

BYLAWS OF James Van Rhee Student Society

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of our student society is The James Van Rhee Student Society, herein referred to as the Student Society.

ARTICLE II. Purpose

The purpose of the Student Society shall be to serve as the official organization for the students of the Yale Physician Assistant Online program, to promote academic achievement and clinical excellence, to serve as liaisons between students and faculty, organize social events that promote cohesion of the cohort, support justice and equality for all students and patients, and to promote the physician assistant as a member of the health care delivery team.

ARTICLE III. Membership

Section 1. All physician assistant students enrolled in the program shall be eligible for membership in the Student Society.

Section 2. Active members shall be defined as full-time students who do not opt out of the Student Society and shall have voting privileges. Inactive members shall be defined as students who have left the program in good standing, show continued interest in the student society, but shall be ineligible to vote. Members can opt out of the Student Society at any time during the year.

Section 3. Students leaving the program for any reason shall retain membership in the Student Society for the remainder of the current academic year but shall be designated as inactive members and will not retain voting privileges.

Section 4. It shall be encouraged that Student Society members become active student members of AAPA and of their state constituent chapters.

ARTICLE IV. Dues and Fees

Section 1. The Student Society shall have no membership fees.

ARTICLE V. Officers and Their Duties

Section 2. The mandatory officers of the Student Society shall be: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Student Academy Representative (SAR), SAR Alternate, Outreach Chair, Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPPS) Senator, Connecticut State Chapter Representative and Student Diversity Committee Representative.

Other officers shall be introduced as deemed necessary by the Student Society and will be announced by the Student Society officers as subject to vote from a slate of interested candidates during special elections during the year. Officers and the faculty advisor shall be responsible for distributing and tabulating ballots. All officers and representatives/delegates must be student members of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA). In addition to the officers, there shall be a faculty advisor.

Section 3. The President shall preside over meetings, set and distribute the meetings' agendas, coordinate the activities of the committees, communicate with the faculty advisor, and keep the membership informed of the activities of these committees. In the event that a SAR alternate is not elected, the President is deemed the SAR alternate.

The Secretary shall serve as the record keeper for all meetings and events. This student will send correspondence to outside organizations if a relationship is formed.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for managing charitable funds raised by the Student Society.

The State Chapter Student Representative shall be the liaison between the Student Society and the constituent chapter. The student will attend the state chapter meeting representing the Student Society. This student shall encourage students to become involved in their respective state chapters and provide resources to do so.

The Outreach Chair shall coordinate activities and public relations efforts between the Student Society and external groups, including but not limited to other medical professionals, such as physician, osteopath, physical therapist, occupational therapist, nurse, and speech therapist; city, county, state, and national organizations; and other community-related organizations. The Outreach Chair shall convey any and all concerns and issues regarding external affairs to the SAAAPA directors of external affairs. This student shall be responsible for building comradery across the cohorts and encouraging students to participate as student ambassadors for admissions.

The Diversity Chair disseminates information to students regarding diversity issues that may affect the delivery of health care to people of various backgrounds, coordinates local activities and community outreach projects, serves as a liaison between their student society and the SAAAPA Director of Diversity (DOD), and communicates with the DOD and other SDCRs around the country about diversity issues.

The SAR shall be responsible for the distribution of all Student Academy information to the program members. The SAR representative will serve as point of contact for the Student Academy Board of Directors and committees. If possible, the SAR representative shall also attend the annual SAR meeting at the AAPA annual conference to elect new officers of the Student Academy, to establish and amend policy of the Student Academy, and to conduct business as necessary.

The SAR alternate shall be responsible for the duties of the SAR should the SAR be unavailable to perform said duties.

The GPSS Senator shall be responsible for representing the Yale PA Online Program at the GPSS. The Senator will serve as a liaison between the program's students and the greater Yale graduate and professional student body. The GPSS Senator shall attend GPSS Meetings and fulfill any other duties of a Senator as decided by the GPSS governing body.

The Faculty Advisor shall provide insight and direction into the proper, ethical, and professional standards of the physician assistant. The Faculty Advisor shall have no voting privilege.

ARTICLE VI. Elections

Section 1. Offices to be Filled - Elected offices of the Student Society include: President, Secretary, Treasurer, SAR, SAR Alternate, GPSS Senator, Outreach Chair, Connecticut State Chapter Representative and Student Diversity Committee Representative

Section 2. Terms of Office - Each officer, with the exception of the SAR representative, SAR alternate, and GPSS Senator will serve a one- year term commencing immediately upon election and terminating after the new officers for the next year have been elected and oriented by the outgoing officers. Elections are to be held after the first on campus immersion but before the close of Term 1 each year.

GPSS Senator will serve a two-year term starting in the fall of the 1st year of the program following the term dates set by the GPSS.

SAR and SAR alternate shall serve a term from the first Sunday following the National AAPA conference held in their 1st year of the program to the end of the National AAPA conference held in their 2nd year of the program.

Section 3. Eligibility and Qualifications of Candidates – All Student Society officer nominees shall be active members of the student society and the American Academy of Physician Assistants and be in good academic standing.

Nominees must submit in writing their intent to run for office along with a personal profile at least two weeks prior to election date.

Nominee profiles shall be distributed to all members of the Student Society no later than one week prior to election date.

Section 4. Time of Elections - Elections will be held after the first on campus immersion but no later than the end of Term 1 of the academic year. Officers of the previous year and the faculty advisor shall be responsible for distributing and tabulating ballots.

Tabulation must be done immediately, and the election results posted, and winners notified. In the event of a tie, a run-off election shall be held immediately.

Section 5. Once elections are completed, the Student Society online registration form must be completed and returned to the AAPA national office within 30 days.

Section 6. Vacancies in office - In the event of a vacancy in any position, a call will be made for nominations for that position by the remaining members of the Student Society. A special election must be held within 30 days of the vacancy to replace the position. The Connecticut state chapter representative shall serve as Interim President until another president is elected.- All terms of office shall expire at the time of the next regularly scheduled student society elections.

ARTICLE VII. Officer Training

Section 1. It will be the responsibility of the outgoing officers to train and familiarize the new officers with their duties and responsibilities and the materials needed to perform their jobs. Training must be completed within 30 days of the officer elections.

ARTICLE VIII. Removal of elected or appointed position

Section 1. Candidates for elected and appointed leadership positions are in good standing at the time of election or appointment. Once elected or appointed, all students holding leadership positions must remain “a student in good standing” (as defined by the Yale PA Online program). If a student is found to be “not in good standing,” the student will be removed from office by faculty decision and will be notified by the faculty advisor within two weeks. A special election will be held to replace them within 30 days of removal from a distributed list of interested candidates. The remaining officers and the faculty advisor shall be responsible for distributing and tabulating ballots.

ARTICLE IX. Meetings

Section 1. The Student Society shall correspond monthly during the didactic year and bimonthly to correspond with class meetings for the transaction of society business. The date and location of additional meetings will be decided at the discretion of the president.

Section 2. Meetings may be called at the discretion of the president provided no less than one week’s notice has been given to the membership in writing or by phone.

ARTICLE X. Committees

Section 1. Committees shall be formed as necessary by the board with an established function and an established time of dissolution.

Section 2. Each committee chair shall be appointed by the president.

Section 3. All committees shall report their proceedings to the board at the monthly meetings.

Section 4. Committees shall be formed by active James Van Rhee Student Society Members.

ARTICLE XI. Amendments and Parliamentary Procedure

Section 1. If deemed necessary, the Parliamentary source used by the Student Society shall be Sturgis’ Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure. In proceedings, the constitution and bylaws of the student society shall take precedence.

Section 2. The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a majority vote, provided all amendments proposed are submitted to the president and are in turn submitted to all members at least two weeks prior to the vote.

Section 3. Any bylaws necessary to supplement this constitution shall be presented at a meeting and voted upon no later than the following meeting.

RATIFIED, 03/27/2022