

2023 Congress of Delegates Report of the Reference Committee

2
3 **THIS REPORT IS NOT POLICY AND IT WILL NOT BECOME**
4 **POLICY UNTIL ACTED UPON BY THE CONGRESS OF**
5 **DELEGATES**

6
7 **Madam Speaker, the Reference Committee has considered each of the items referred to it and**
8 **submits the following report. The committee's recommendations on each item will be**
9 **submitted as a consent calendar and voted on in one vote. An item or items may be extracted**
10 **for debate.**

11
12 **RECOMMENDATION: The Reference Committee recommends the following consent calendar**
13 **for adoption:**

14
15 **Item 1-A** – Adopt 1-A on “Seating Medical Student Board Members at Board Meetings”.

16 **Item 1-B** – Adopt 1-B on “COD Progress Report to the Board of Directors”.

17 **Item 1-C** – Adopt Substitute 1-C on “GAFP PAC BOARD”.

18 **Item 1-D** – Adopt 1-D on “GAFP Supports the Georgia Patient Centered Physician Coalition (GPCPC)”.

19 **Item 1-E** – Adopt 1-E on “GAFP Strategic Planning”.

20 **Item 1-F** – Adopt 1-F on “Establishment of the Dr. Keith Ellis Award”.

21 **Item 1-G** – Adopt 1-G on “Poster Publications”.

22 **Item 1-H** – Adopt 1-H on “Adult Immunization Requirements”.

23 **Item 1-I** – Adopt 1-I on “Increase funding for family medicine and payment”.

24 **Item 1-J** – Adopt 1-J on “GAFP’s Opposition to Non-Physician Prescribing Medications”.

25 **Item 1-K** – Adopt Edited Resolution 1-K on “Medicaid Reimbursements”.

26 **Item 1-L** – Adopt Edited Resolution 1-L on “Scoliosis Screening”.

27 **Item 2** – Adopt Substitute 2 on “Medical Aid in Dying (MAID)”.

28 **Item 3** – Adopt Substitute 3 on “GME Tax Credits for Preceptors”.

29 **Item 4** – Adopt Substitute 4 on “Improving Access to Mental Health Care for Georgians”.

30 **Item 5** – Adopt Item 5 on “GAFP Bylaws Update”.

31 **Item 6** – File for Information on Item 6 on “Lack of Support to Establish New Clinic”.

32 **Item 7** – Adopt first resolve on Item 7 and not adopt second resolve on Item 7 on “Report in Support
33 of Medical Student Activities”.

34 **Item 8** – Adopt Item 8 as Current Policy on “Report in Support of Resident Activities”.

35 **Item 9** – Adopt Item 9 as Current Policy on “Practice Management Committee Report”.

36
37 **ITEM 1-A – Seating Medical Students and Residents at Board Meetings.**

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75

Item 1-A from GAFP Policy Group entitled, "Seating Medical Student Board Members at Board Meetings," the resolved portion is printed below:

RESOLVED, The GAFP will seat Medical Student Board members amongst Physician Board members during GAFP Board meetings.

The reference committee heard testimony from the Board Chair, representing the policy group of the Board Chair, Speaker, and Vice Speaker that this policy continues to be an important priority to have our newest leaders to be seated with other officers. Medical students represent the future of GAFP and should be seated with current leaders to provide needed insight. For this reason, they recommend that this policy be readopted as written.

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends adopting Resolution 1-A as written.

Item 1-B COD Progress Report to Board of Directors

Resolution 1-B from GAFP Policy Group entitled, "COD Progress Report to the Board of Directors," the resolved portion is printed below:

Resolved, the Speaker of the Congress of Delegates must present to the Board of Directors, at each regularly scheduled meeting, a progress report on the directives given to the Academy as set forth by the approved resolutions.

The reference committee heard testimony from the Board Chair, representing the policy group of the Board Chair, Speaker, and Vice Speaker recommended that this policy be readopted as written.

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends adopting Resolution 1-B as written.

ITEM 1-C – Resolution 1-C: POLICY STATEMENT – GAFP PAC BOARD

Resolution 1-C from GAFP Policy Group entitled, "GAFP PAC Board," the resolved portion is printed below:

Resolved, the PAC strives to increase its annual contributions by 20 percent annually.

The reference committee heard testimony from the Board Chair, representing the policy group of the Board Chair, Speaker, and Vice Speaker that this policy needed editing to be clearer. The committee felt

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

76 that the goal of increasing contributions was a worthy one, and to support that we needed to take a further
77 step by including the following action of encouraging contributions from its leaders. The reference
78 committee recommends the policy be edited as printed:

79

80 Resolved, the PAC strives to increase its annual contributions by 20 percent annually. **In order to**
81 **achieve this goal, the Congress of Delegates strongly encourages all members, and especially**
82 **members of the Congress of Delegates, Board of Directors, and all its leadership committees to**
83 **contribute annually.**

84

85 **RECOMMENDATION:** The reference committee recommends adopting Resolution 1-C as amended by the
86 Policy Group.

87

88 **Item 1-D – Resolution 1-D – POLICY STATEMENT - GAFP Supports the Georgia Patient Centered**
89 **Physician Coalition (GPCPC)**

90

91

92 Resolution 1-D from GAFP Policy Group entitled “GAFP Supports the Patient Centered Physician
93 Coalition (GPCPC),” the resolved portion is printed below:

94

95 Resolved, The Georgia Academy of Family Physicians proclaims its support for the Patient Centered
96 Physician Coalition of Georgia Patient Centered Physician Care Coalition (PCPCC).

97

98 The Executive Director/Executive Vice President of GAFP is charged with facilitating and attending
99 meetings of the GPCPC. Additionally, two (2) members of the GAFP active membership will be
100 appointed by the President to attend each meeting – typically the President and President Elect.

101

102 The reference committee heard testimony from the Board Chair, representing the policy group of the
103 Board Chair, Speaker, and Vice Speaker that policy continues to be an important priority. They recommend
104 that this policy be re-adopted as written.

105

106 **RECOMMENDATION:** The reference committee recommends adopting Resolution 1-D as written.

107

108 **Item 1-E – POLICY STATEMENT: Resolution 1-E - GAFP Strategic Planning**

109

110 Resolution 1-E from GAFP Policy Group entitled “GAFP Strategic Planning,” the resolved portion is
111 printed below:

112

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

113 Resolved, the GAFP completes a Strategic Plan at a minimum of every 3 years and the implementation and
114 accomplishments of that plan be presented to the Board of Directors at each of their regularly scheduled
115 meetings.

116

117 The reference committee heard testimony from the Board Chair, representing the policy group of the
118 Board Chair, Speaker, and Vice Speaker that policy continues to be an important priority. They
119 recommend that the policy be readopted as written.

120

121 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends adopting Resolution 1-D as written.**

122

123 **Item 1F – POLICY STATEMENT: Resolution 1-F - Establishment of the Dr. Keith Ellis Award**

124

125 Resolution 1-F from GAFP Policy Group entitled “Establishment of the Dr. Keith Ellis Award,” the
126 resolved portion is printed below:

127

128 Resolved, on the eve of Dr. Keith Ellis’ retirement as Residency Faculty and Program
129 Director of Memorial Health Family Medicine Residency in Savannah, a scholarship
130 fund be developed that would be awarded to send one (1) deserving resident per
131 year to the GAFP Annual Meeting.

132

133 Criteria for choosing this resident would be developed and maintained by the
134 Membership Committee.

135 The current policy is that the Membership Committee reviews all named GAFP
136 awards every ten years.

137

138 The reference committee heard testimony from the Board Chair, representing the policy group of the
139 Board Chair, Speaker, and Vice Speaker that review one-third of COD policies annually. The group
140 recommends readopting the policy as written.

141

142 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends re-adopting Resolution**

143 1-F as presented:

144

145 **Item 1-G – POLICY STATEMENT: Resolution 1-G – Poster Publications**

146

147 Resolution 1-G from GAFP Policy Group entitled “Poster Publications” the resolved portion is printed
148 below:

149

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

150 Resolved, the GAFP has a research poster presentation and contest at the Annual Meeting each
151 year. As policy, the GAFP is to publicize the winning posters in their publications.
152

153 The reference committee heard testimony from the Board Chair, representing the policy group of the
154 Board Chair, Speaker, and Vice Speaker that review one-third of COD policies annually. The group
155 recommends to readopt the policy as presented.
156

157 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends re-adopting Resolution**

158 1-G as written:

159
160 **Item 1-H- POLICY STATEMENT: Resolution 1-H - Adult Immunization Requirements**

161
162 Resolution 1-H from GAFP Policy Group entitled "Adult Immunization Requirements" the resolved
163 portion is printed below:
164

165 Resolved, under certain settings, the GAFP approves of Pharmacist administered vaccines to
166 adults, under a physician protocol, as long as:
167 1) that information is sent to the patient's primary care physician if the patient
168 consents,
169 2) the specific vaccine is provided either under authority of prescription or specific
170 collaborative agreement with a Georgia licensed physician
171 3) the administering pharmacist has a valid certificate from the State Pharmacy Board,
172 and
173 4) the pharmacist inputs the information into GRITS (Georgia Registry for
174 Immunization Services) which will allow the primary care physician/medical home to
175 have access to the information.
176

177 The reference committee heard testimony from the Board Chair, representing the policy group of the
178 Board Chair, Speaker, and Vice Speaker that review one-third of COD policies annually. The policy group
179 recommends to readopt the policy as written.

180
181 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends readopting Resolution**

182 1-H as written.

183
184 **ITEM 1-I - Policy Statement - Increase funding for family medicine and payment**

185
186 Resolution 1-I from GAFP Policy Group entitled "Increase funding for family medicine and payment"
187 the resolved portion is printed below:
188

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

189 Resolved, continue to advocate strongly for increased funding for family medicine GME
190 and increased payment for family physicians at the state and national levels in
191 collaboration with AAFP.

192
193 The reference committee heard testimony from the Board Chair, representing the policy group of the
194 Board Chair, Speaker, and Vice Speaker that review one-third of COD policies annually. The policy group
195 recommends to readopt the policy as written.

196
197 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends readopting Resolution**
198 **1-I as written.**

199
200 **ITEM 1-J – Policy Statement - GAFP’s Opposition Non-Physician Prescribing Medications**

201
202 Resolution 1-J from GAFP Policy Group entitled “GAFP’s Opposition to Non-Physician Prescribing
203 Medications” the resolved portion is printed below:

204
205 Resolved, the GAFP is committed to opposing any expansion of a scope of practice by any non-
206 physician when we believe that it is not in the best interest of our patients.

207
208 The reference committee heard testimony from the Board Chair, representing the policy group of the
209 Board Chair, Speaker, and Vice Speaker that review one-third of COD policies annually. The policy group
210 recommends to readopt the policy as written.

211
212 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends readopting Resolution**
213 **1-J as written.**

214
215 **ITEM 1-K – Policy Statement – Medicaid Reimbursements**

216
217 Resolution 1-K from GAFP Policy Group entitled “Medicaid Reimbursements” the resolved portion is
218 printed below:

219
220 Resolved, the GAFP support increased Medicaid payments to be at least equal to 100%
221 of Medicare payments.

222
223 The reference committee heard testimony from the Board Chair, representing the policy group of the
224 Board Chair, Speaker, and Vice Speaker that review one-third of COD policies annually. The policy group
225 noted that the correct way to refer to income earned from insurance programs should be payments and
226 not reimbursements. Therefore, the Policy Group recommends, and the reference committee concurred
227 that the policy be edited as follows:

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

228

229 Medicaid Reimbursements **Payments**

230 That the GAFP support increased Medicaid reimbursements **payments** to be **at least**
231 equal to 100% of Medicare **payments** reimbursements.

232

233 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends adopting Resolution**

234 **1-K as edited.**

235

236 **ITEM 1-L – Policy Statement – Scoliosis Screening**

237

238 **Resolution 1-L from GAFP Policy Group entitled “Scoliosis Screening” the resolved portion is printed**
239 **below:**

240

241 Resolved, the GAFP will work with the Medical Association of Georgia’s House of
242 Delegates to eliminate routine screening for scoliosis in schools.

243

244 The reference committee heard testimony from the Board Chair, representing the policy group of the
245 Board Chair, Speaker, and Vice Speaker that review one-third of COD policies annually. The policy group
246 noted that the GAFP had taken a resolution to MAG’s House of Delegates that had not been adopted in the
247 past. After considerable deliberation, the Policy Review team felt that an additional introduction of a
248 resolution to the MAG House of Delegates would be in order before sunseting our efforts on this issue.
249 Therefore, the Policy Group recommends, and the Reference Committee concurs that the policy be edited
250 as follows:

251

Scoliosis Screening

252

253 ***The Policy Review Team recommends to re-adopt the policy as edited:***

254 The GAFP will **continue** to work with the Medical Association of Georgia’s House of
255 Delegates to eliminate routine screening for scoliosis in schools.

256

257

258 **RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends adopting Resolution**

259 **1-L as edited.**

260

261 **ITEM 2 – Resolution 2: Medical Aid In Dying (MAID)**

262

263 **Resolution No. 2 from the Adrienne Mims, MD entitled, “Medical Aid in Dying (MAID),” the**
264 **resolved portions are printed below:**

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

265

266 **Resolved:** GAFP supports legislation creating a MAID law that requires: 1) A terminal
267 diagnosis confirmed by two physicians; 2) The diagnosis must be one that will result in
268 death within six months; 3) The patient must be able to self-administer the medication; and
269 4)The patient must be mentally competent to make the decision.
270

271 **Resolved:** GAFP supports a bill asking for a Joint Study Committee on MAID. This would
272 allow time to raise legislators' awareness of the bipartisan support of their constituents for
273 MAID.
274

275 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution by the resolution writer,
276 and opposition from three other members. Concerns were raised about MAID being expanded
277 to a larger list of diagnosis, as has happened in Canada, and also concern about this becoming a
278 legislative priority without review of the full membership. The reference committee discussed
279 the concern that our members may have differing opinions about this issue but have not been
280 asked. The reference committee agreed that there is a need for education to our membership
281 on medical aid in dying and that family physicians should be aware of ~~what~~ is happening in
282 other states with MAID legislation. The reference committee also felt that inclusion of a
283 question on MAID in our legislative priorities survey would be helpful in guiding the policy of
284 the organization.
285

286 **RECOMMENDATION:** The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No. 2
287 which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 2:
288

289 Be it resolved, the COD directs the GAFP leadership to offer a 2024 educational activity on clinical
290 activities on MAID and other state legislative MAID activities and be it further.

291 Resolved, that the Georgia Academy query our membership to seek their opinion on MAID
292 implementation as part of our legislative priorities during the next legislative survey cycle.
293
294

295 **ITEM 3- Resolution 3: GME Tax Credits for Preceptors**

296
297 Resolution No. 3 from Monique Davis-Smith, MD entitled, "GME Tax Credits for Preceptors," the
298 resolved portions are printed below:
299

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

300 **RESOLVED THAT** Time spent training resident physicians be attributed a similar tax deduction as
301 other health professional students.

302

303 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution by the resolution writer
304 who noted that there is a critical need to find support for community preceptors to train our
305 growing number of residents around the state. Four other members spoke in favor of this, with
306 two noting that this could be challenging and uncertain about the proper pathway to seek this
307 type of funding and statewide support. The reference committee noted that the resolution
308 writer was also a member of the reference committee and withdrew from the Executive Session
309 and was not part of either the discussion or the vote of the Reference Committee. After
310 discussion among the rest of the reference committee, it was agreed that this is an important
311 topic to be pursued by the Georgia Academy, but the practical tactics to be employed are less
312 clear from the resolution. The reference committee would like to work on this issue and felt that
313 the proposed substitute resolution would allow leadership to work on this issue.

314

315 **RECOMMENDATION:** The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No. 3
316 which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 3:

317

318 Be it resolved that the Georgia Academy seeks avenues to support and incentivize unpaid
319 community preceptors for Georgia's family medicine resident physicians.

320

321 **ITEM 4- Resolution 4: Improving Access to Mental Health Care for Georgians**

322

323 Resolution No. 4 from Thaddeus Lynn, MD entitled, "Improving Access to Mental Health Care for
324 Georgians," the resolved portions are printed below:

325

326 **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the State of Georgia makes mental health care more accessible to all
327 Georgians. The state of Georgia will do so by: (1) forming a central state mental health center that
328 will work with the 14 Georgia districts to create state district mental health sites for mental health
329 diagnosis and management for 200,000 per capita in each Georgia district. These district mental
330 health centers will be staffed by psychiatrists, family medicine physicians, physician assistants,
331 nurse practitioners, and ancillary personnel.
332 Medical and ancillary personnel will be trained and equipped to interface with the homeless,
333 imprisoned, noninsured as well as insured Georgians of all ages in need of mental health services.

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

334 Treatments will be inclusive of counseling, medications, group therapy, family therapy, behavioral
335 therapy, and drug addiction therapy/rehabilitation. All Georgia residents will be allowed access to
336 their respective district's health site where all diagnosis and management will be conducted. All
337 diagnosis and management will be reported to the state central mental health center. The state
338 central mental health center will be responsible for overseeing and tracking impact on improving
339 Georgia's mental health and accessibility to mental health services.

340

341 **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Perspective candidates that are unemployed shall be trained by the State
342 of Georgia for employment in their respective state district. Job needs will be determined by each
343 state district. Job needs are determined by the district as either: rural, suburban, or urban.
344 Perspective candidates will be trained for rural, suburban or urban jobs based on the need for each
345 respective Georgia district. Employed candidates shall be expected to contribute to the state mental
346 health center by sliding scale. They will assist the Georgia taxpayers by paying into the Georgia
347 State Mental Health Program in an effort to help themselves and others in Georgia as well.
348 Perspective candidates that are employed shall be expected to contribute to the Georgia State
349 Mental Health Program via sliding scale based on individualized Georgia State Income Taxes.
350 Perspective candidates with medical insurance that provides for psychiatric or mental health
351 coverage shall be expected to utilize such insurance accepted by the Georgia State Mental Health
352 Program.

353

354 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution by the resolution writer
355 who noted how mental health treatment is lacking in Georgia and the need is desperate. No one
356 else spoke to the resolution. The reference committee felt that the testimony given was
357 compelling and felt that GAFP has been diligently supporting legislative efforts to improve
358 access to, and quality of mental health services in Georgia. The reference committee noted that
359 mental health treatment is a key issue for family physicians so much so that we have lent
360 support to the legislative wins over the last year with House Bill 1013 (Mental Health Parity).
361 The application of such funding bill is still being worked out in the legislature and the reference
362 committee felt that the solutions proposed in the resolution though specific, and novel may
363 compete with current legislative efforts that already have traction. The reference committee
364 would like to thank the resolution writer to continuing to elevate the importance of this issue
365 and reassure the Congress that with the proposed substitute resolution we will continue to
366 focus on GAFPs efforts to find innovation solutions to our mental health crisis.

367

368 **RECOMMENDATION:** The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No. 4
369 which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 4:

370

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

371 The Georgia Academy will continue to focus on support and implementation of House Bill 1013
372 (Mental Health Parity)

373
374 **ITEM 5- Resolution 5: GAFP Bylaws Update**

375
376 Resolution No. 5 from the Bylaws Committee entitled, "GAFP Bylaws Update," the resolved portions
377 are printed below:

378
379 **CHAPTER 4**
380 **LIFE MEMBERS**

381 Life members may vote, serve on committees and commissions, and address the membership but
382 shall not hold office. The committee recommends deleting commissions (as we don't have
383 commissions).

384
385 **INACTIVE MEMBERS**

386 An Inactive member shall not vote or hold office in the Academy but may address the membership
387 and serve on committees and commissions. The committee recommends deleting commissions.

388
389 **SUPPORTING MEMBERS**

390 A Supporting Member shall not vote or hold office in the Academy but may address the membership
391 and serve on committees and commissions. The committee recommends deleting commissions.

392
393 **CHAPTER 7**
394 **Congress of Delegates**

395
396 **SECTION 2:** Each district, as determined by the Board of Directors, shall be entitled to elect
397 delegates and alternate delegates to the Congress of Delegates, who shall be elected for terms of
398 two (2) years, provided that at the first election, each district elects one delegate and one alternate
399 delegate for two (2) years. Each district shall be entitled to no less than two delegates and two
400 alternates. The total number of delegates in the Congress of Delegates shall be up to 70. Each
401 district shall be allotted delegates and alternate delegates above their two delegates and two
402 alternates as determined by the secretary Committee recommends this be changed to Vice Speaker
403 on the basis of that district's proportion of the total paid Academy membership. Only active
404 members may be elected as delegates; however, in determining the number of delegates per district
405 all classes of members except student and resident members are counted. Such determination shall
406 be made by May 31st each year. The names of all delegates entitled to be seated in the Congress of
407 Delegates shall be furnished to the Credentials Committee of the Congress of Delegates by the
408 Secretary. The committee recommends this be changed to Vice Speaker.

409
410 **SECTION 3:** Membership in a district will be determined by the primary mailing address of said
411 member, whether home or professional. The committee recommends changing primary to
412 preferred to align with updated AAFP language.

413
414 **CHAPTER 8**

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

415 **Board of Directors**

416 **SECTION 9:** *Advisory Committee.* Committee recommends updating to Past Presidents (as this
417 group is the Advisory Committee)

418 All past presidents shall ~~become an Advisory Committee to the Board of Directors and shall~~ be
419 considered ex-officio members of the Board with the privilege of the floor, but without the right to
420 vote. *Committee recommends removing the wording related to an Advisory Committee consisting*
421 *of GAFF past presidents and leave that they are ex-officio members.*

422

423 **CHAPTER 9:**

424 **Election of Officers**

425 **SECTION 1:** Definition. The officers of the Academy shall be a President, President-Elect, Vice-
426 President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, ~~and~~ Speaker of the Congress
427 of Delegates, ~~GAFF Delegates and Alternate delegates to the AAFP.~~ All officers shall serve until their
428 successors are elected and installed. The powers, duties, terms of office, and method of election of
429 the officers shall be set forth in the Bylaws. *Committee recommends removing that GAFF Delegates*
430 *and Alternate delegates to the AAFP – as they do not currently serve on the Executive Committee.*

431

432 **SECTION 4:** Election of the above officers shall be by (*Committee recommends adding “electronic”*
433 *since that is current process*) ballot prepared by the Executive Director/Executive Vice President.
434 The nominee receiving the majority of votes shall be declared elected, provided that when the
435 nominations have been closed with only a single candidate having been nominated, the presiding
436 officer shall declare that candidate elected to office.

437

438 **CHAPTER 10**

439 **Duties and Terms of Officers**

440 **SECTION 1:** The President shall be a member of the Board of Directors and all standing committees.
441 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Academy. The President shall be the spokesperson
442 of the Academy. They shall have general supervision of the business of the Academy and shall see
443 that all orders and resolutions of the Board of Directors are carried into effect; ~~they shall execute~~
444 ~~bonds, mortgage, and other contracts requiring the seal of the Academy, except where required by~~
445 ~~law to be otherwise signed and executed and except where the signing and execution thereof shall~~
446 ~~be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors to some other officer or agent of the Academy.~~
447 *Committee recommends striking this – as the Executive Vice President has the authority to sign*
448 *contracts, under supervision of the Executive Committee.* Their term of office shall begin at the
449 installation ceremony following the one at which their predecessor was installed. In the event of the
450 death or resignation of the president during the term of their office or if they shall for any reason be
451 unable or unqualified to serve, the Vice-President shall succeed to the office of the President for the
452 unexpired portion of the President's term. In the event of the death, resignation, or incapacity of
453 both the President and the Vice-President, the Board of Directors shall elect a President for the
454 unexpired portion of the term. The President-Elect shall succeed to the office of President at the
455 conclusion of the annual meeting following the meeting at which their election occurred.

456

457 **SECTION 2:** The Vice-President shall be a member of the Board of Directors and shall preside at
458 meetings of the Academy in the absence of the President. Their term of office shall begin at the
459 installation ceremony during the annual meeting at which their election occurs and expires at the
460 installation ceremony during the next annual meeting. The Vice-President shall also serve as a

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

461 member with voting privileges on the bylaws committee and shall serve as the parliamentarian of
462 the Board of Directors. In the event of the death, resignation, or incapacity of the Vice-President, the
463 Board of Directors shall elect a Vice-President for the unexpired portion of their term. **The**
464 **committee recommends adding: The Vice President oversees the implementation of the Strategic**
465 **Plan - as this is already current process.**

466
467 **SECTION 5:** The Chair of the Board of Directors shall be the immediate past president and shall
468 assume the office of Chairperson at the conclusion of the annual meeting following the conclusion of
469 their presidency. The Chairperson of the Board of Directors shall preside over all meetings of the
470 Board and the Executive Committee.

471
472 In the absence of the Speaker and Vice- Speaker, they shall preside over meetings of the Congress of
473 Delegates. In the event of the death or resignation of the Chair during their term of office or if they
474 shall for any reason be unable or unqualified to serve, the Board of Directors shall elect a new Chair
475 to serve the unexpired portion of the term. If the Chair is unable to attend a meeting of the Board or
476 the Executive Committee, the President shall preside at that meeting. In their absence a temporary
477 Chair shall be elected by the members present at that meeting.

478
479 **SECTION 6:** The Secretary shall be a member of the Board of Directors and shall be elected for a
480 term of three (3) years. The Secretary shall cause to be kept an accurate record of the minutes of the
481 Board of Directors and shall serve as Secretary to this body. The duties of Secretary, by action of the
482 Board of Directors, may be assigned to the Executive Director/Executive Vice President. The
483 Secretary, assisted by the Executive Director/Executive Vice President, shall provide a summary of
484 the activities of the Academy including elected officers, significant actions, activities, and events at
485 the annual meeting for purposes of the GAFP archives. **Committee recommends adding: The**
486 **Secretary serves as the medical content editor for the GAFP's newsletter as this is current process.**

487 488 **CHAPTER 11** 489 **Committees**

490
491 ~~**SECTION 3: Official Publication:**~~
492 ~~The Board of Directors shall appoint the Board Secretary to serve as the medical content editor for~~
493 ~~GAFP publications. The committee recommends deleting as this has now been clarified in Chapter~~
494 ~~10, Section 6, above where it is more appropriate.~~

495 496 **CHAPTER 13** 497 **Miscellaneous**

498 ~~**SECTION 2: Annual Financial Report:**~~
499 ~~The directors shall cause to be sent to the members, not later than six (6) months after the close of~~
500 ~~the fiscal year, a balance sheet as of the closing date of that fiscal year, together with statement of~~
501 ~~the income and profits and losses for such fiscal year. Such financial statement shall be certified by a~~
502 ~~public accountant. Committee recommends this edit: *Financial records, once certified by a public*~~
503 ~~*accountant, can be reviewed by any member who makes a written request. Financial reports will be*~~
504 ~~*available through the IRS website, and also an annual report to the Congress of Delegates as this is*~~
505 ~~*current process.*~~

506

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

507 **SECTION 4:** Rules of Order.

508 **Sturgis Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, current edition**, except when the same is in
509 conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of this Academy, shall control all parliamentary
510 proceedings of the meetings of the Congress of Delegates and the Board of Directors. **Committee**
511 **recommends changing to American Institute of Parliamentarians Code of Parliamentary Procedure,**
512 **current edition because Sturgis is no longer in print, and industry recommends this version instead.**
513

514 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution by the resolution writer who
515 served as the Bylaws Committee Vice Chair who noted that the suggested edits to our bylaws were
516 for the most part grammatical or for clarity. There was no other discussion. The reference
517 committee agreed these updates are appropriate and needed.

518

519 **RECOMMENDATION:** The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 5 be adopted as
520 presented.

521

522 **ITEM 6 – Resolution 6: Lack of support to establish new clinic.**

523

524 Resolution No. 6 from Sandeep Dhaliwal entitled, “Lack of Support to Establish New Clinic,” the
525 resolved portions are printed below:

526

527 **RESOLVED THAT**, I am offering a mentorship program for family medicine providers who are
528 desiring to start their own practice. The goal is to provide stepwise approach to help understand
529 the details of owning a private family medicine clinic practice, guide from the beginning, along the
530 way, towards the end of establishing a practice and continue afterwards for a successful run.

531

532 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution by the resolution writer,
533 wanting to help others to start a new practice. There were no other comments. The reference
534 committee would like to thank the resolution writer for his generous offer to help those
535 interested in starting a practice. At the same time, the reference committee did not see this
536 resolution needing to be a policy of the COD. Alternatively, the committee would encourage the
537 resolution writer to outreach to Georgia family medicine residency directors to offer this
538 consultation to residents.

539

540 **RECOMMENDATION:** The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 6 be filed for
541 information.

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

542

543 **ITEM 7 – Resolution 7: Student Directors’ Report in Support of Medical Student Activities**

544

545 Resolution No. 7 from the Students on the GAFP Board Report to the COD, entitled, “Report in
546 Support of Medical Student Activities,” the resolved portions are printed below:

547

548 Resolved, that the GAFP March Student Meeting and Residency Fair were excellent events for
549 both prospective and declared applicants to Family Medicine. We recommend that the GAFP
550 continue this event for students and increase the capacity for the Student Meeting to even more
551 students to promote student engagement with the Academy.

552

553 Resolved, we recommend the GAFP continue to provide scholarship opportunities for students
554 to participate in the AAFP National Conference for Medical Students and Residents. This
555 conference offers students the opportunity to represent Georgia on the national platform and
556 engage with other students, residents, and Family Physicians throughout the country.

557

558 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution by the resolution writer,
559 who is one of the medical student leaders currently serving on the Board of Directors seeking
560 ongoing support of current activities. The reference committee agreed that these activities are
561 important and noted that the 1st Resolve is already policy.

562

563 In regard to the second clause there was considerable discussion within the reference
564 committee on the National Conference. GAFP/AAFP already offers support and scholarships for
565 Georgia medical students to attend the AAFP National Conference. It was also noted that in
566 studying residency match outcomes of students attending National Conference many matched
567 out of state. While the reference committee encourages students to go to learn about family
568 medicine opportunities, providing additional scholarships at this time is not something they
569 would support.

570

571 RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 7’s First
572 Resolve be adopted as current policy, and that the Second Resolve not be adopted.

573

574 **ITEM 8 – Resolution 8: Resident Directors’ Report in Support of Resident Activities**

575

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

576 Resolution No. 8 from the Residents who serve on the GAFP Board Report to the COD, entitled,
577 “Report in Support of Resident Activities,” the resolved portions are printed below:

578

579 Resolved, GAFP should encourage and empower its residents to apply for AAFP leadership
580 positions. They should also facilitate having more sessions where residents can learn about the
581 events occurring during the year, i.e., Day at the Capitol, volunteer events, or other advocacy
582 sessions.

583

584 The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution by the resolution writer, who
585 is one of the resident leaders currently serving on the Board of Directors seeking ongoing support
586 of current activities. The reference committee noted that the GAFP is always looking at novel ways
587 to communicate events with resident physicians and its committees are piloting some new methods
588 currently. The GAFP is here to equip its resident members and prepare them for leadership. This
589 year we had several residents and students recommended from GAFP for national AAFP positions
590 and we would like to see this continue.

591

592 **RECOMMENDATION:** The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 8 be adopted as
593 current policy.

594

595 **ITEM 9 – Resolution 9: Practice Management Committee Report**

596

597 Resolution No. 9 from the Practice Management Committee, entitled, “Practice Management
598 Committee Report,” the resolved portions are printed below:

599

600 Resolve, we recommend that further education to members (possible CME lectures) focusing on
601 different practice models in Family Medicine to show the wide breadth of scope in Family Medicine
602 and career options- i.e., Direct Primary Care, telemedicine, hospitalist, urgent care, obesity
603 medicine, emergency room, wound care, etc.

604

605 The reference committee heard testimony from the COD Speaker, in lieu of the Resolution writer,
606 who noted that the Resolution writer wrote the recommendation as a suggestion, not to be
607 considered a resolution. The reference committee agreed that this could be adopted as current
608 policy.

609

610 **RECOMMENDATION:** The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 9 be adopted as
611 **current policy.**

612

2023 Report of the Reference Committee, cont'd

613 Madam Speaker, I want to thank those who appeared before our reference committee to give
614 testimony and the committee members for their invaluable assistance and to commend the Georgia
615 Academy staff for their help in the preparation of this report.

616
617
618
619
620
621
622
623
624
625

Respectfully submitted.

Alice House, MD – Chair

Monique Davis-Smith, MD – Vice Chair

Karla Booker, MD - Secretary

Michael Satchell, MD

Tom Fausett, MD