CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF OSTEOPATHIC MILITARY
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Article I - Name
The name of the organization shall be the Student Association of Military Osteopathic
Physicians and Surgeons. This name shall officially be abbreviated “SAMOPS”.
National SAMOPS may herein be referred to as the “Association”.

Article II - Affiliation
This organization shall be affiliated with the Association of Military Osteopathic
Physicians and Surgeons

Article III - Principles and Goals
The goals of the association and its chapters shall be to:

1. Assist its members to acquire an understanding of their roll in military
   medicine as a commissioned officer and healthcare provider.

2. Provide support and guidance to its members with respect to military customs
   and training during their medical school tenure.

Article IV - Constituent Chapters:

Section 1. Chapter Petition.
Any group of 2 or more students as an American Osteopathic Association accredited
osteopathic medical school may petition for a chapter within the Association. The
petitioners shall sign the petition and date their signature and shall supply any
information requested by the Board of Trustees at to its qualifications for membership

Section 2. Number of Chapters.
There shall not be more than one such chapter at any osteopathic medical school
branches.

Section 3. Chapter benefits.
Each chapter shall enjoy equal rights and representation within the Association and the
House of Delegates as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 4. Granting of Charter.
A chapter charter shall be granted by a simple majority ratification of the House of Delegates at its next meeting.

Section 5. Chapter Officers.
Each chapter shall elect as chapter officers: A President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a National Liaison. Any officer may
hold a position in more than one student organization as long as a conflict of interest between the two positions does not occur.

**Section 6. Chapter Elections.**
Each chapter shall hold its annual election prior to the annual spring meeting of the SAMOPS House of Delegates. The election shall be an open election of all SAMOPS members in good standing and should be published to the student body in any form readily available to each institution no less than fourteen days prior to the election. Nominations shall be received at an open meeting of the local SAMOPS chapter on a date to be specified by the present local Chapter President. The names of all newly elected offices elect shall be provided to the SAMOPS Council within fifteen days of any such change. The term of each office will be for one year. A simple majority vote of active members shall be necessary for election.

**Section 7. Chapter Officer Transition.**
It shall be emphasized that the outgoing Chapter President, as well as other local SAMOPS officers, should work closely with the newly elected officers to ensure a smooth transition of both the knowledge and workings of local and National SAMOPS for a period mutually agreed upon by the incoming and outgoing officers.

**Section 8. Chapter Membership Drive.**
Each chapter is required to have their Fall Membership Drive completed and a list of new members compiled and sent to the National SAMOPS Office, postmarked on or before September 15th of each year.

**Section 9. Local Chapter Attendance at National Conventions.**
National SAMOPS strongly recommends that, at a minimum, the local chapter President and the National Liaison Officer (or their proxies) attend the Spring Convention. Other local officers and local chapter members are also encouraged to attend.

**Section 10. Local Chapter Meetings**
It is recommended that there shall be a minimum of 6 general membership meetings held during each academic year.

**Article V - Membership**

**Section 1. Requirements**
Any fully matriculated student of an AOA accredited School of Osteopathic Medicine who are members of the American Osteopathic Association, serving on active duty or in a reserve or guard component in one of the uniformed services of the United States may petition for membership into SAMOPS. Active membership is limited to students through their date of graduation. Any student that is dismissed from their osteopathic medical school of record shall have their Active Membership in the Association summarily terminated. No appeal process is available in this action.
Section 2. Suspension of Membership

A. Process of suspension. The Association reserves the right to terminate the membership of any member if circumstances warrant such an action. The SAMOPS Council, by a two-thirds majority of a quorum session may take this action after due consideration of all fact as presented to the council.

B. Appeal of Suspension. An appeal may be made if the ex-member alleges that the sanction was given arbitrarily, capriciously, in bad faith or in violation of the law. In such cases, the burden of proof for these allegations shall rest with the ex-member. The SAMOPS council shall deliberate on the validity of the appeal and, by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum session, take such appropriate action as deemed appropriate. Such actions shall include, but not be limited to:

a. To accept the appeal, reopen the issue and to vote again on the suspension

b. To deny the appeal and allow the sanction to stand.

Article VI - The SAMOPS Council

Section 1. Name
The Student Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons Council shall be the name of the governing body of SAMOPS and its members

Section 2. Purpose.
This council shall exist:

1) to collect and disseminate information from and to the local chapters of the SAMOPS,
2) to form a cohesive body to present collective ideas and concerns of the SAMOPS to the AMOPS and other official bodies,
3) and, to develop programs to facilitate the goals of the AMOPS and each of the SAMOPS chapters.

Further, the Council shall be responsible for conducting the affairs of the Association between meetings of the House of Delegates. The SAMOPS Council shall have the power to conduct all business of an immediate nature where not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, or the directives of the House of Delegates.

Section 3. Composition
The SAMOPS Council shall consist of an Executive Board and a Board of Delegates. The Executive Council will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, National Liaison, a representative of each of the medical corps of the Uniformed Services of the United States and an AMOPS representative.

Section 4. Regular Meetings of the SAMOPS Council
The SAMOPS council shall meet regularly at the annual AMOPS convention.
Section 5. Special Meetings of the SAMOPS Council
The SAMOPS Council shall meet at the request of the National President or two of the members of the SAMOPS Council. Notification shall be made at least fourteen days prior to the meeting.

Section 6. Quorum of the SAMOPS Council.
A Quorum shall be necessary to conduct the business of the SAMOPS Council. A Quorum shall be defined as fifty percent plus one of all occupied by a SAMOPS Council member or their proxy.

Section 7. Parliamentary Procedure
All SAMOPS Council meetings will be subject to the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, unless otherwise directed by specific procedures specified in the Association’s bylaws.

Section 8. Election of National Officers
1) Election Process. The election of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and National Liaison shall take place by the House of Delegates during the national AMOPS convention. The order of elections shall be first, President; second, Vice President; third, Secretary; fourth, Treasurer; fifth, National Liaison

2) Candidate Speeches. Prior to the election of the National Officers, each candidate shall be allowed five minutes to address the House of Delegates to further his or her campaign. The answering of questions shall not be included in this time limit.

3) Letter of intent. Interested candidates for an elected position that are not to attend the annual meeting shall be allowed to send a letter of intent for the position. The letter must be sent to the President of the SAMOPS Council no later than fifteen days prior to the election. This letter will then be read aloud to the House of Delegates.

4) Election Process. Where there is no contest among nominees, the candidate shall be asked to leave the room and a simple majority vote, without ballot, shall elect the office. All other elections shall be by secret ballot.

5) Required Votes. The candidate receiving at least fifty percent plus one of possible votes shall be declared the winner. In the event that no candidate receives a simple majority vote:

   a. The candidates with the two highest vote tallies will be selected for a run-off election. Before this run-off election, the two remaining candidates will be asked a single question, created by the SAMOPS Council, excluding any incumbent officer running for that position, to which the candidates will have one minute to respond. The assembly will then cast
their ballots for the run-off election in the same manner as the original process.

b. If, at this time, no candidate has a simple majority vote, another vote will be cast by the assembly without any further questioning of the candidates. The candidate who receives the largest number of votes in this final ballot shall be elected to the office.

c. If this final ballot produces a tie, the SAMOPS Council, excluding any incumbent officer running for that position, will meet for a five minute conference. After this meeting, the incumbent President will cast his/her vote excepting the situation where the position of incumbent President is being voted upon. In this case the next position in order that is not running for the position in question will cast his/her deciding vote.

6) Election of Representatives of Uniformed Services of the United States. Each of the uniformed services of the United States that maintains a medical corps shall be represented on the SAMOPS Board. These services include:
   a. The United States Army
   b. The United States Navy
   c. The United States Air Force
   d. The United States Public Health Service

Each representative shall be an active member of SAMOPS in good standing and will represent the needs of members of their respective services. Each representative shall have successfully completed their service specific basic office training course prior to taking office.

7) AMOPS Representative. The AMOPS representative shall be a field grade officer serving in either an active or reserve capacity and shall be an active member of AMOPS. This representative shall be elected during the AMOPS annual national convention.

8) Term Limits. No individual may serve on the SAMOPS Council in any capacity for greater than two full terms. Newly elected SAMOPS Executive Board officers will take office immediately following the election and MUST be present at a change-over meeting (location and time to be determined at the time of the elections).

ARTICLE VII - Duties of Officers

Section 1. President
The President shall carry out the purposes and objectives of the SAMOPS Council and shall attend and preside over any and all SAMOPS Council Meetings. The President shall act as the National Student Liaison for AMOPS and shall attend the annual meeting of the AMOPS Executive Board. The President shall be responsible for providing a summary report of SAMOPS Council activities to the AMOPS Executive Board before their annual meeting. The President shall also be responsible for running, recording, and
reporting the results of all mail/e-mail votes for the SAMOPS Executive Board. The President or his or her designee will attend the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates as a member of the AMOPS delegation to the House.

Section 2. Vice President

The Vice President shall serve as the Speaker of the House of Delegates. He/She shall have the authority to appoint a Vice Speaker to assist in his/her duties. The Vice President shall carry out the purposes and objectives of the SAMOPS Council, have the duty of coordinating and disseminating all information to the National Representatives, as well as being the primary contact for the National Representatives. The Vice President shall assume the duties and title of the President should that office become vacant. Vice President shall attend all meetings of the SAMOPS Council. The SAMOPS Council shall appoint a person to fill the position of Vice President, should it become vacant.

Section 3. Secretary

The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the SAMOPS Council. He/she shall be responsible for retaining copies of communications generated by the SAMOPS Council. In addition, s/he shall be responsible for maintaining the SAMOPS section of the AMOPS website in accordance with AMOPS policies. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the SAMOPS Council. The SAMOPS Executive Board shall appoint a new Secretary should the position become vacant.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping accurate account for all SAMOPS monies and accounts. In addition, s/he will be responsible for records kept on all SAMOPS Council receipts and expenditures. Furthermore, he/she shall be responsible for depositing all monies raised by the Association into the SAMOPS account. The Treasurer shall attend all meetings of the SAMOPS Council. The SAMOPS Executive Council shall appoint a new Treasurer should the position become vacant.

Section 5. Uniformed Services Representative

The Uniformed Services Representatives shall be responsible for providing service specific information to be disseminated to the SAMOPS membership. The Uniformed Services Representatives shall attend all meetings of the SAMOPS Council. The AMOPS Executive Council shall appoint a new Uniform Services Representative should the position become vacant. Each Uniformed Services Representative shall have completed their services basic officers training course, or equivalent prior to holding the office of service representative.

Section 6. AMOPS Representative. The AMOPS representative shall be the subject matter expert on military customs and courtesies, and shall assist the SAMOPS board on such matters. Further, the AMOPS representative shall be responsible for providing insight to the SAMOPS board regarding matters unique to military medicine.
ARTICLE VIII - House of Delegates

Section 1. Chapter Representation
The House of Delegates shall be made up of one Delegate from each constituent chapter and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, or his/her designee. Each constituent chapter, in good standing with the Association, shall have one vote in the House of Delegates. At the opening of the House of Delegates, each chapter shall provide to the Speaker of the House of Delegates, a list of the Delegate with voting rights and Alternates who may vote in the absence of the Delegate.

Section 2. Order of Business
The order of business of the House of Delegates shall be determined by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, with recommendations from the SAMOPS Council, and shall be distributed at least fifteen days prior to the commencement of the meeting. The order of business shall only be changed by a vote of at least two-thirds of the House of Delegates.

Section 3. Required Votes
All business, unless otherwise specified in the Constitution and Bylaws, shall be transacted by a simple majority of the votes cast.

Section 4. Quorum for the House
A Quorum shall be required for the House of Delegates to conduct any business. A Quorum shall be defined as fifty percent plus one of all occupied seats of the House of Delegates (this is equal to one half of all the constituent chapters plus 1)

Section 5. Voting by the Speaker
The Speaker of the House of Delegates shall only vote in the event of a tie vote or whenever a ballot vote is taken, excluding officer elections. This one vote shall not count towards the Quorum of the House of Delegates.

The House of Delegates shall meet annually during the spring AMOPS convention. Special meetings of the House of Delegates shall be called by a vote of two-thirds of the constituent chapters. Each chapter shall be given notice by registered mail within fifteen days of the call. The Special Meeting shall be held, not less than fifteen or more than sixty days, after notice has been sent to the chapters.

Article IX - Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

Section 1. Amendment Consideration
Proposed amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws shall be considered at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates
Section 2. Amendment Submission
Any five members of the Association may propose an amendment to this Constitution and Bylaws by submitting the resolution, with a brief description, to the National Vice President at least twenty-one days prior to the next meeting of the House of Delegates.

Section 3. Amendment Distribution
Copies of the proposed amendment shall be distributed to all constituent chapters at least fourteen days prior to the next meeting of the House of Delegates.

Section 4. Amendment Approval
A vote of at least two-thirds of the House of Delegates, Quorum required, shall be required for passage of any new amendments.

Article X – Finances

Section 1. Membership Dues
Dues for members of the Association shall be dependent on which year the new member at their AOA approved medical school. The rate for new members shall be:
- $60 for first year osteopathic medical students;
- $45 for second year osteopathic medical students;
- $30 for third year osteopathic medical students, and;
- $15 for fourth year osteopathic medical students.

Dues shall be paid on a one time basis when the new member joins SAMOPS and shall cover their membership for the time they are attending medical school. Dues paid by new members will be divided evenly with one half of funds kept by the local chapter for local projects and the other half paid to the National Association. Dues shall be paid to the National Association by October 10th of each academic year.

Section 2 Assessment of Dues
Sole authority to change the amount of dues shall be vested in the House of Delegates.

Section 3. Local Chapter Assessment Fee
Local chapters shall not have the authority to assess additional dues or fees for membership into the Association or the individual chapters.

Section 3. Refunding of Dues
No part of the annual dues paid by a member shall be refunded in the event that membership in the Association is terminated.

Section 4. Use of Association Funds
All expenditures must be approved by the National Treasurer and the National President.

Article XI – Discrimination

Neither the Association nor its constituent chapters may refuse membership on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, national origin or creed. Chapters shall otherwise
determine the qualifications of their own membership where not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association.

**Article XII - Code of Ethics**

The Code of Ethics of this Association shall be a version of the American Osteopathic Association’s Code of Ethics, modified to reflect the student physician’s role in today’s modern medical practice environment. The Association shall amend the Code of Ethics as needed from time to time by following the protocol for amendment to the Association’s Constitution and Bylaws.

**Article XI - Dissolution of the Association**

In the event that the House of Delegates, by a two-thirds majority vote, Quorum required, shall vote to dissolve the association, merge with another organization, or join in a consolidation of other organizations, the SAMOPS Council shall distribute the assets of the Association remaining after the payment, satisfaction and discharge of all outstanding liabilities and obligations, to one or more non-profit organizations qualified for tax exemption under Section 502(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code and engaged in activities to promote osteopathic medical education. All actions by the House of Delegates and the SAMOPS Council in this matter shall be based on consultations and advice from a qualified attorney in order to fulfill all legal obligations.