

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI STUDENT COUNCIL

I. NAME AND PURPOSE

- A. The name of this organization shall be *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*.
- B. The purpose of this organization shall be to represent the student body of The *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai* in all matters of student life, including academic, extra-curricular, and social affairs. *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* shall serve as a liaison between the students and the *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai* faculty, administration, Board of Trustees, and Alumni Association. *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* shall also serve to provide a forum through which students can voice their thoughts and opinions related to their education and well-being. Above all, *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* shall serve as a driving force for the improvement of student life.

II. OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

- A. Officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*
 - 1. The officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* are here defined as the elected representatives of MD and all Graduate Programs with executive voting privileges at meetings of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*.
 - a) Elections in which these officers exercise executive voting privileges will be known henceforth as elections “by the *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*”.
 - 2. The officers shall be elected from the student body of the *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*. Any student may run for office, provided that they are a member of the group they wish to represent. Eligible groups are defined in the Bylaws of this Constitution.
 - 3. The officers shall serve to represent the best interests of their constituents. An officer may be removed from office if deemed unfit to serve.
 - a) Any officer may propose a motion to deem another officer unfit to serve.

- b) A motion to deem an officer unfit may only be seconded by an officer.
 - c) In the event that such a motion is made and seconded, the motion shall be decided by a standard two-thirds vote, as outlined in the Elections and Voting section of this Constitution.
 - 4. In the event of a vacancy, the remaining officers representing the group that has the vacancy shall appoint an interim officer.
 - a) In the event that no such remaining officers exist, the President shall appoint an interim officer.
 - b) The interim representative must meet the qualifications to be an officer as outlined in this Constitution.
 - c) The interim representative shall remain in office until the next election period.
- B. Subcommittee Representatives of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*
- 1. The subcommittee representatives of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* are here defined as the representatives elected to serve on the subcommittees outlined in the Bylaws of this Constitution.
 - 2. The subcommittee representatives have no voting privileges at meetings of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*.
 - 3. The subcommittee representatives shall be elected from the student body of the *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*. Any student may run for office, provided that they are a member of the group they wish to represent. Eligible groups are defined in the Bylaws of this Constitution.
 - 4. The subcommittee representatives shall serve to represent the best interests of their constituents. A subcommittee representative may be removed from office if deemed unfit to serve.
 - a) Any officer may propose a motion to deem a subcommittee representative unfit to serve.
 - b) A motion to deem a subcommittee representative unfit may only be seconded by an officer.
 - c) In the event that such a motion is made and seconded, the motion shall be decided by a standard two-thirds vote, as outlined in the Elections and Voting section of this Constitution.
 - 5. In the event of a vacancy, the officers representing the group that has the vacancy shall appoint an interim subcommittee representative.
 - a) The interim representative must meet the qualifications to be a subcommittee representative as outlined in this Constitution.
 - b) The interim representative shall remain in office until the next election period.

C. The Steering Committee of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*

1. The Steering Committee of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* shall be elected from the officers of the organization.
 - a) The Steering Committee shall consist of at least a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, and a Secretary.
 - b) All other positions on the Steering Committee shall be outlined in the Bylaws of this Constitution.
 - c) Any elected officer may run for any position on the Steering Committee.
2. The members of the Steering Committee shall serve to oversee and run *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*. The members of the Steering Committee shall also serve to represent the student body to meetings of the Executive Steering Committee.
3. As the Steering Committee shall serve as a representative body, there shall be at least one officer from each of the groups defined in the Bylaws of this Constitution on the Steering Committee.
 - a) In the event that this requirement is not met during the election of the Steering Committee, a member-at-large position shall be created on the Steering Committee for each group not represented.
 - b) This position shall exist for a one school year term, to start and end at the same time as all other positions on the Steering Committee.
 - c) Any officer may run for this position, provided that they are a member of the group they wish to represent on the Steering Committee.
4. A member of the Steering Committee may only be removed from the Steering Committee in the case that they are removed as an officer from *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*.
5. In the event of a vacancy on the Steering Committee, the position shall be filled by appointment of the President of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*.
 - a) The appointee must meet the guidelines for qualification as a member of the Steering Committee, as outlined in this Constitution.
 - b) In the event that the vacancy is for the position of President, the Vice President shall be immediately instated as President.
 - c) In the event that vacancies exist simultaneously for both the position of President and of Vice-President, the officers shall elect a new President from the remaining members of the Steering Committee.

- d) In all cases in which a vacancy on the Steering Committee is being filled, the term shall last until the end of the final Executive Steering Committee meeting of the school year.
- e) In the event that the Steering Committee is re-formed due to vacancy in such a way that there is not at least one officer from each of the groups defined in the Bylaws of this Constitution on the Steering Committee, a member-at-large position shall be created on the steering committee for each group not represented. This position shall be filled by appointment of the President, pursuant to the guidelines described in this Constitution.

III. ELECTIONS AND VOTING

- A. Elections for officers and subcommittee representatives shall be held a maximum of four times per school year, twice in the fall semester and twice in the spring semester, as follows:
 - 1. General Elections shall take place at the end of the spring semester, prior to the final meeting of the school year.
 - a) All officers and subcommittee representatives, other than first year representatives in the MD, Graduate, and MPH programs, shall be elected during General Elections.
 - b) All officers and subcommittee representatives elected during General Elections shall be elected to a one year term, except where noted in the Bylaws of this Constitution, to commence following election certification at the end of the final Executive Steering Committee meeting of the school year.
 - c) In the event that a position to be elected during General Elections is not filled during the General Election period, that position shall be elected during Fall Elections.
 - 2. Fall Elections shall take place at the beginning of the fall semester, prior to the first meeting of the school year.
 - a) All first year officers and subcommittee representatives, as well as those positions not filled during General Elections, shall be elected during Fall Elections.
 - b) All officers and subcommittee representatives elected during Fall Elections shall be elected to a one school year term, to commence following election certification at the beginning of the first meeting of the school year and to terminate at the end of the final Executive Steering Committee meeting of the school year.
 - 3. Vacancy Elections shall take place in the fall semester, between the first and second meetings of the school year.

- a) Vacancy Elections shall only be held in the event that one or more positions for officer or subcommittee representative are not filled by the first meeting of the school year.
 - b) In the event that a position to be elected during Fall Elections is not filled during the Fall Election period, that position shall be re-solicited for nominations and voted upon during the Vacancy Election period.
 - c) In the event that a position is not filled by the second meeting of the school year, the officers representative of the group with a vacancy shall appoint a student to that position. The appointee shall commence their term at the first meeting following appointment, pending a simple majority vote by the officers, as defined in the Elections and Voting section of this Constitution.
4. Special Elections shall take place at the beginning of the spring semester, prior to the first meeting of the calendar year.
- a) Special Elections shall only be held in the event that one or more official complaints have been registered regarding the fitness of an officer or subcommittee representative to serve.
 - b) Any student represented by an officer or subcommittee representative for a given position may register an official complaint to *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* regarding the fitness of said officer or subcommittee representative to serve.
 - c) All official complaints must be submitted in writing to *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* no later than one week prior to the final meeting of the calendar year.
 - d) The President of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* shall notify any officer or subcommittee representative who has an official complaint filed regarding his or her fitness to serve immediately upon receipt of the official complaint.
 - e) All official complaints shall be brought up as business at the final meeting of the calendar year in the order in which they were received.
 - f) For an officer or subcommittee representative to lose his or her position due to an official complaint, the motion regarding the complaint must pass a standard two-thirds vote of the officers.
 - g) Any position vacated due to an official complaint shall be filled during Special Elections and shall follow the same general guidelines as outlined for Fall Elections.
 - h) In the event that no motions regarding official complaints are passed by *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*, Special Elections will not be held.

5. Nominations for officers and subcommittee representatives shall be submitted in writing.
 - a) Any student to be represented by a particular officer or subcommittee representative is permitted to submit a nomination.
 - b) There is no limit to the number of positions for which a student may submit nominations.
 - c) There is no limit to the number of nominations a student may submit for a given position.
 - d) A nomination is only valid if the nominee is eligible for the position to which they are nominated, as outlined in the Officers section of this Constitution.
 - e) A nominee becomes a candidate at the nominee's discretion.
 - f) There is no limit to the number of positions for which a student may be a candidate.
6. Candidates for the positions of officer or subcommittee representative shall be elected to office by the members of the group they represent.
 - a) Each member of a represented group is permitted to vote in all races for officers and subcommittee representatives that pertain to their group.
 - b) Each voting member receives a number of votes per race equal to the number of candidates to be elected to a particular position.
 - c) A voting member may vote for a particular candidate no more than once per election period, regardless of the number of votes a member has per race.
 - d) The candidate that receives the highest number of votes in a given race shall be elected to that position. For elections in which multiple candidates are to be elected to a particular position, the candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected to that position.
 - e) A tie in an election voted upon by the student body shall be resolved in one of two ways:
 - (1) In the event that there are more candidates in a given race than the number of candidates in that race who are tied, the tie shall be resolved by a runoff election between the tied candidates.
 - (2) In the event that all candidates in a given race are tied, the tie shall be resolved by a vote of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* at the next meeting.
 - f) A student may only be elected to one position per election period.
 - (1) In the event that a student is elected to more than one position, he or she must withdraw from all but one of the positions.

- (2) For any position in which an elected student withdraws, the position shall be filled by the runner up to that position.
7. Election results for the positions of officer and subcommittee representative shall be certified as free and fair by *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* at the first meeting following any election.
- a) Certification requires a standard two-thirds vote by *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*.
 - b) Any student who wishes to challenge an election result must do so in writing prior to the first meeting following the election.
 - c) Any challenged election shall be brought up as business at the first meeting following the election, prior to certification of the election result.
 - d) For an election result to be overturned, *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* must have a standard two-thirds vote on the challenge.
 - e) In the event that an election is overturned, the outcome of that election shall be decided by *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*.
 - (1) Each officer other than the President shall receive a number of votes per race equal to the number of candidates to be elected to a particular position in a given overturned election.
 - (2) An officer may vote for a particular candidate no more than once per election, regardless of the number of votes a member has per race.
 - (3) The candidate that receives the highest number of votes in a given election shall be elected to that position. For elections in which multiple candidates are to be elected to a particular position, the candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected to that position.
 - (4) The President is only permitted to vote in the case that his or her vote would serve to break a tie.
 - f) Once all challenges have been resolved, the next order of business shall be a vote of certification.
- B. Elections for the Steering Committee shall take place at the final meeting of the school year.
1. Nominations for positions on the Steering Committee shall be submitted orally.
 - a) Any student other than the President is permitted to submit a nomination.
 - b) There is no limit to the number of positions a student may submit nominations for.

- c) There is no limit to the number of nominations a student may submit for a given position.
 - d) A nomination is only valid if the nominee is eligible for the position to which they are nominated, as outlined in the Officers and Representatives section of this Constitution.
 - e) A nominee becomes a candidate at the nominee's discretion.
2. Candidates for positions on the Steering Committee shall be elected to office by voting members of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* as defined below.
- a) Every member of Student Council other than the President is permitted to vote in all races, provided they meet the following stipulations:
 - (1) In order to vote, a member of Student Council must have 4 points, irrespective of whether he or she is a class officer or subcommittee member. A point system will be instituted for the 7 general meetings from September – March. Excused absences are worth a ½ point and meetings attended are worth 1 point. Attendance is required at 2 meetings during the year at minimum to be eligible to vote, regardless of number of excused absences or position in Student Council. The secretaries will notify eligible voters prior to the April meeting at which elections will be held.
 - (2) In the event fewer meetings are held, the point total required to vote will be number of meetings + 0.5, e.g. 6 meetings will result in a $3 + 0.5 = 3.5$ point minimum.
 - b) Each voting member receives a number of votes per race equal to the number of positions being voted upon in that race.
 - c) A voting member may vote for a particular candidate no more than once per position, regardless of the number of votes an officer has per race.
 - d) The candidate that receives 50% or more of votes in a given race shall be elected to that position. In an election for a single position with more than 2 candidates running, if the winner does not receive 50% or more of the vote, a run-off election will be held between the top two vote-getters. The run-off election shall be held immediately after the initial election and the winner of the run-off shall be elected to the position.
 - e) For elections in which multiple candidates are to be elected to a particular position, each voting member will vote for two candidates. The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes shall be elected to that position. In the event of a tie between the 2nd place vote-getter and the 3rd place vote-getter, there shall be a run-off election to decide the 2nd winner, while the candidate who received the most votes in the initial election is secured the position based on the results from that first election. In the event of a three-way tie, the president will select a top candidate to secure a

- position. The remaining two candidates will take part in a run-off election by the aforementioned rules to determine the 2nd winner.
3. Election results for positions on the Steering Committee shall be certified as free and fair by *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* at the end of the final meeting of the school year.
 - a) Certification requires a standard two-thirds vote by *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*.
 - b) Any student who wishes to challenge an election result must do so orally prior to the vote of certification.
 - c) Any challenged election shall be brought up as business prior to certification of the election result.
 - d) For an election result to be overturned, *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* must have a standard two-thirds vote on the challenge.
 - e) In the event that an election result is overturned, there shall be a re-vote on that election. This re-vote shall follow the same procedure as the initial election.
 - f) Once all challenges have been resolved, the next order of business shall be a vote of certification.
- C. Voting shall follow guidelines that vary depending on the subject being voted upon and the people eligible to vote.
1. Votes shall be defined as follows:
 - a) A simple majority vote is one in which greater than one half of the votes submitted must be in support of the motion in order to pass the motion.
 - b) A standard two thirds vote is one in which greater than two thirds of the votes submitted must be in support of the motion in order to pass the motion, excluding voting abstentions.
 - c) A strict two thirds vote is one in which greater than two thirds of the voting members must be in support of the motion in order to pass the motion.
 2. For all votes, regardless of topic, in which the entire student body or a portion thereof not restricted to the officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* is eligible to vote:
 - a) Such votes shall be carried out confidentially.
 - b) Guidelines as outlined in the Bylaws of this Constitution shall be followed to ensure that all eligible students have access to vote and have been adequately informed that a vote is taking place.
 3. Voting guidelines for votes in which only officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* are eligible to vote shall vary depending on the subject of the vote.
 - a) For all votes that lead to the election or appointment of an officer or subcommittee representative, including elections of

the Steering Committee, votes shall be submitted confidentially in writing.

- b) For all votes pertaining to this Constitution and its Bylaws, including Amendments, Ratification, and Dissolution, the complete voting history of every officer shall be recorded and published. The record of individual voting on amendments may be removed from public purview only after every voting individual has graduated or left the *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai* student body.
- c) For all votes pertaining to financial matters, including the approval of the budget, the results of all votes and a register of officers in attendance shall be recorded and published. This record may be removed from public purview only after the end of the first budget period following the budget period in which the recorded vote took place.
- d) For all other votes, voting shall be done by a simple show of hands unless otherwise requested by an officer.

IV. FINANCES

This Section has been amended—Please refer to Amendment 1.

A. *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* shall serve to provide funding for officers, subcommittee representatives, student groups, and the student body in a manner in accordance with the Purpose of this Organization, as outlined in this Constitution.

B. *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* shall maintain a budget for its expenditures.

- 1. The budget period shall begin at the first meeting of the semester and shall end at the first meeting of the following semester.
- 2. The budget shall be comprised of funds collected from the *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai* tuition, referred to as the Student Activity Fee, plus any outside funds acquired by the officers specifically for use in the budget, as well as any funds remaining from the preceding budget period.
- 3. The Student Activity Fee may be changed by one of two methods:
 - a) Modification through *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* requires both:
 - (1) A strict two-thirds vote of the officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*
 - (2) A simple majority vote of the entire student body
 - b) Modification without *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* requires both:
 - (1) A petition by ten percent of the student body

- (2) A strict two-thirds vote of the student body
4. The budget shall be written by the Treasurer and made available to the officers prior to the start of the budget period.
 5. Approval of the budget must pass a standard two-thirds vote of the officers.
 6. The budget must be approved prior to the end of the first meeting of the semester. Any motions to table the approval of the budget to a later date are not permitted.
 7. Any modifications to the budget during the budget period must be approved by a simple majority vote of the officers during a meeting.
 8. The responsibility of budget oversight, including authorization of expenditures during a budget period, is given primarily to the Treasurer, secondarily to the President, and thirdly to the Steering Committee.

V. MEETINGS

- A. Official meetings of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*, referred to in this Constitution simply as meetings, shall take place once per month for the length of the academic year.
- B. Meetings shall be open to all members of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai* student body.
- C. The President shall run meetings.
 1. In the event that the President is not present for a meeting, the Vice President shall serve as acting President for that meeting only.
 2. In the event that neither the President nor the Vice President is present for a meeting, the present members of the Steering Committee shall decide amongst themselves who shall serve as acting President for that meeting only.
 - a) In this case, no motions shall be made and no votes shall take place during the meeting.
 - b) The only exceptions to this rule are that a motion to declare the President unfit to serve, a motion to declare the Vice-President unfit to serve, and the vote on such motions may take place.
- D. In order for business to be conducted, a quorum of officers must be present at a meeting.
 1. A quorum is defined as at least fifty percent of the officers.
 2. In the event that a quorum is not present, a meeting may still be held, but no motions shall be made and no votes shall be held.
- E. For an order of business to be voted on, it must be presented as a motion.

1. Any student other than the President may make a motion, provided that they are first recognized by the President.
2. All motions must be seconded in order to move to a vote.
3. Any student other than the President may second a motion.
4. Once a motion has been made and seconded, it shall move to a vote.
5. The only motions that can be made after a given motion has been seconded and prior to that motion is voted upon are a motion to modify the motion on the floor and a motion to table the motion on the floor to a later time.
6. Only officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* may vote on a motion.
7. All officers except the President are permitted to vote on any motion. The President may only vote if his or her vote serves to break a tie.

F. Meetings shall follow Robert's Rules of Order except where specified in this Constitution and its Bylaws.

VI. PROCEDURES TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

- A. In order to revise or improve this Constitution, it may be amended as follows:
1. Any student may present an amendment for consideration at a meeting.
 - a) There must be at least three weeks between the proposal for the approval or repeal of any amendment and voting on the approval or repeal.
 - b) Voting on the approval or repeal by the officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* must occur at the first meeting that follows this three week period.
 - c) If the vote is passed by the officers, it then moves to a vote by the entire student body. This vote must take place in the time between the meeting in which the vote of the officers took place and the next meeting.
 2. Approval of any amendment requires both:
 - a) A strict two thirds vote of the officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*
 - b) A simple majority vote of the entire student body
 3. Repeal of any amendment requires both:
 - a) A strict two-thirds vote of the officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*
 - b) A simple majority vote of the entire student body
- B. Procedures to revise the Bylaws of this Constitution are as follows:
1. Bylaws shall serve to guide the management of the governance of the student body.

2. Any member of the *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai* student body may propose a new bylaw or a revision to a standing bylaw.
3. Approval of any new bylaw requires a simple majority of the officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*
4. Repeal or revision of any bylaw requires a simple majority of the officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*

VII. RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

- A. The Constitution may be ratified in one of two ways:
 1. Ratification through *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* requires both:
 - a) A strict two thirds vote of the officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*
 - b) A simple majority vote of the entire student body
 2. Ratification without *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* requires both:
 - a) A Petition for Ratification by ten percent of the student body
 - b) A strict two thirds vote of the student body

- B. The Constitution may be Dissolved in one of two ways:
 1. Dissolution through *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* requires both:
 - a) A strict two thirds vote of the officers of *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council*
 - b) A simple majority vote of the entire student body
 2. Dissolution without *The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council* requires both:
 - a) A Petition for Ratification by ten percent of the student body
 - b) A strict two thirds vote of the student body

- C. The voting procedures for Constitution Ratification or Dissolution shall follow the guidelines set forth in the Elections section of this Constitution.

VIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

AMENDMENT 1 – ANNUAL BUDGETING PERIOD

Proposed November 9, 2016; Re-proposed December 14, 2016; Passed strict two-thirds vote of officers January 11, 2017 (25-0-0); Passed general body simple majority vote February 1, 2017 (175 YES, 4 NO)

Having verified that our budget does roll over from semester to semester, and recognizing the value of flexibility in shifting expenditures between fall and spring semesters for the

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Student Council and the many student groups supported by our budget, the Student Council will move to an annual budgeting period instead of the current semesterly budgeting period starting in September 2017.

- A. Under Section IV, “Finances”,
 - 1. replace Subsection B, Paragraph 1 with: Starting September 2017, the budget period shall begin at the first meeting of the fall semester and shall end at the first meeting of the following fall semester.
- B. Under Section IV, “Finances”,
 - 1. add to Subsection B new Paragraph 9: At least twice per semester, the Treasurers shall update Student Council on year-to-date expenditures and funds remaining for the year.
 - 2. add to Subsection B new Paragraph 10: The Treasurers shall account for and verify the availability of funds carried over from preceding budget periods in every drafted budget.