Proposed Bylaws Amendment: Article II Members, Section 7b: Amending Associate Member Qualifications

2.1.22

**Background**

The Associate Member category was originally adopted in 2011 and last updated and adopted by the House of Delegates in 2017. Input from the Global MIG was received by the Member and Student Advisory Committee (MSAC) to include public health and public policy as degree areas. After discussion and consideration, MSAC put forward a motion to amend the Bylaws with the following change in Associate member qualifications.

The concepts of expanding membership, building collaboration, and increasing inclusion through a membership option for non-dietitian, allied professionals, was discussed by the HOD, House Leadership Team (HLT), BOD, and the MSAC at various points as far back as 2001. The Associate category, which was implemented in 2011, was meant to address the need for the Academy to expand relationships with allied, like-minded professionals. The Associate category averages around 75 memberships on an annual basis.

Degree concentrations included in membership category qualifications are based on general, overall academic requirements for those concentrations. Applications for Associate category membership are reviewed, and academic qualifications considered with the understanding that college/university degree and program names may undergo changes from time to time.

**Rationale and Implications for Proposed Amendment**

- Expansion of the qualifications for Associate category membership to include individuals with degrees in public health and public policy aligns with the intent of this membership category, i.e. increasing collaboration with like-minded individuals in the respective arenas who support food, nutrition and dietetics professionals.
- Many Academy members collaborate with individuals in the public health and public policy arenas and the change in Academy member qualifications would allow for increased and inclusive collaboration.

No significant risks for expanding the Associate category membership to individuals with degrees in public health and public policy were identified by the MSAC. The proposed amendment does not change the restricted rights and eligibility for programs, products and services currently in place that deter Associate members from using Academy membership to misrepresent their qualifications. In addition to the privileges of membership noted in Article II, Section 8 of the Bylaws (see above), Associate members are not eligible for the following programs, products or services: listing in Find a Nutrition Expert; posting to member blogs; take Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) certification courses; or purchase professional liability insurance through the Member Advantage Program.

This proposed amendment would add “public health or public policy” to Article II, Section 7b, as reflected in the yellow highlighting below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Bylaws Section</th>
<th>Proposed Amendment to Current Bylaws</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARTICLE II: Members</strong></td>
<td><strong>ARTICLE II: Members</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Section 7. Associate Members Qualifications.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Section 7. Associate Members Qualifications.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An individual who does not qualify for Active, Retired, Student or International Academy membership, but meets one of the following criteria, may apply for Associate membership:</td>
<td>An individual who does not qualify for Active, Retired, Student or International Academy membership, but meets one of the following criteria, may apply for Associate membership:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7a. An individual who holds a current, valid US license or credential as a certified midwife (CM or CMN), clinical psychologist (LCP or CP), clinical social worker (CSW, LSW or LCSW), dental hygienist (RDH or LDH), dentist (DDS or</td>
<td>7a. An individual who holds a current, valid US license or credential as a certified midwife (CM or CMN), clinical psychologist (LCP or CP), clinical social worker (CSW, LSW or LCSW), dental hygienist (RDH or LDH), dentist (DDS or</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DMD), nurse practitioner (NP), occupational therapist (OT), pharmacist (RPh or PharmD), physical therapist (PT), physician (MD or DO), physician assistant (PA), registered environmental health specialist/registered sanitarian (REHS/RS), registered nurse (RN), school nutrition specialist (SNS), or speech-language pathologist (CCCSLP).

7b. An individual who holds a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree from a US regionally accredited college/university or foreign equivalent in agriculture, biochemistry, microbiology, computer science, family and consumer science, home economics, hospitality and tourism, or hotel, restaurant and institutional management.

7c. An individual who holds a minimum of an associate degree granted by a US regionally accredited college/university or foreign equivalent with related and approved certification in culinary arts, sports medicine, or as a certified dietary manager, certified food protection professional (CDM, CFPP), certified health education specialist (CHES), certified in comprehensive food safety (CCFS), or certified professional—food safety (CP-FS).

Section 8. Privileges of Membership.
8g. Associate Members. Associate members whose dues are not in arrears shall have the right to hold appointed positions at the national and affiliate levels. Associate members shall not have the right to vote in national or affiliate elections or hold elected positions at the national and affiliate levels.