

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF
THE J. BRADLEY AUST SURGICAL SOCIETY

REVISED AND AMENDED JULY 1, 2006

PREAMBLE

In an endeavor to maintain a close and lasting relationship with the institution of our surgical training (the integrated program in general surgery of the University of Texas Health Science Center and the United States Air Force Medical Center, Wilford Hall, “The Program”) and to continue our own education in the surgical sciences, we form this association to be governed according to this constitution and its by-laws.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this society shall be as follows:

1. To provide a setting for the members to maintain contact with the General Surgery faculty and The Program;
2. To provide an annual opportunity for continuing the surgical education of the members;
3. To provide an annual meeting allowing members to renew their friendships;
4. To provide funds for the annual meeting;
5. To provide six cash awards (3 awards in each of two categories: Research and Clinical) for the best papers submitted by surgical residents, under the auspices of The Program, at the annual forum;
6. To underwrite, in part or completely, the expenses of annual activities to be held at San Antonio, at which new graduates of The Program are welcomed into the society;
7. To provide an annual gathering on the occasion of the fall Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons for residents and graduates of The Program;

8. To include, subsequent to the year 2000, as graduates of the general surgical program of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio those individuals received into an integrated general surgical program from the Wilford Hall United States Air Force Medical Center;
9. To provide funds to be determined annually by the department to support a resident traveling fellowship (s);
10. To undertake any other endeavor for the benefit of the general surgical housestaff members of The Program deemed appropriate by the membership;

NAME

The name of the association shall be “The J. Bradley Aust Surgical Society”. Name changes may be considered by The Executive Committee and referred to the general membership for approval as the passage of time and departmental change make appropriate.

NATURE OF THE SOCIETY

The society is not organized for profit and no part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private member or individual.

DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

Upon dissolution of the society, all assets then owned by this society shall be contributed to a corporation or corporations, organization or organizations, and/or foundation or foundations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(C) (3) or (6) of the Internal Revenue code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue code) or the assets may be contributed to the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas, for the benefit and use of the Department of Surgery and The Program.

MEMBERSHIP

A. Active

The active membership will be composed of general surgeons who have completed a senior residency in general surgery under the auspices of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Each surgical resident will become eligible for membership upon completion of his formal training in general surgery. General Surgical residents assigned to the Wilford Hall Air Force Hospital, completing a training program in the year 2000 and thereafter, as part of an integrated program, under the aegis of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio will be considered graduates of The Program and, thus, eligible for membership. Subsequent to the year 2000, the integrated service will be known as The Program.

B. Honorary

Honorary membership shall be extended as deemed appropriate by the membership; a candidate will be admitted with an assenting vote from at least three-quarters of the active membership replying to a ballot mailing. Honorary membership is ordinarily conferred as recognition for a significant benefit received from the honoree by members of the group in terms of surgical training or preparation for a surgical career. Honorary members shall not vote or pay dues or fees. An honorary member, to be proposed, shall be presented by his nominator at the annual meeting of the society and the nomination will be defended in open session. Upon the acceptance of the nominee, his name will be submitted to a ballot mailing for the entire active membership. He will be admitted with the assenting vote of at least three-quarters of the membership replying to that mailing.

C. Associate-Faculty

All of the present and future members of the faculty of General Surgery, full or part-time, will be eligible for inclusion as Associate Members. Subsequent to the year 1999, general surgical faculty of the Wilford Hall Air Force Hospital will be eligible for membership as part of the integrated program. **Associate-Faculty** members shall not vote. Their dues shall be less than active members. Each eligible member shall be presented at the Annual Meeting and defended. The name is then submitted to a vote of all the active members. Three-quarters of the membership replying must approve. In extraordinary circumstances, the Executive Committee may extend such membership on behalf of the society.

D. Associate-Active

A surgeon, in any specialty, who does not otherwise qualify for membership, but who, by virtue of training along with members of the society, close association, or similarity of interest, may be proposed by any active member for inclusion in this category of membership. Associate-Active members shall not vote. The nominee must be proposed by his nominator at the general meeting and the nomination must be defended in open session. Upon acceptance of the nomination the name will be submitted to a ballot mailing for the entire active membership and the candidate admitted to this category of membership with an assenting vote from at least three-quarters of the entire active membership replying to that ballot mailing.

E. Retired/Senior

Members may assume this status within the society upon retirement from active primary surgical practice. Notification of retirement must be made to the secretary-treasurer in writing prior to the start of the next fiscal year.

Active members only are delegated the privilege of proposing additional members to the society.

Charter membership will be extended to all eligible persons who have paid or have pledged payment of dues on or before July 1, 1974.

Membership is effective upon payment of dues and shall be annually renewed.

ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS

A. Executive Committee

The society shall be administered by a governing board, the executive committee, which will consist of (1) a president, (2) a president-elect, (3) a vice-president, (4) a secretary-treasurer, (5) a senior members at large and (6) a junior members at large. Presidents shall retain membership on the governing board for a two year term after their presidency.

An orderly progression of officers through the Executive Committee shall be established such that the vice president will be recruited annually from the more senior individual serving as a member at large of the governing board. The sequence of junior member at large to senior member at large, senior member at large to vice-president, vice-president to president-elect, and president-elect to president will pertain.

The chairman of the department of surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio shall sit as an ex officio member of the executive committee.

Dr. Aust and Dr. McFee, subsequent to their retirement, shall sit as ex officio members of the executive committee.

B. Nominating Committee

Subsequent to 1999, a nominating committee will replace all prior methods of soliciting nominations for office. This committee will be composed of the immediate five (5) past presidents.

C. Program Committee

Subsequent to 1999, a program committee will determine the annual program and activities. This committee shall include: (1) the senior member at large of the executive committee (chair), (2) the president, (3) the president-elect, (4) the department of surgery chairman and (5) the surgical residency program director(s) of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

D. Judging Committee

Subsequent to 1999, a judging committee will determine the winners in the resident competition. This committee will include: (1) the president, (2) the visiting guest lecturer, (3) the chairman of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio department of surgery, (4) Dr. Aust and (5) the senior member at large of the executive committee.

E. Finance Committee

This committee is responsible for overseeing the finances of the Society, recommending changes to its constitution, and approving proposed distributions from SAAF Trust Funds. Decisions made by this committee must be approved by the Executive Committee but do not require general membership approval. This committee will be comprised of the (1) president, (2) immediate past president, (3) past president, (4) secretary treasurer and (5) chairman of the department of surgery.

F. Secretary-Treasurer

The secretary-treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership for a 5 year term of office. Ordinarily this post will be filled by a full-time member of the faculty the Department of Surgery at the UTHSCSA. Nominations for this post will be made by the Nominating Committee.

G. Terms of Office

All other terms of office shall extend from July 1 through June 30 of the appropriate years.

H. Initial Officers

The initial officers of the society shall be selected from names presented to the eligible active members by the committee organizing the society. A mail ballot will be used.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for officers of the society may be made by the membership, in addition to those recommended by the Nominating Committee, by a petition bearing 10 signatures of active members in good standing.

DUTIES

The president will preside over the annual meeting and will assist in planning yearly activities.

The vice-president will assist the president and secretary-treasurer in all their activities and will constitute, with the president, the president-elect, secretary-treasurer, the members at large, and the two past presidents, the governing board. He will perform the functions of the president in his absence.

The secretary-treasurer will manage the daily business of the society between annual meetings, plan annual meetings and social activities, collect dues and administer funds as directed by the membership, maintain a permanent file of all members, their addresses and current status, present all business to the annual meeting and inform members of past and future activities of the society.

The members-at-large will form, with the designated officers, the governing board.

Decisions of the society requiring an affirmative vote of a given number of the active members may be canvassed by the secretary-treasurer by means of a mailed ballot. He shall be required to report such decisions at the next succeeding annual meeting.

DUES AND FEES

The fiscal year of the society shall run from July 1-June 30 of the next succeeding year.

Effective July 1, 2006, annual dues shall be \$300.00 for all active members and \$175.00 for all associate members (active or faculty) who have held membership for >2 years. Dues for all members will be \$100 in their 1st year of membership and \$150 in their 2nd year of membership. All dues are payable on or before January 1 of each year. Failure to pay dues will result in inactivation of membership and a penalty of \$25.00 annually may be required before reinstatement of active membership.

Dues of \$10.00 per year will be assessed so long as an eligible active member remains in a recognized post graduate training program (fellowship).

Dues will not be levied on honorary members or those in retired/senior status.

Dues will not be levied on members in the armed services as long as their term of duty requires residence outside of the United States for any time period during that academic year.

In exceptional circumstances, dues may not be collected from active or associate members without prejudice to membership where a situation has arisen which precludes their ability to pay even though their intention and desire to do so is manifest.

A registration fee will be levied for the annual meeting at a rate to be determined each year.

Active members of the society will pay a registration fee for the annual meeting.

Associate Active and Associate Faculty members of this society will pay a registration fee for the annual meeting.

Retired/Senior members of the society will not pay a registration fee for the annual meeting; they will pay a charge based on those events attended and the number attending.

\$5,000 Trust contributors will not pay a registration fee for the annual meeting.

Residents will be exempt from any registration fees.

In extraordinary circumstances, the secretary/treasurer may exempt an individual from registration costs.

Changes in dues and registration fee schedules may be recommended by the executive committee. Such an action must be taken to the general membership at the next annual meeting or by a ballot mailing for ratification.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

Changes or amendments to this constitution may be offered to the membership over the signature of ten active members in good standing or by the executive committee of the organization. The secretary-treasurer is required to bring such amendments before the next annual meeting or to have canvassed the membership by mail ballot. After open discussion at the annual meeting, the decision to amend the constitution may be made by members attending. If a mail ballot is used, an affirmative vote of three-quarters of the members returning the ballots will be required to effect a change. Changes, in the interest of reflecting growth and development of the department and its affiliations, will be made by the secretary-treasurer and offered via ballot mailing to the membership for ratification.