

# 2023 BOARD MOTIONS

## 2023-BOD 1. Article 3.09 ELIGIBILITY OF SERVICE | Bylaws Amendment

**Background/ Rationale:** To reflect the current PA education climate and modernize the Bylaws, the PAEA Board of Directors has recognized a need to update Article 3.09 and Article 4.05. They have recommended the change to Article 3.09 to be consistent with the proposed change in Article 4.05. The timing of PA program accreditation cycles may risk Board service eligibility and create unnecessary barriers to service on the PAEA Board of Directors. As the number of developing PA programs continues to increase, a serving Board member's loss of eligibility while waiting on program accreditation may become a more frequent issue that disrupts Board cohesion and continuity, putting the Association at undue risk.

Considering this, the PAEA Board is proposing the following Bylaws amendment to Article 3.09:

**Motion:** Article 3.09. ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICE

A Program Representative may serve on and chair PAEA advisory bodies, hold a Board position, or otherwise participate in PAEA activities. Individuals in nonvoting member categories are not eligible to serve on the Board, **with exceptions as described in Article 4.05**, but may be appointed to chair or serve on advisory bodies and participate in PAEA activities. An advisory body is defined as a volunteer group **with** at least one non-Board member.

## 2023-BOD 2. Article 4.05 TERMS | Bylaws Amendment

**Background/ Rationale:** To reflect the current PA education climate and modernize the Bylaws, the PAEA Board of Directors has recognized a need to update Article 4.05. The timing of PA program accreditation cycles may risk Board service eligibility and create unnecessary barriers to service on the PAEA Board of Directors. As the number of developing PA programs continues to increase, a serving Board member's loss of eligibility while waiting on program accreditation may become a more frequent issue that disrupts Board cohesion and continuity, putting the Association at undue risk.

Considering this, the PAEA Board is proposing the following Bylaws amendment to Article 4.05:

**Motion:** Article 4.05 TERMS

The Treasurer serves for 3 years. The Secretary serves for 3 years. The Directors at Large serve for 3 years. The President Elect serves for 1 year. At the end of such term, the President Elect becomes President. The President serves for 1 year beginning immediately at the conclusion of the term as President Elect. At the end of such term, the President becomes the

Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President serves for 1 year beginning immediately at the conclusion of the term as President. No person may serve in the position of President (including President Elect and Immediate Past President) for more than one consecutive term. No person may simultaneously serve in two Board positions. No person may serve in the position of Secretary, Treasurer, or Director at Large for more than two consecutive terms. The Student Director is appointed by the Board and may serve one 2-year term, unless extended by the Board. Dates of terms are determined by the Board and published in the Policies and Procedures Manual. Terms of office do not terminate until: (a) the installation of a successor; (b) the effective date of one's resignation submitted in writing; (c) upon one's death; or, (d) upon removal from office or position in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws.

A Board member who is no longer a faculty member at a Member Program or whose program loses its PAEA membership for any reason remains eligible to serve in the Board position for up to ~~one year~~ **18 months**, provided the Board member joins the Association as an Individual Colleague or a faculty member at an Institutional Colleague program within 90 days of change in status. Failure to attain status as a representative of a Member Program **or employment with a developing PA program** after **18 months** results in loss of eligibility to serve on the Board. **An exception to this policy will be made for Board members who are affiliated with a developing program, until such time as that program becomes a Member Program. If the developing program fails to attain accredited status, the Board member shall lose eligibility, and shall be removed from office.**

## **2023 BOD-3. Terminal and Entry-Level Degree of the Profession**

**Background/ Rationale:** For the past two years, PAEA has engaged in a formal inquiry exploring the arguments for and against the adoption of a doctoral degree as the entry-level degree for the profession. This work included:

- A comprehensive literature review
- Feedback gathering from key leaders, practicing PAs, students, healthcare employers, and others through interviews and focus groups
- A Doctoral Summit composed of a diverse set of stakeholders to examine the issue from many angles

- A survey of PAEA members, primarily PA faculty and academic leaders.

The core findings generated from this inquiry are:

1. The profession is not ready to begin a public transition to an entry-level doctoral degree at this time - though the profession showed an openness to PAEA creating pathways for an entry-level doctorate for programs who wanted it.
2. Opinion about the value and efficacy of a PA entry-level doctoral degree tends to shift into favorability with continued education and normalization.
3. PAEA seeks to lead on the question of how pathways to doctoral degrees can advance the goals of the profession, and to do that, it intends to pursue a comprehensive doctoral degree strategy. The details of this strategy are to be determined, but the three core tenets of the strategy include: engagement with post-professional doctoral degrees, continued preparation for an entry-level doctoral degree, and communication of findings about these efforts to PAEA's members.

Considering the findings, the PAEA Board is proposing the following policy statement amendment. The purpose of the amendment is to publicly communicate PAEA's intention to adopt a doctoral degree strategy that addresses how to position post-professional doctoral degrees optimally while continuing to prepare for the possibility of an entry-level degree in the future:

**Motion:** Be it resolved that PAEA is confident in the preparation of PA graduates at the master's degree level to meet the competencies necessary for quality and cost-effective clinical PA practice. PAEA supports the master's degree as the terminal and entry-level degree for the PA profession. ~~The Association supports all PAs in their educational advancement throughout their careers, including pursuing postgraduate doctorate level education.~~ **PAEA recognizes that doctoral degrees are an increasingly important contributor to PA education that will help the profession advance its goals. For this reason, PAEA is investing in a strategy to explore how PA doctoral degrees can optimally contribute to PA education.**