council without vote.

CHAPTER VII. EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL

Section 1.1 Title

The Council will elect an Editor of the journal.

Section 1.2

The Editor of the journal must be a Fellow of the Academy who has distinguished himself or herself in professional activities involving the mission of the Academy and who is esteemed by his or her colleagues and has the literary, editorial and leadership qualities deemed appropriate for the editorship.

Section 1.3

The Editor of the journal will enter into a contract with the Academy to be approved by the Council for a term of up to five years. The Editor is eligible to succeed himself/herself for subsequent five-year terms. The contract is not valid until approved by the Council.

Section 1.4

The compensation and expenses of the Editor will be determined by the Council.

Section 1.5

The Editor of the journal will secure professional papers for publication in the journal. These will be compatible with the aims and objectives of the society. The Editor may publish comment on professional and educational matters according to policy established by the Education Committee. The Editor will not comment on the business or organizational aspects of the Academy. These are the prerogatives of the President, the Council or individuals authorized to write about such matters in the journal.

Section 1.6

The Editor will submit a report of activities and of the editorial status and functions of the journal annually or more frequently if requested by Council.

Section 1.7

The Editor will consult with the publisher who oversees the business, circulation and financial aspects of the journal.

Section 1.8

The Editor is an ex officio member of the Council without voting privileges.

Section 2.

The Education Committee will have the authority to recommend and determine policy, procedures and other editorial matters with the approval of the Council.

Section 3.

The Academy will enter into a formal contract for publication of the journal for a length of time and payment to be fixed by the Council. The contract must be based upon and be compatible with the Academy's Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws. It is not valid until approved by the Council.

CHAPTER VIII. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

There shall be the following Standing Committees: Annual Meeting, Communications, Education, Executive, Finance, Governance, Membership, Nominating, and Research and Evidence-Based Practice.

Section 2. Executive Committee

- A. The Executive Committee is composed of the President, President-Elect, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.
- B. The Executive Committee functions in the interest of the Academy when directed by Council or when needed for advice or assistance by the President. The activities of the Executive Committee must be approved by the Council, but it is empowered to act in emergencies or when there is insufficient time in which to convene the Council.
- C. Contracts may be entered into or authorized by the Executive Committee. In no instance is a contract with a value, in whole or part, of \$10,000 or more valid until approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Nominating Committee

- A. The Nominating Committee will consist of the President-Elect as Chairman, the Immediate Past President, a member of Council nominated and approved by the Council, and two Full Members of the Academy, who are not members of the Council, nominated by the President. No member of the Nominating Committee shall be eligible for nomination in any elections while serving.
- B. The Nominating Committee will submit a slate of candidates for Officers and Councilors for the next election to the Secretary no later than three (3) months before the annual business meeting.

Section 4. Education Committee

- A. The Education Committee will consist of five Full Members of the Academy appointed by the President for three-year terms. The chair of the Education Committee shall be a Council member. The Editor of the journal will be an ex officio member of the Education Committee.
- B. The Education Committee will be responsible for promoting and overseeing the educational activities of the Academy.
- C. The Education Committee will, in consultation with the Editor of the journal, monitor the editorial policy and the process involved in editing and publishing the journal.

Section 5. Membership Committee

- A. The Membership Committee will consist of five Full Members of the Academy appointed by the President for three-year terms. The chair of the Membership Committee shall be a Council member. The Secretary will be an ex officio member of the Membership Committee.
- B. The Membership Committee will review the credentials of applicants and nominees for all classes of membership in the Academy as defined in [Bylaws, Chapter I](#). The Committee will transmit its recommendations for approval or disapproval to the Council.
- C. The Membership Committee shall establish, periodically review and, as necessary, modify criteria for membership in the Academy.
- D. The Membership Committee will review applications for fellowship in the Academy annually and determine whether applicants meet established criteria. The committee will then transmit to the Council, for its approval, the names of those it is recommending for fellowship.
- E. The Membership Committee will, on an annual basis and in consultation with the Council and membership, select members for Academy awards.

Section 6. Finance Committee

- A. The Finance Committee will consist of five Full Members of the Academy. The Treasurer will be the chair of the Finance Committee; the Secretary shall be vice chair. The remaining members are appointed by the President for three-year terms.
- B. The Finance Committee will, along with the Treasurer, oversee preparation of an annual budget which it will then submit to the Council for approval.
- C. The Finance Committee will oversee, with Council approval, the investment of Academy funds, procedures for receiving and disbursing funds, methods of accounting and bookkeeping, and preparation of fiscal reports. It will also relay to the Council information about the Academy's financial situation.
- D. The Finance Committee may recommend actions having to do with Academy finances (e.g., change in dues) to the Council.

Section 7. Governance Committee

- A. The Governance Committee will consist of five Full Members of the Academy appointed by the President for three-year terms. The Secretary will be the chair of the Governance Committee.

- B. The Governance Committee will monitor the functioning of the Academy to insure that it is in conformity with the Certificate of Incorporation and bylaws. Where necessary, it will make recommendations for additions, deletions, or changes in these documents.
- C. The Governance Committee will define and monitor ethical standards of presenters and presentations at, and of unrestricted grant funding for, the annual meeting.
- D. The Governance Committee will investigate all allegations of unethical conduct brought against any member of the Academy, as specified in the [Bylaws, Chapter I, Section 8](#). The Committee will then present its recommendations for change in membership status or censorship of a member to the Council. The Committee will periodically review the procedures it is to follow in investigating and hearing cases of alleged misconduct.

Section 8. Communications Committee

- A. The Communications Committee will consist of five full members of the Academy appointed by the President for three-year terms. The chair of the Communications Committee shall be a Council member.
- B. The Communications Committee will direct the development and maintenance of the Academy's website and other avenues of communication as guided and approved by Council. The Communications Committee will coordinate public relations and press releases, as guided and approved by Council.

Section 9. Annual Meeting Committee

- A. The Annual Meeting Committee will consist of seven Full members of the Academy appointed by the President for three-year terms.
- B. The chair of this committee is selected by the President-Elect. If the member the President-Elect selects to chair this committee is not already a Council member, then s/he will become an ex officio member of the Council without voting privileges.
- C. All chairs of this committee will serve one year as vice chair, one year as chair, and one year as a committee member and advisor to the current chair.
- D. The Annual Meeting Committee will be responsible for developing, organizing and promoting the annual meeting program.

Section 10. Research and Evidence-Based Practice Committee:

- A. The Research and Evidence-Based Practice Committee will consist of 12 full members of the Academy appointed by the President for three year terms. The chair of this committee shall be a Council member.
- B. The Research and Evidence-Based Practice Committee will be responsible for:
 - 1) Endeavoring to stimulate and support research and teaching in the area of psychosomatic medicine psychiatry by whatever means it deems appropriate.
 - 2) Developing position statements or action plans relevant to: external standards and accreditation organizations; Federal legislation and regulatory efforts; other professional organizations (e.g., AMA, APA, ACP, etc.); and/or reviewing existing policy statements of other organizations.
 - 3) Leading and developing clinical practice guidelines, summaries of published evidence for aspects of psychosomatic medicine practice, and other materials conducive to the clinical practice of psychosomatic medicine, as guided and approved by Council.
 - 4) Developing updated information regarding current cutting edge business models and practice and health reform initiatives that may help support psychosomatic medicine psychiatry.

Section 11. Subcommittees and Task Forces

- A. The President may establish, in consultation with the Council, various subcommittees and task forces under each standing committee to help with the mission of the standing committee.
- B. Unless the President names their chairs, these subcommittees and task forces will elect their own chairs, who will report on behalf of each subcommittee and task force to the chair of the standing committee.

Section 12. Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

- A. The Council may appoint various SIGs as needed, according to procedures of its choosing.
- B. The size of SIGs, their charges and method of functioning will be determined by the Council.

Section 13.

The President is an ex officio member of all standing committees, task forces and SIGs.

CHAPTER IX. AMENDMENTS

Section 1.1

Changes to the Certificate of Incorporation or bylaws may originate in the Council by a majority vote or by the petition of one hundred (100) voting members of the Academy. Such a petition must be delivered to the Secretary and placed on the agenda of the next annual or mid-year Council meeting.

Section 1.2

Proposed changes to the Certificate of Incorporation or bylaws will be publicized to the membership at least two months prior to the annual business meeting when a vote is to be taken, or before an electronic proxy ballot is sent out. Reasons for the proposed amendments will be included in the published materials and, if the amendment originates outside the Council, the recommendations of the Council for or against the proposal, will be published.

Section 1.3

At an annual or other meeting a proposed amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation or bylaws that has been duly publicized may have wording added, deleted or changed by a majority vote of those present and voting, provided the original meaning and intent is not changed. Passage of the proposed changes at the annual business meeting will be by a majority of voting members present. If the Council directs that the changes be submitted to the entire voting membership by electronic proxy ballot, providing a quorum of one hundred (100) voting members of the Academy is satisfied, a majority of those voting will be necessary for passage.

Section 1.4

If passed, changes to the Certificate of Incorporation or bylaws take effect immediately unless otherwise provided in the amendment.

CHAPTER X. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1.1

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Academy in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Academy may adopt.