



STUDENT SENATE CONSTITUTION 2022-2023

BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Article I. Structure

Article II. Officers

Article III. Regulations for Elections and Officer Selection

Article IV. Committees

Article V. Meetings

Article VI. Other Student Groups

Article VII. Amendments

Article VIII. Ratification

ARTICLE I. Structure

Section 1. Members

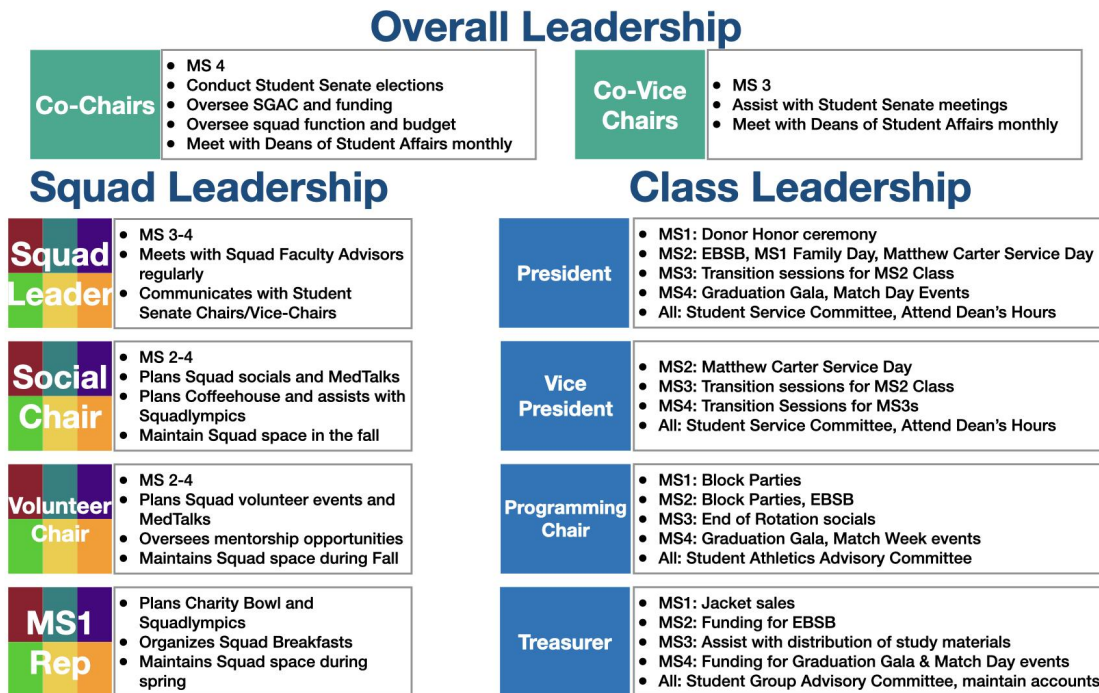
The Student Senate is an assembly of medical students currently enrolled at Baylor College of Medicine. Any and all students are welcome to participate in every student government activity.

Section 2. The Assembly

The functioning body of the Student Senate will be the Assembly. It shall consist of members elected by their representative bodies as described below. The overall student leadership, medical school class officers, and squad representatives will comprise the Assembly.

ARTICLE II. Officers

The below diagram provides an approximation of the structure of the Student Senate:



Section 1. Overall Student Leadership

These students will be selected as outlined in *Article III. Regulations for Elections and Officer Selections*.

A. Chairs - The Student Senate Chairs shall be two MS4s with at least one year of prior experience in the Student Senate. The Chairs shall have the following responsibilities:

Specifically:

- Conduct Student Senate elections with help of MS4 Class/Squad officers for representatives for the subsequent academic year
- Send updates on student government activities on a regular basis to the student body as a whole
- Meet monthly with the Deans of Student Affairs to communicate student body updates and concerns
- Coordinate with SGAC twice-yearly dissemination and organization of Student Group Funding Applications and annual Student Organization Fair
- Serve as the Chair of Student Group Advisory Committee
- Oversee all Squad functions and budgets, including but not limited to MedTalks, Squadlympics, and Squad Socials
- Assist SGAC with maintenance of BCM School of Medicine Student Organization Handbook with annual updates
- Lead Student Senate Meetings
 - Organize agendas from Class/Squad Officers for meetings
 - Direct flow of meeting
 - Field questions and concerns before and after meeting

Generally:

- Serve as the official representatives of the student body and liaison to the faculty, administration, and community
- Maintain accountability regarding roles assigned to other Student Senate members
- Facilitate communication between student groups
- Encourage student cooperation with faculty and administrators

B. Vice Chairs

The Student Senate Vice Chairs shall be up to 2 MS3s with one year required prior experience in the Student Senate. The Student Senate Vice Chairs shall assist the Chairs with all responsibilities listed above. This person shall act in the Chair's place in their absence.

Specifically:

- Assist with organization of Student Senate meetings
 - Alert Student Senate via email at least one month prior regarding time and location of meeting
 - Ensure room for meeting is reserved
 - Ensure food for meeting is ordered and delivered
 - Maintain attendance records for meetings and enforce *Attendance Policy*
 - Maintain minutes at Student Senate Meetings
- Serve as contact point for maintaining up-to-date BCM student organization website
 - Includes annually gathering contact information for each student group

Generally:

- Assist with all duties listed for Student Senate chair
- Act in chair's place in his/her absence

Section 2. Class Leadership

These students will be selected as outlined in *Article III. Regulations for Elections and Officer Selections*.

A. Class President

The four medical student class presidents shall be the official representative of their respective class to the Student Senate, faculty, and administration.

Specifically:

- Attend all class-specific Dean's Hours, take notes, and distribute notes to class
- Serve as class's voting Student Services representative, attend all Student Services meetings, disseminate Student Services information to class, assist in Student Services projects as needed
- Ensure class-specific events are carried out by student leaders as indicated in the Constitution

Generally:

- Offer the class's opinion to school committees, student government, faculty, and administration as appropriate
- Conduct regular meetings of the class officers to discuss business relevant to the class
- Solicit the class's opinion on important matters

Particular responsibilities for each class president also include ensure that the following events are carried out (through delegation to other class and/or squad officers):

- **MS1:** Donor Honor Ceremony
- **MS2:** End of Basic Sciences Ball, Annual 5K Race*, MS1 Family Day, Matthew Carter Service Day*, hand-off of MS1 events from previous coordinators
- **MS3:** handoff of MS2 events from previous coordinators, Transition sessions for MS2 Class
- **MS4:** Graduation Gala, Match Day events, prepare speech representing MS4 class for Match Day and Graduation, Transition Sessions for MS3 Class

*these events are typically put on by separate committees, but it is important for the class officers to ensure that these committees are in place

B. Class Vice President

The four medical student class vice presidents shall be the official representative of their respective class to the Student Senate, faculty, and administration in the absence of the class president. They will assist the class president in all matters listed above, in addition to the below activities:

Specifically:

- Arrange for class yearbook editors
- In absence of class president, attend all class-specific Dean's Hours, take notes, and distribute notes to class
- Serve as class's voting Student Services representative, attend all Student Services meetings, disseminate Student Services information to class, assist in Student Services projects as needed
- Ensure class-specific events are carried out by student leaders as indicated in the Constitution
- Assist with Class Officer Minutes during Student Senate Meetings.

Particular responsibilities for each class vice president also include:

- **MS2:** Matthew Carter Service Day
- **MS3:** Transition Sessions for MS2's
- **MS4:** Transition Sessions for MS3's

C. Class Programming Chair

The class programming chairs are responsible for class-specific social activities.

Specifically:

- Class-specific socials and parties
- Serve on *Student Athletics Advisory Committee* and coordinate pertinent events

Particular responsibilities for each class programming chair also include:

- **MS1:** block parties
- **MS2:** block parties, EBSB
- **MS3:** end of rotation socials
- **MS4:** leader of Student Athletics Advisory Committee, Graduation Gala, Match Week events

D. Class Treasurer

Each class will elect a treasurer, who will be responsible for managing class funds. This student will be responsible for maintaining the class bank account and will play an integral role in fundraising and/or collection of student contributions to class funds.

Specifically:

- Serve as member of *Student Group Advisory Committee*
- Maintain class bank accounts

Generally:

- Maintain awareness of large future class events to account for year's funding

Particular responsibilities for each class treasurer also include:

- **MS1:** organize jacket sales
- **MS2:** coordinate funding for End of Basic Sciences Ball
- **MS3:** assist Student Affairs with distribution of study materials (Ex: First Aid & UWorld)
- **MS4:** coordinate funding for Graduation Gala and Match Day events

Section 3. Squad Leadership

These students will be selected as outlined in *Article III. Regulations for Elections and Officer Selections*. Each of the six squads will have one student occupying each position as indicated. PRN leaders will also assist in squad activities as needed and desired.

A. Squad Leader

The role of Squad Leader will be filled by an MS3 or MS4 in each squad. The role of each Squad Leader will be as follows:

Specifically:

- Coordinate with class officers on squad-specific MS2/MS3 advice sessions, including “Rotation Site Selection and Advice,” “Choosing A Specialty,” and “Applying to Residency”
- Communicate regularly with learning community mentor and Student Senate Vice Chair/Chair regarding squad-specific concerns

Generally:

- Coordinate and assist in directing squad activities
- Assist with managing Squad Cup points

B. Squad Social Chair

The Squad Social Chair is a position occupied by an MS2, MS3, or MS4 in each squad. The Squad Leaders will work both independently and together on the following activities.

Specifically:

- Coordinate annual Beginning of year Squad Social
- Coordinate Coffeehouse and After Party around Halloween
- Coordinate Squadlympics
- Coordinate squad-wide socials at least one per semester

Generally:

- Coordinate and assist in directing squad activities with help of PRN leaders

C. Squad Volunteering Chair

The Squad Volunteering Chairs are MS2, MS3, or MS4 students that shall organize a monthly recurring volunteering activity in which squad members can participate. The Squad Volunteering Chairs may also seek out new ways for Baylor students to be helpful to the Houston community. They shall also act as the contact person for community groups needing BCM students to help with educational programs or service projects. They will also assist with mentorship programs and upperclassmen office hours.

D. MS1 squad representatives

There shall be one MS1 squad representative elected for each squad. The role of each representative will be to facilitate squad-specific group activities for MS1s to get to know each other. MS1 squad representatives are also in charge of running and coordinating the annual BCM Charity Bowl, Squadlympics and spring semester Squad Breakfasts. These representatives will also take over the weekly maintenance of the Squad spaces from the MS2s in the Spring semester.

E. Class-Specific Squad Activities

MS2 squad officers: One MS2 officer in each squad will be responsible for weekly maintenance of the Squad spaces in the Fall semester. If a squad does not have an MS2 officer, then any officer may assume this role.

MS3 squad representatives: All MS3 squad representatives, regardless of position, shall assist class

ARTICLE III. Regulations for Elections and Officer Selection

The following regulations shall apply to the elections of Student Senate officers. These regulations should be well publicized in advance to all students. Every effort should be made to inform all students of the responsibilities of open positions and to encourage students to run for office. It is the ultimate responsibility of the Student Senate chair or his/her designate to coordinate all election procedures. All positions are available for election and nomination during every election cycle. All terms are for one year.

Section 1. Publicizing Open Positions

The Student Senate Chair will compose an email to eligible students describing an upcoming election. This communication should include the election procedures, timetable, and descriptions of officers' responsibilities. One may use an abbreviated version of the description and regulations contained in this Constitution. Current officers will be readily available to discuss their experiences with interested students through an organized meeting. The Chair may consider holding a mandatory interest meeting prior to publishing the ballot.

Section 2. Nominations

Students can nominate themselves using an emailed form. Students must be in good academic standing (and not be on academic probation) to run for office and continue to hold the position. Students who are on “at risk” status should discuss their interest in nomination with a dean in student affairs prior to submitting their name. If an officer is placed on academic probation during their term they would be required to resign from the leadership position. If an officer is placed on at “risk status”, they should discuss their extracurricular involvement with a dean in student affairs. Students can run for only one office per election.

Section 3. Election Procedures

- A. **Ballots** - Candidates will be listed in alphabetical order, and space for the voting students' Baylor ID number should be put on the top to avoid students voting more than once. Elections will be conducted electronically by a means found appropriate by the Student Senate Chair and Vice Chair. Importantly, each self-nominated candidate will be required to submit a statement up to 200 words outlining their motivations for running for their chosen position and the plans they have for that position. Photos of each student will be included on the ballot.
- B. **Counting of Ballots** - Once the voting period has ended, the ballots will be counted by an appointed Student Senate member, typically the Chair or a fourth year Senate member who declares no conflicts of interest. Before counting ballots, election officials should make sure each ballot has a valid Baylor ID number on it, and that no single ID number appears more than once. Any ballot without an ID number and/or ballots with the same ID number will be considered invalid and will not be counted. The results of the ballots can be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs for review and confirmation before announcing the results of the election.
- C. **Uncontested Offices** - If an office has only one candidate running with no other write-ins, that person

must still receive a majority of the votes cast to win. If there are write-ins and no majority, then a run-off must be held.

- D. **Unfilled Offices** - If an office remains unfilled following the elections, the Student Senate Chair can decide to hold a new election or appoint someone to fill a student body office.
- E. **Ties/Run-Offs** - A run-off will be held when more than one candidate has an equivalent and greatest number of votes – i.e., when more than one candidate ties for the most votes. Alternatively, the Student Senate Chair and Vice Chair may elect to conduct private interviews of candidates to decide, in order to spare the discomfort of a direct run-off between classmates. Run-off ballots will be distributed and counted in the same procedure as the general election ballots.
- F. **Posting of Results** - The election officials will post the results, but not vote totals, promptly after the counting of the ballots. The list will be emailed out to the entire student body. Ballots will be kept with the appointed Student Affairs officials and questions regarding vote totals, etc. should be directed to him/her within six weeks of results being posted, after which time the ballots will be destroyed. Information relating to the vote totals will not be publicly released to the student body. Any requests for preliminary results will be denied and the student will be informed of the Student Senate constitution policies. Repeat offenses to determine preliminary election results will result in a notification to the PACE committee.
- G. **MS1-Specific Regulations:** For the MS1 officer election, students will use the same method to self-nominate for class leadership.

Section 4. Selection of Class Leadership

A. Positions (Per Class)

- President: duties outlined in Article II. Officers
- Vice President: duties outlined in Article II. Officers
- Programming Chair: duties outlined in Article II. Officers
- Treasurer: duties outlined in Article II. Officers

B. Eligible Students:

- Any student within a given year may apply (pending Office of Student Affairs approval)

C. Selection Process:

- Class-wide elections will be held in line with the regulations above following self-nominations for each position.
- A student may apply for up to 1 squad leadership position and 1 class leadership position. In their application they will clearly identify their preferred position. If they win both positions, they will automatically be selected for their higher preference position. The runner up for the winner's second choice position will be selected for that position.
- These elections must follow the procedures outlined above, including a statement no greater than 150 words for each candidate outlining their motivations and goals for the position. A picture will be requested as well.

Section 6. Selection of Squad Leadership

A. Positions (Per Squad)

- Squad leader: MS4, duties outlined in Article II. Officers
- Social Chair: MS2 or MS3, duties outlined in Article II. Officers
- Volunteering Chair: MS2 or MS3, duties outlined in Article II. Officers
- MS1 Squad Representatives: 2 positions available per squad

B. Eligible Students:

- Any student within a given squad may apply (pending Office of Student Affairs approval)

C. Selection Process:

- The MS4 squad leader in conjunction with the learning community dean will design an application for the positions of squad leader, social chair, and volunteering chair that will then be made available to squad members.
- A student may apply for up to 1 squad leadership position and 1 class leadership position. In their application they will clearly identify their preferred position. If they win both positions, they will automatically be selected for their higher preference position. The runner up for the winner's second choice position will be selected for that position.
- These elections must follow the procedures outlined above, including a statement no greater than 150 words for each candidate outlining their motivations and goals for the position. Picture also required.
- See Section 7, Part B for a description of the MS1 squad leader selection process

Section 7. Selection of Overall Leadership

A. Positions

- Chair: MS4, duties outlined in Article II. Officers
- Vice Chair: MS3, duties outlined in Article II. Officers

B. Eligible Students:

- Any student with at least 1 year of class, squad, or PRN leadership experience may apply (pending approval from Student Affairs).
- Students holding other positions within the Student Senate are not excluded from applying. If a student already holds a Student Senate position and is selected and accepts the position of Chair or Vice Chair, they will be able to continue holding elected position depending on the circumstance and at the discretion of Deans and Student Senate Chairs and Vice Chairs. Certain positions with significant workload, such as squad leader, president and vice president, will not be allowed to hold an overall leadership position as well.
- In order to have equal opportunity for positions, if a student is appointed to Vice Chair and elected to another position, they are encouraged to cede one of the two positions.

C. Selection Process:

- An application designed by the Student Senate Chair and Vice Chair in addition to the Dean of Student Affairs will be disseminated.
- If the Chairs and Vice Chairs deem it necessary, students can be selected for interviews with the Student Senate Chair and Vice Chair and the Dean of Student Affairs

Section 8. Approximate Timeline of Student Senate Selections

A. MS2, MS3, MS4 Selection of Student Leaders for Following Year

Note: Dates are approximate

- Example timeline: Month of March – Class and Squad Leadership Elections
 - March 1: Upcoming election notice emailed to students with descriptions of positions
 - March 5-10: Self-nominations accepted through electronic forms
 - March 11: Prepare electronic ballots
 - March 12-19: Voting (per guidelines above)
 - March 20: Count ballots
 - March 21: Run-offs (if applicable), announce new student leaders to classes via email AFTER confirmation with Office of Student Affairs
 - March 22-29: Run-off voting (if applicable)

- Example timeline: Month of April – Overall Leadership Selections
 - April 1: Upcoming application notice emailed to students with descriptions of positions and requirements
 - April 3: Applications made available for students
 - April 4-11: Interested students fill out applications
 - April 12: Applications due
 - April 13-19: Student Senate Chair and Vice Chair and Dean of Student Affairs will review the applications and determine the best student to fill each position. If needed, the Student Senate Chairs and Vice Chairs will select students to interview with the Dean of Student Affairs.
 - April 20: Announce new overall leadership to classes via email

B. New MS1 Selection of Student Leaders

Note: MS1 students may apply for or self-nominate for up to 1 position in the Class Leadership and 1 position in Squad Leadership. It is necessary to do MS1 Squad and Class Leadership concurrently, as the administration prefers to have MS1 leaders selected as soon as possible.

- Example timeline: End of August into September – Squad and Class Leadership Elections (concurrently)
 - August 24: Memo sent to MS1s regarding structure and role of Student Senate, positions available for MS1s, and dates for upcoming student leader selections
 - August 31: Self-nomination forms are sent out for Class Leadership positions and Squad Representative positions
 - September 1-7: Nominations are accepted
 - September 8: Prepare electronic ballots for Class Leadership Elections (send to Billy McKinney)
 - September 9-16: Voting for Class and Squad Leadership (per guidelines above)
 - September 17: Count ballots for Class & Squad Leadership
 - September 18: Announce new Class & Squad Leadership via email or hold run-offs if needed

*dates are approximate

Section 9. Terms of Office

All elected positions are for a term of one year, from May 1 to April 30. Students may run again for office in subsequent years.

ARTICLE IV. Committees

Several existing committees consist of members of the Student Senate assigned to the committee based on position. However, any member of the Student Senate or student body may serve on these committees.

Section 1. Student Group Advisory Committee (SGAC)

Leader: Student Senate Chair and Vice Chair(s)

Mandatory Members: MS1, MS2, MS3, MS4 Treasurers

Mission Statement: The Office of Student Affairs and SGAC serves as a resource for student leaders

and over 75 registered student organizations through advertising, development, and organizational support services. SGAC serves as a regulatory and advisory body to the Office of Student Affairs for existing student organizations, and facilitates the formation of new student organizations in compliance with BCM policies.

Activities:

- Facilitating the application process for new student organizations in conjunction with the Dean of Student Affairs
- Approving applications for new student organization on a rolling basis
- Reviewing existing student organizations on a yearly basis
- Advising the Dean of Student Affairs on the management of existing and potential student organizations
- Appropriating funds from Student Affairs office and other sources to student organizations as well as Student Senate

Example Funding Schedule:

**Dates approximate*

Fall Funding:

August 15: Funding applications sent out
September 1: Funding applications due
September 1: Faculty Attestation due
September 4-10: SGAC Meeting
September 15: Funding decisions sent out

Spring Funding:

November 15: Funding applications sent out
December 1: Funding applications due
January 1-8: SGAC Meeting
January 15: Funding decisions sent out

Section 2. Student Athletics Advisory Committee

Leader: MS4 Class Programming Chair

Mandatory Members: MS1, MS2, MS3 Class Programming Chairs

Purpose: This committee shall coordinate all intramural sports activities including annual football, basketball, volleyball, dodgeball, and softball leagues. New leagues can be added (or eliminated) as students' interests change. These officers shall also advise the administration about athletic facilities and needs (equipment, operating hours, etc.).

Section 3. Formation of New Committees

Any member of the Student Senate may form a new committee. Specifically, any member of the Student Senate may opt to form a committee to carry out a task assigned to his/her position. For example, the MS1 Burgundy squad representatives may form a committee to carry out the Annual BCM 5K. Formation of new committees is governed by the following guidelines:

- The Chair must be made aware of and approve formation of the new committee.
- The committee may be specific to the Student Senate, the squad, or the class. In recruiting members for the committee, all members of the targeted population (i.e. Student Senate, squad, class) must be made aware of the available positions.
- Committee members may be chosen on a volunteer basis or based on an application process

that takes into account the applicants' qualifications for the position on the committee.

ARTICLE V. Meetings

Section 1. General Meetings

The Student Senate should meet at least twice per semester or at the discretion of the Chair and Vice Chair. If this time is inconvenient due to exam scheduling or vacation it may be changed. All meetings are open to the entire medical student body and any student can put an item on the meeting agenda by notifying the Chair or Vice Chair in advance. Responsibilities for organization of Student Senate Meetings are specifically outlined under Chair and Vice Chair position descriptions.

Section 2. Attendance at Meetings

In order for the Student Senate to function effectively as a body representative of all students and organizations, it is imperative that members make every effort to attend all meetings. We feel it necessary to set the following policy regarding meeting attendance:

1. Elected officers should attend all meetings of the Student Senate. If they are unable to attend a meeting, they should notify the vice chair one week in advance of the meeting and send another student to the meeting as proxy. There is **no excuse** for failing to notify the chair or vice chair of an absence.
2. Officers may miss one meeting in the manner described above before the executive council will ask the officer to explain formally the reason for repeated absences. When the officer has missed his/her second meeting, they should meet with the chair and vice chair to explain their situation. The chair and vice chair may choose to remove that student from office and appoint or hold an election for their replacement. A third missed meeting will automatically result in removal of office in question.
3. At each Student Senate meeting, a sign-in sheet will be provided and a list of present and absent officers will be posted with the minutes of the meeting.
4. Other formally recognized committees are allowed to be present at Student Senate Meetings. Examples would include Curriculum Committee or Student Wellness Committee.

ARTICLE VI. Other Student Groups

The Student Senate should include active participation from all student organizations. Representatives from all student groups should regularly attend Student Senate meetings and keep the Chair informed of all activities and concerns. The Student Senate maintains the BCM School of Medicine Student Organization Handbook to provide information and guidelines regarding student organization formation and maintenance. The New Student Group Application Packet provides guidelines for new group formation: <https://media.bcm.edu/documents/2017/30/newstudentorganizationapplicationpacket.pdf>.

Section 1. Definition of Good Standing for Existing Student Groups

To be considered in "good standing," groups must:

- Register the student organization with SGAC and Student Affairs, and meet annual review deadlines
- Complete the New Student Organization Information Packet upon founding of the group

- Complete yearly organizational reviews by SGAC and the Office of Student Affairs
- Use Student Senate funding in accordance with stated policies and procedures and maintain a positive account balance.
- Enact and comply with an approved organization constitution

Section 2. Eligible Activities of Approved Student Groups

- Reserve meeting/event space at Baylor College of Medicine and use designated equipment (A/V, tables, etc.)
- Request MSS funding for organization programs and events, per MSS protocol
- Advertise programs and events in/on Baylor College of Medicine campus.
- Request and host outside speakers for group meetings

Section 3. Existing Organization Review Process

The Office of Student Affairs requires that existing student organizations complete a review process on an annual basis. This review process will coincide with the student organization funding process through MSS. Successful review includes providing an updated executive board member roster, a list of current members, the current organization advisor, and an updated constitution for the group. This information will be used to update the Student Organization website, which requires yearly revision to reflect active and approved student organizations. Organizations that miss the yearly deadline can complete the review process on a rolling, case by case basis. Completing the review process by the stated deadline is required to participate in the Student Activities Fair at the beginning of each academic year. Faculty Attestation forms will be required with submission of fall funding applications on September 1. Updated officer lists will be submitted by July 1st, with a list of primary contact information made available for incoming MS1s.

Section 4. Eligibility of New Groups

A group is not eligible if, in its mission or practices, it:

- Is a redundancy of any existing BCM group
 - o e.g., would further serve the mission or purpose of an existing group, unnecessarily divides students with similar interests, results in duplicate MSC funding of similar events, etc.
 - o Determination of redundancy is at the discretion of the Dean of Student Affairs and the SGAC
- Is unlawful or in violation of university policy
 - o Please refer to the BCM Student Organization Handbook
- Conducts business secretly
- Is purely commercial or financially profitable to group members

Section 5. New Student Organization Approval Process

- BCM students in good academic standing and not on academic probation are eligible to complete the new student organization approval process
- Students interested in creating a new student organization are required to complete the New Student Organization Interest Packet. Upon completion, the application is subject to a one-month review process by the SGAC and Office of Student Affairs.
- SGAC will review applications once each quarter, with a deadline for submission indicated below. During the one-month review period, the SGAC may request additional information and/or a meeting with applicant(s).
 - Fall: September 15
 - Winter: December 15
 - Spring: March 15
 - Summer: June 15

- At the end of the one-month review process, the SGAC will notify the applicants of the committee's decision. Possible outcomes are:
 - **Approved**-- Congratulations, your group has been approved.
 - **Denied**-- Your organization has been denied, please see comments for the specific reasons. In some circumstances, your group may be eligible for approval the following quarter.
 - **Pending**—Final decision warrants further information from applying students.
-

ARTICLE VII. Amendments

Any student may suggest amendments to this constitution at any time. The amendment should be brought to the attention of the Chair or Vice Chair, who can decide whether or not a simple Student Senate majority can approve the amendment, or if a student body vote is necessary. A student may request that an amendment be put to a student body vote at any time regardless of the assembly decision. Amendments will be put on the student body election ballot in June and will be part of the constitution with a majority vote of the assembly or the student body as described above.

ARTICLE VIII. Ratification

This Constitution will be considered ratified upon a simple majority of votes cast in the next Student Senate meeting. It shall become effective immediately upon ratification.

*Revised May 2022, Ratified at the Medical Student Senate meeting on ****
