Constitution for the Student Professionalism and Ethics Association
MOSDOH

ARTICLE I. NAME
- The official name for this organization shall be the Student Professionalism and Ethics Association in Dentistry.
- This organization will use the name or its acronym, MOSDOH SPEA, in all publicity materials and correspondence.

ARTICLE II. MISSION AND OBJECTIVES
- The Student Professionalism and Ethics Association in Dentistry is a national, student driven association that was established to promote and support a student’s lifelong commitment to ethical behavior in order to benefit the patients they serve and further the dental profession.
- The objectives of the Association are:
  - Act as a support system for students in strengthening their personal and professional ethics values by:
    - Providing a resource for ethics education and development.
    - Fostering a non-punitive, open-forum environment for ethics communication
    - Promoting awareness of ethics standards and related issue within dentistry.
  - Collaborating with leadership of the dental profession to effectively advocate for our members.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP
- All currently enrolled dental students are eligible to be full, voting members and hold leadership positions.
- All other dental hygiene, post-doctoral, advanced standing program for international dentists, and specialty program students as well as school staff, faculty, alumni, and alumnae are eligible to be non-voting, affiliate members.
- All members are required to demonstrate support for the mission and objectives of this organization.
- Membership decisions will not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion or creed, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS
- President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Class Representative
ARTICLE V. AFFILIATION
- This organization is a recognized student organization at MOSDOH, but is not part of the university itself.
- In all correspondence and business transactions, it may refer to itself as an organization at MOSDOH, but not as part of MOSDOH itself.
- SPEA accepts full financial and production responsibility for all activities as sponsors.
- SPEA agrees to abide by all pertinent MOSDOH policies and regulations. Where MOSDOH policies and regulations and those of SPEA differ, the policies and regulations of MOSDOH will take precedence.
- This organization recognizes and understands that the University assumes no legal liability for the actions of the organization, and that the University and not providing blanket indemnification insurance coverage for any activities of the organization, unless those activities expressly benefit and further the goals of the University, and have received prior review, approval and consent of Campus Activities, Risk Management, and/or General Counsel.
- This local chapter recognizes that the national organization, the Student Professionalism and Ethics Association (SPEA), can assume no legal liability for the actions of the local chapter and that they national organization is not providing blanket indemnification insurance coverage for any activities of the organization, unless those activities are expressly and specifically sponsor by the national leadership, which must include formal written authorization for SPEA’s National Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI. FACULTY/STAFF ADVISOR
- As a recognized student organization at MOSDOH, SPEA is required to have an official advisor from the MOSDOH faculty and/or staff.
- Other persons may serve as special advisors as needed.

ARTICLE VII. BY-LAWS AND AMENDMENTS
- This constitution should be in accordance with, and is subject to, the official national organization by-laws.
- By-laws can be amended or added to this constitution by a two-thirds vote of the SPEA membership.
By-Laws for the Student Professionalism and Ethics Association
MOSDOH

A. PURPOSE
- The purpose of this organization is to increase the overall level of ethics and professionalism at MOSDOH. By uniting the community of students, faculty and staff of MOSDOH, SPEA will promote lifelong thought and action in the arena of dental ethics. Through various programs, activities and associations, SPEA aims to foster an environment where ethical and professional behavior issues can be addressed in an open, unbiased forum.
- SPEA aims to further the ethics education of every student at MOSDOH and help achieve the development of ethical and professional behavior in the educational setting that will accompany the students throughout their professional careers. SPEA also aims to form a student-centered committee to mediate and resolve concerns relative to professional behavior.

B. MEMBERSHIP
- An individual will be considered an active member in good standing by meeting the Chapter's standard of attendance and by signing the Chapter Charter in pledge of support for the SPEA Mission and its ideals.
- In order to retain active member in good standing status, attendance of at least one meeting per semester/ trimester is required.
- All members are eligible to attend all general meetings and events of this organization.
- If a fee is charged to attend a particular event, the membership may establish a fee scale for members and other attendees as appropriate.

C. DUTIES OF OFFICERS
- The President will chair all meetings of SPEA and will call special meetings as needed. The President will be a member of the executive board.
- The 1st Vice President will chair all meetings of SPEA in the absence of the president, will be responsible for obtaining committee reports before each general meeting, and will serve as the Local Chapter Liaison. The 1st Vice President will be a member of the executive board.
- The 2nd Vice President will assume the duties of the 1st Vice President should the 1st Vice President be absent. The 2nd Vice President will be a member of the executive board.
The Immediate Past President will serve as advisor to the Board and Executive Committee. She/he will guide the President and other officers in fulfilling their duties and help them while transitioning into their respective roles. The Immediate Past President will be a member of the Executive Committee and will serve as the liaison to the local Section of the American College of Dentists.

Other official officer positions and their duties can be added at a later date as our Chapter grows. These positions and their duties should be approved by the Executive Council and added to our By-Laws.

**D. REQUIREMENTS FOR RUNNING FOR AND HOLDING OFFICE**

- All officers and candidates for office must be currently enrolled MOSDOH students in good academic standing and with no history of ethics sanctions.

**E. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

- Nominations may be submitted to the President anytime during the period of the week before and up until 24 hours prior to the election meeting for inclusion on the ballot. Additionally, write-in nominations will be accepted during the meeting itself if given to the President anytime before the last call, which immediately precedes chapter elections.
- Any members may nominate any other member, including him or herself.
- Elections will be held at the last general SPEA meeting of the spring trimester or via electronic ballot around that time period.
- A simple majority vote of voting members present at that meeting will be sufficient to elect an officer. If there are more than two candidates and no candidate receives a majority, there will be a run-off vote between the top two vote recipients in the general meeting.

**F. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

- Officers may be removed from office for failure to perform duties, violation of the membership clause, failure to remain in good academic standing, or if sanctioned for an ethics violation.
- Officers to be voted upon in this regard will be notified of the intention to do so in writing or by electronic means at least one week prior to the meeting at which the vote will be taken. A two-thirds majority of the Board membership present at a scheduled Board meeting shall be required for removal from office.
G. TERMS OF OFFICE AND VACANCIES
   o The term of office of the board will be June 1 through May 30.
   o Should a vacancy in office occur, the board will appoint a SPEA member to fill this position. If the President’s position becomes vacant the Vice President will assume the duties of the president for the remainder of their term and the board will appoint a SPEA member as Vice President.

H. MEETINGS
   o General meetings will be held as scheduled. Twenty-five percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business at any general meeting.
   o Special meetings of the Association may be petitioned to the President at any time by twenty-five percent of voting members.
   o The Board will have regularly scheduled meetings. A quorum for any board meeting is defined as twenty-five percent of the board.
   o Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by the President or petitioned to the President by twenty-five percent of the Board members. Notice of special meetings must be communicated to all Board members at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.
   o The Executive Committee of the Board shall consist of the President, President Elect, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and Immediate Past President. The quorum of the executive committee shall be three members.

I. GENERAL COMMITTEE POLICIES
   o Committees may be created by a majority vote of the Board.
   o All decisions of any committee involving organization funds will require the approval of the majority of the board.
   o All committee chairs are responsible for submitting committee reports to the President prior to each board meeting.
   o Committee chairs are appointed by the Executive Committee and can form subcommittees as needed.

J. FACULTY/STAFF ADVISOR
   o The executive board must select the faculty advisor each year.
   o The advisor must sign the recognition application each year, whenever officer information changes, or when amendments are made to the constitution.
   o An advisor may not vote in SPEA matters, hold office or unduly influence decisions of the student organization.
K. **NONDISCRIMINATION PHILOSOPHY**
   - Student professionalism and Ethics Association does not deny membership on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, or veteran status; except that a) an organization created primarily for religious purposes may restrict that right to vote or hold office to persons who subscribe to the organization’s statement of purpose, and b) an organization may restrict membership based on the provisions of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972.

L. **RISK MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY**
   - All events sponsored by SPEA or any event the student organization is associated with, including off-campus events, must be in compliance, as stated below:

1. **Alcohol/Illegal Drugs**
   - No member of the student organization shall take part in acts that are illegal and/or abusive as it relates to alcohol and drugs and/or activities that violate the rules of ATSU. If any member is found participating in such acts, we, the members, reserve the right to take all necessary actions to correct this behavior for the betterment of the organization.
   - The possession, use, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages during any organization event, any event that an observer would associate with the University, or in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the organization, must be in compliance with any and all applicable laws, policies, and regulations of the state, county, city, and ATSU. The unlawful possession, sale and/or use of any illegal drugs or controlled substances at any organization-sponsored event, or at any event that an observer would associate with the organization, is strictly prohibited. The organization shall not use or condone the use of alcoholic beverages/illegal drugs as part of their membership intake recruitment or education programs.

2. **Hazing**
   - No member of the student organization shall take part in hazing activities, and if any member is found participating in such acts, we, the members, reserve the right to take all necessary actions to correct this behavior for the betterment of the organization.
   - Hazing activities are defined as (but not limited to): any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off organization premises or during organization functions, to
produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule.

3. Transportation and Travel
   - Members of the student organization shall strictly obey all applicable motor vehicle laws and rules of ATSU as it relates to transportation. Operators will ensure that vehicles are not overloaded and are driven in a safe manner. Rental vehicles shall be operated in accordance with rental contracts.

4. Sexual Harassment/Abuse
   - Members of the student organization strictly prohibit the act of sexual harassment/abuse discrimination, in any form. No member shall take part in activities deemed sexual harassment and/or abuse discrimination, and if any member is found participating in such acts, we, the members, reserve the right to take all necessary actions to correct this behavior for the betterment of the organization.
   - The organization will not tolerate or condone any form of abusive or discriminatory behavior on the part of its members, whether physical, mental, or emotional in respect to sex, race, ethnicity, physical or emotional handicap, age, marital status, or sexual orientation. This includes any actions not limited to sexual assault, verbal harassment, or deemed demeaning to all.

Of note, any member who witnesses discriminatory behavior, or is informed of incidents of discrimination, sexual harassment, and/or related retaliation involving faculty, staff, or students should contact Lori Haxton, Vice President of Student Affairs, on the Missouri campus or Beth Poppre, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs on the Arizona campus.
SPEA Mission and Objectives Statement
The Student Professionalism and Ethics Association in Dentistry is a national, student driven association that was established to promote and support students’ lifelong commitment to ethical behavior in order to benefit the patients they serve and to further the dental profession.

The objectives of the Association are:

- Act as a support system for students in strengthening their personal and professional ethics values by:
  - Providing a resource for ethics education and development.
  - Fostering a non-punitive, open-forum environment for ethics communication
  - Promoting awareness of ethics standards and related issues within dentistry
- Collaborating with leadership of the dental profession to effectively advocate for our members

We, the officers and faculty advisors of the Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health chapter of A.T. Still University in Kirksville, Missouri of the Student Professionalism and Ethics Association, agree to uphold the SPEA Mission and Objectives Statement.

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<th>Position</th>
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Document Last Updated: 08/2015
Association Recognition

Please add our association as a recognized Local Chapter of SPEA, representing Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health.

We have submitted:
- a list of our officers and faculty advisor
- a confirmation of organization registration at our university
- a copy of our constitution and by-laws
- the SPEA Mission Statement signed by our officers and faculty advisors

We would like to receive the following additional items:
- National Chapter Contacts/Web-site Information
- SPEA logo/Identity
- Activity Suggestions
- Resource List
- Ethics Case Studies