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Elections for TMA-MSS office shall conform to the following election procedures contained in this document.

If there are any questions or ambiguities that cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the Executive Council, Parliamentarian, and the MSS, then the appropriate decision shall be made by the Parliamentarian in accordance with the procedures from:

1. TMA Constitution and Bylaws,

2. American Institute of Parliamentarians, and

3. TMA-MSS Operating Procedures, subject to the provisions of Section VI.

I. Eligibility for Candidacy

In order to be eligible for any elected TMA-MSS position (Chair, Vice-Chair, Reporter, TMA Delegate Co-Chair, or AMA Delegate Co-Chair), a candidate must:

A. Be nominated by a student in good standing with the TMA-MSS at the MSS Business Meeting during the period when the MSS Parliamentarian announces that the floor is open for nominations for that office, or

B. Submit an online application, with a headshot, two-page CV, and a brief letter of interest by April 15.

II. Election Materials

A. The application materials for candidates who have submitted application materials pursuant to Section I.B. shall be distributed in the agenda packet for the conference at which the election is to be held. These candidates may distribute identical copies of their application materials at this conference.

B. Candidates who do not comply with Section I.B. but are nominated in accordance with Section I.A. shall only be allowed to distribute copies of their resume or curriculum vitae.

III. Eligibility for Participating; Quorum

A. The MSS Business Meeting and floor shall be open to all medical student members in good

standing with their medical school, local county medical society, and TMA.

B. Only credentialed chapter representatives (or their alternates) shall cast votes in any and all

TMA-MSS elections.

C. Each Chapter will be allocated a number of Chapter Votes on the basis of TMA

membership at the Chapter.

D. A quorum for the conduct of business at a section meeting is achieved upon meeting both of the  
following conditions: (1) the number of active medical school chapters that are present and voting is greater than 50% of the total number of active chapters within the MSS; and (2) the chapters that are present and voting control greater than 50% of the total number of votes allotted to all chapters in 3.10.

IV. Speeches; Debate

A. In a contested race, each candidate shall be permitted to address the Assembly for 2 minutes

without interruption. After every candidate for an office has received his/her opportunity to address the Assembly, the Assembly shall proceed directly to a vote.

B. In an uncontested race, the members of the Assembly shall be permitted to speak to the

qualifications of the candidate for the office in the following orderly fashion. Students wishing to testify shall disclose their intent to testify in support of or against the candidate when the Parliamentarian calls for discussion. The testimony shall be balanced: Each student testifying in support of the candidate shall alternate with a student testifying against a candidate; in no event shall two consecutive students be allowed to testify on the same side (i.e., in support of or against the candidate). Such testimony shall be limited to 2 minutes per student, for a maximum of 20 minutes total for all testimony, unless time for debate is extended by 2/3 vote of the Assembly. At the conclusion of all student testimony in favor of and against the candidate, the candidate shall be allowed to address the Assembly for 2 minutes. The Assembly shall thereafter proceed directly to a vote.

V. Voting; Balloting

A. All elections shall be held by secret ballot, subject to the requirement that the voter indicate

his/her badge number on the ballot.

B. The ballots shall be tallied by two members of the Executive Council who are not candidates

for the office for which the ballots are being tallied. The Parliamentarian shall not be eligible to count the ballots. In the event that there are an insufficient number of Executive Council members that qualify to count the ballots, the Section Coordinator may count the ballots; alternatively, the Executive Council may appoint a disinterested student who is in attendance at a medical school from which there are no candidates for the office to count the ballots, provided that a majority of the Assembly approve of the Executive Council’s appointment.

C. The candidate who receives the majority of the votes cast shall be the winner of the election.

In the event that there are three or more candidates for a single position and no candidate receives a simple majority of the votes, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated and a subsequent ballot issued, until a simple majority is received. When there is only one nomination, vote may be by acclamation.