



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC PEDIATRICIANS
CARING FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN

American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
Student Chapter Manual
“How to organize and run your ACOP club at the COM level”

REVISED – 8/8/2019

Table of Contents

1) Officers of the ACOP – Student Chapter	Page 2
2) Faculty Advisor	Page 2
3) Meetings	Page 2
4) Activities	Page 3
5) Membership Dues and Fundraisers	Page 4
6) Communication with ACOP – National Headquarters	Page 5
7) National Meetings	Page 6

1) Officers of the ACOP - Student Chapter

Nota Bene: Please see the ACOP student chapter bylaws for descriptions of each of these positions. The bylaws are also available as a downloadable PDF at www.acoped.org in the student section.

- a) President: should be a rising second year osteopathic medical student (OMS-II).
 - i) Needs to be an OMS-II to ensure transition of leadership from one year to the next.
- b) Vice-President: should be a rising OMS-II.
- c) Secretary and Treasurer: should be a rising OMS-II.
 - i) Needs to be OMS-II to ensure transition of appropriate paperwork and financial resources from one year to the next.
 - ii) Please see the section on Membership Dues for specific instructions regarding remittance of national dues to ACOP headquarters.
- d) National Liaison: Please note that this is not a position set forth in the bylaws. It might be helpful, however, to have another leadership position to help delegate the work otherwise assumed by the president of the chapter. This position could either be an OMS-I or OMS-II. National liaison will plan to be present at one of the national meetings of the ACOP in either the spring or fall semester. If they cannot be present they will ensure representation of their club at one of the bi-annual ACOP student meetings.
- d) Other officer positions: Each student club reserves the right to create positions for officers in their clubs to accommodate the needs of their respective chapters. For example; historian, community service chair, first year representative etc. may be appointed. These positions will not be considered to be a part of the Executive Board as set forth in the student by-laws. These added positions may be held by OMS-Is or OMS-IIs.
- e) When to elect your officers:
 - i) It is probably best to elect your officers in the springtime as the first year students are preparing to be second year students. Plan to do this well in advance of the June COMLEX administration, so that the outgoing OMS-II officers can make an organized transition as well as prior to the OMS-I's departure for the summer.
 - ii) It is good to have active leadership in the first year class in appointed positions, so as to promote understanding of the club in both of the "active" class years. Determining these OMS-I positions as early in the academic year as possible (i.e. the first meeting in July/August/September) is recommended.

2) Faculty Advisor

- a) Ideally, this person should be a pediatrician and professor at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. It is also very helpful if this person is an active member of the ACOP.
- b) This person should be actively involved in the club. It is the responsibility of the president to make sure this person is informed of any and all club meetings and activities in advance.

3) Meetings

- a) Monthly meetings are a minimum requirement. While at times this may seem tedious, having a monthly meeting at the same time in the same location is best to ensure continued support and productivity of the members in the club. When

meeting frequently like this, actual meeting length can be kept to a minimum, ensuring the happiness of your members.

b) These can be done at any time, but lunch meetings on days when both MSI's and MSII's as well as the faculty advisor are available are best for ensuring attendance at the meeting.

i) Having a set meeting time and place (ex. 12-12:30 on the 2nd Friday of every month in the 3rd floor small lecture hall) makes it easy for everyone involved to remember to participate.

c) It is the responsibility of the officers of the club to circulate reminders, agendas, and past meeting minutes for chapter meetings in advance of each meeting.

i) Ideally this is accomplished by some combination of work between the President and the Secretary/

(1) Try to take advantage of whatever form of electronic communication your school offers for your club. Use more than just email. If your school offers you a website, or an area on the school where you can post documents, pictures, and other important materials, use it! It will cut down on your own time as well as make it easier to transition electronic material from year to year.

d) Special meetings to organize club events/activities may be called as needed by the Executive Board and appointed officers. This is often helpful when you want to separate and prioritize certain activities away from "regular" club business.

4) Activities

a) Having a goal of completing 2-4 activities per semester is a great way to make sure your club stays active and at the same time allows for new exposure of your club to other folks who might not otherwise have been interested in pediatrics.

b) Many colleges Student Government Association's (SGA) have requirements for student clubs to remain in good standing, so make sure officers are aware of the required number of events and paperwork needed.

b) Activities don't always have to be complicated events. Planning a lunch lecture for students interested in learning more about a topic not otherwise covered in class is a great and simple way to keep your club active.

i) Often times, clubs will repeat the same event year after year; these are the easy ones to organize as most of the ground work has been done for you in the past.

c) For new events, it is often ideal to combine with other clubs who might also be interested in the same activity.

i) This is good for you because it shares work and responsibility and gains exposure for everyone involved.

(1) Examples would include:

(a) Sponsoring a talk on child neurology with the neuro/psych club.

(b) Organizing a softball tournament as a fundraiser with the sports medicine club.

d) Continuing Education/Lunch Lectures:

i) Residency Q&A:

(1) A great way to make sure your faculty advisor is staying involved as they can usually give this talk.

(2) This is also a good way to get residents and/or attending physicians from local pediatrics programs to come "recruit" at your school.

ii) OMT in children:

(1) A classic talk that should occur every year. Your OMT professor is often a great resource to help lead a pediatric OMT "hands on" seminar.

- (2) Have your classmates with kids bring them in as “guinea pigs”.
- iii) “Specialist” talks:
 - (1) Neonatology, child neurology, pediatric surgery, etc.
- e) Community Involvement Suggestions:
 - i) Mentoring at local schools:
 - (1) Having a program where medical students can act as “big brothers/big sisters” for kids at a local elementary or middle school is a great way to both hone your interactions with children as well as to promote both your school and your club.
 - (2) Holiday parties:
 - (a) Great for children in the community, your classmates’ children, and the kid inside all of us.
 - (3) Medical School for kids day:
 - (a) An event where you can invite local children to the medical school or present at a local elementary school during afterschool programs to learn about:
 - (i) Medical equipment: gets both the kids and the students comfortable with stethoscopes, otoscopes, ophthalmoscopes, reflex hammers, etc.
 - (ii) Anatomy: show skeletons, x-rays and combine with the physical exam.
 - (iii) This is also a great event for promoting the field of medicine as a possible career choice for those young, impressionable minds!
 - ii) Special Olympics:
 - (1) Contact your local chapter to see what kind of volunteer activities you can get involved with. Also a great thing to combine with other clubs such as sports medicine.
 - iii) Make-A-Wish:
 - (1) Sponsor a 5K Fun-Run to benefit this great organization.
- f) Charitable Donation:
 - i) Charitable donations can be made to whichever organization an individual chapter sees fit. These can be local organization or National organization geared towards helping children.
- g) Stress-relieving activities for members:
 - i) Softball tournament
 - ii) BBQ
 - iii) Volunteering at local children’s hospital

5) Membership Dues and Fundraisers

- a) Dues:
 - i) Local
 - (1) Optional
 - (2) Important to help cover the cost of events done at the local level.
 - (3) Can be a small addition to the national dues to augment your yearly income.
 - ii) National
 - (1) Required
 - (2) Important to help cover the cost of student travel to and from national meetings as well as to pay for student involvement at the national level.
 - (3) Of the \$ \$50.00 collected by the Treasurer for each club member, \$30.00 needs to be sent to the ACOP national office along with a completed membership application for each new student member each year.

- (a) This is a one-time student membership fee.
- (b) The other \$20.00 per student stays with each student chapter to be used for funding of local events as well to help defray the cost of student travel to and from national events.
- (c) This should be coordinated by the Secretary and Treasurer on an annual basis. Each new member should complete a “student application” (available at <http://www.acoped.org/membership.iphtml>).
- (d) All applications or completed spreadsheet, along with a check for the new membership (number of completed applications x \$30.00 per application) should be remitted together to:
 - (i) Greg Leasure, Membership Manager
American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
2209 Dickens Road
Richmond, VA 23230-2005
Phone: 804-565-6333
FAX: 804-282-0090
Email: Greg@ACOP.org

b) Events/Auctions/Sales:

(1) Be sure to contact your student affairs office to ensure you are following any rules your university may have set in place for fundraising activities.

Examples include:

ii) Clothing sale

(1) T-shirts, shorts, pins, white-coat name-tags/embroidery.

iii) Bake Sales

iv) BBQ

(1) Often times, your school’s cafeteria service can you help you organize this type of event for a very low cost. They may even provide you with the grills and other equipment free-of-charge.

v) Softball tournament

(1) Charge an entry fee per team and provide shirts or other souvenirs. A great way to encourage school spirit and combine fun stress-relieving activities with making some money for your club.

6) Communication with ACOP – National Headquarters

a) Maintaining contact with ACOP – National Headquarters is important for a number of reasons:

i) Helps to ensure that every school is represented at the national level when the ACOP discusses topics pertinent to students such as involvement with national board examinations and residencies in pediatrics.

ii) Opens up opportunities for mentoring outside of your region.

iii) Allows for greater communication between clubs to share ideas via maintaining a central database of student involvement.

iv) ACOP-national is here to help organize your involvement with the national meetings. Please contact them if you need help figuring out how to get your student members to and from the biannual national meetings!

b) The President (and/or National Liaison) should be involved with this task.

i) It is important to establish contact at beginning and ending of each year with the national student trustees via email (ACOPstudents@gmail.com) and/or the student ACOP facebook page. They will help you relay any questions, concerns or ACOP event information between your club and nationals.

ii) Regular contact during the year is important as well to ensure every club is receiving accurate, up-to-date information about ACOP's plans and activities, including the bi-annual national meetings at which students are highly encouraged to participate in.

iii) Always contact the membership coordinator at ACOP at any time that there are changes in either the student leadership of the club or the faculty advisor of the club.

(1) This is important to do so as to ensure correct contact information for transition materials from the national ACOP office.

c) ACOP – National Contact(s):

i) Greg Leisure, Membership Manager

(1) Greg@acoped.org

ii) Student Trustees

(1) Roxanne Waggoner, OMS-IV

(2) Kali Sanford, OMS III

(3) The two Student Trustees can be reached collectively at ACOPstudents@gmail.com

7) National Meetings

a) There are two national meetings per year.

i) Fall meeting is usually held in conjunction with AOA annual meeting.

(1) Great way to get involved with ACOP in addition to seeing what the AOA does at a national level.

ii) Spring meeting is usually held on its own in various sites around the country.

iii) Both are geared to continuing medical education and are great for students to stay involved with current trends in pediatric care.

iv) It is important to have at least one representative from your school at each meeting to ensure that your voice and ideas are heard!

b) Student chapter meeting:

i) This is a separate meeting held bi-annually at the national ACOP meetings. This meeting is led by the ACOP student trustees to discuss student involvement in the ACOP, offer valuable information about ACOGME pediatric residency programs and share ideas between the student chapters in attendance.

ii) Student chapter awards will be given annually at the ACOP Spring Conference to recognize clubs for exemplary involvement in areas of fundraising, attendance and other honors determined by the ACOP student trustees.

ii) This is a great way to network with other students interested in the same fields as well as get involved with ACOP on a national level.

c) Student Chapter Activities Update:

i) Poster presentation:

(1) Ideally, each club in attendance should present a poster about what they have been doing this year.

- (a) Great for sharing ideas about activities and fundraisers.
- (b) Words are great, but pictures are worth a thousand words!

d) Research updates:

- i) If you or other people at your school are doing pediatric research, poster presentations at the national meetings are strongly encouraged by ACOP-National.

e) Student lectures/activities at the national meetings:

- i) If you or your faculty advisor would like the opportunity to teach students about an aspect of pediatrics that you are knowledgeable in, contact the student trustee to set up some time during the national meeting for a “students-only” educational event.

f) ACOP Committee Meetings:

- i) Student members of the ACOP can participate in Committee Work:
 - (1) Awards; Bylaws; CME; Finance; Government Relations; Membership; Newsletter; Nominating; Research; Website; Wellness; Immunizations
- ii) Student members are non-voting due to transitory nature of student membership, but can still contribute ideas and work to the important efforts of each of these committees. Student involvement is welcomed by all ACOP-National committee members.
- iii) Committee Meetings take place both during the national meetings as well as during the rest of the year via electronic and telephone communication.
- iv) Students may sign up for committees at either of the national ACOP meetings and begin to attend committee meetings at that time.