

Policy Document

Medical Student Societies' Representation Policy

AMSA calls upon medical faculties and universities to recognise medical student societies as the key representatives of the medical student body to their medical faculty and university.

Background

The Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) is the peak national representative body for Australian medical students. AMSA works closely with all twenty Medical Student Societies (MedSocs) and relies on their contributions to ensure it adequately represents the views of all medical students from around Australia.

Australian MedSocs are best placed to represent their students to relevant medical education providers including Universities and Medical Faculties. MedSocs implement formal election mechanisms ensuring fair and democratic appointment of their representatives, enabling these societies to best represent their student members.

In their 2013 accreditation standards, the Australian Medical Council (AMC) calls upon medical education providers to "implement formal processes and structures that facilitate and support student representation in the governance of their program"[1]. Former AMC guidelines have outlined the following with respect to medical student advocacy and representation:

"The participation of students in school-based committees pertaining to the medical curriculum and student affairs serves to promote student ownership of the curriculum and a degree of self-determination in the learning process. It also facilitates the early identification of problems and deficiencies in the course, and allows for the recognition and expansion of successful strategies and initiatives.

Regular informal meetings between senior faculty members and representatives of all year levels complement formal student representation on school committees, and allow for more in-depth exploration of student concerns and ideas. This is particularly important for students studying at locations distant from the school's main campus.

Strong school support for student organisations, at both the pre-clinical and clinical levels, aids greatly in encouraging student involvement in such groups, thereby maximizing the quality of representation they can provide."[2]

Head Office
42 Macquarie St
Barton ACT 2600

Postal Address
PO Box 6099
Kingston ACT 2604

Phone +612 6270 5435
Fax +612 6270 5499
Email mail@amsa.org.au

Website www.amsa.org.au
Twitter @yourAMSA

ABN 67 079 544 513

Position Statement

AMSA believes that MedSocs are best positioned to adequately represent the views of their students to their medical education providers and should be considered the primary advocacy body for medical students at the local university level.

Policy

AMSA calls upon:

1. Medical education providers to:
 - a. view MedSocs as the peak representative body for medical students within their university;
 - b. actively seek the opinions and contributions of MedSocs through
 - i. regular meetings between senior faculty members and representatives of all rear levels;
 - ii. Enabling the participation of students in committees pertaining to the medical curriculum and student affairs; and
 - c. utilise MedSocs to provide information to students about updates and outcomes of advocacy issues.
2. MedSocs to:
 - a. Ensure election processes are fair and democratic to allow adequate representation of their students to medical education providers; and
 - b. Adequately represent the views of their students via the development of robust mechanisms to assess student opinion.

References

- [1] Australian Medical Council Limited, 2013. Accreditation Standards for Primary Medical Education Providers and their Program of Study and Graduate Outcome Statements. Kingston, ACT.
- [2] Australian Medical Council Limited, 2011. Assessment and Accreditation of Medical Schools: Standards and Procedures. Kingston ACT.

Policy Details

Name: Medical Student Societies' Representation Policy

Category: B – Medical School Education

History: Adopted, Second Council, 2013