



2009 PAEA Business Meeting: Summary of Actions

2009-BOD 1. Bylaws Amendment Article 5.03

Motion: *Be it resolved that the following amendment be made to the PAEA Bylaws.*

Article 5.03. QUORUM AND ADJOURNMENTS

At membership meetings, the presence in person or by written proxy of ~~a majority~~ **ONE THIRD** of Member Programs will constitute a quorum. A quorum is necessary to **CONDUCT BUSINESS AND** elect officers.

A majority of Member Programs present at any meeting, although less than a quorum, may adjourn the meeting without notice, ~~until a quorum will be present.~~

The chair of the Governance Committee read the motion and explained the rationale – to reduce the risk of not being able to conduct business because of lack of a quorum. There was little discussion. A two-thirds majority was necessary because the motion was a bylaws amendment.

Motion carried.

2009-BOD 2. Master’s Degree as Entry-Level and Terminal Degree

Motion: *Be it resolved that the Physician Assistant Education Association endorses the master’s degree as the entry-level and terminal degree of the profession.*

There was no discussion of this motion.

Motion carried.

2009-BOD 3. Opposition to Entry-Level PA Clinical Doctorate

Motion: *Be it resolved that the Physician Assistant Education Association opposes the entry-level doctorate for physician assistants.*

There was brief discussion of this motion. Those speaking con to the motion felt it to be redundant with BOD-2 and objected to its negative tone. Those speaking pro the motion felt that the Association needs to send a clear message of opposition to the clinical doctorate.

Motion carried.

2009-BOD 4. Singular Title for Entry-Level PA Degree

Motion: *Be it resolved that PAEA endorses a uniformly titled degree to be conferred by PA programs by 2012. The board should develop and implement a mechanism to determine the name of the degree within six months.*

Discussion focused on concerns about the relatively short timetable for implementation and the difficulty of going through the institutional processes required to change the name of a degree, as well as the potential effect on regulatory bodies.

Motion was postponed definitely (tabled) to 2010 business meeting.

2009-BOD 5. Support for Postgraduate Education for PAs

Motion: *Be it resolved that PAEA supports colleges and universities offering postgraduate clinical doctorates that are not PA-specific, and do not connote a terminal degree for the PA profession, as options available to PAs.*

The board proposed an amendment by substitution:

PAEA opposes the awarding of PA-specific doctorates.

The amendment failed.

This motion engendered considerable discussion and several amendments were offered, some approved, some not. Although there was some general support for the intent of the motion, there was opposition to the specific language of various amended iterations. Those speaking against the motion stated that it was not clear, was redundant to others already passed, and might limit the profession's flexibility and creativity in an unknown future.

Motion failed.

2009-BOD 6. Advanced Standing for PAs in Medical Schools

Motion: *Be it resolved that PAEA explore the development of a model for advanced standing for PAs in allopathic or osteopathic medical schools (sometimes called a "bridge program"), with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and the American Osteopathic Association.*

Testimony was mostly con to the motion, with concerns expressed about creating pathways out of the profession, the need to focus resources on the needs of the PA profession and its patients, and whether medical schools would be likely to consider the idea favorably. Some members felt that there was no harm in simply exploring the idea.

Motion failed.