**Constitution of the Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group, to fully realize our purpose, do hereby adopt and establish this constitution as the guiding instrument of our organization.

**ARTICLE I**

**Name**

The purpose of the Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group shall be to provide information about the specialty of Lifestyle medicine, and educate members about evidence-based practice of helping individuals and families adopt and sustain healthy behaviors that affect health and quality of life.

**ARTICLE II**

**Membership**

Section 1. Membership in the Lifestyle Medicine Group shall be limited to persons officially connected with the (insert University here) as faculty, staff, or students.

Section 2. (insert University here) does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.

Section 3. Active membership in the Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group shall be conferred upon those members who, in addition to the above requirements, have paid the semester dues (if applicable) in full within one month of the first day of class. (All constitutions have provisions defining active membership).

**ARTICLE III**

**Organization**

Section 1. The officers of the organization shall be elected from the active members. Any student seeking to hold or holding office must remain in good standing in the (insert University here).

Section 2. The elected officers of the Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group shall consist of two Co-Presidents, who shall serve as the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Elections:

1. All officers shall be elected on or before April 1 of each year, and shall serve one-year terms.
2. All officers shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast. Only active members are eligible to vote.
3. A quorum of one-half of the active membership shall be reached for all meetings where officer nominations or elections take place.
4. All elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. The ballots shall be tabulated by any two officers.

Section 4. Officer’s Duties

1. At least one Co-President shall preside at all Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group meetings, and both have the authority to appoint all committee chairpersons, to create new committees, to nominate a faculty advisor to be approved by the active members, and to act as a spokesperson for the organization.
2. They shall handle and keep a record of all the Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group business and correspondence, including, but not restricted to: recording minutes at all meetings; keeping an up-to-date file on all members; informing members of all meetings and activities; and managing the Lifestyle Medicine Interest group email account.

Section 5. The Faculty/ Staff Advisor must be selected from full-time faculty or administrative staff members at the (insert University here). The Advisor shall serve as a liaison with the University, and help in the transition period between officers. The Advisor will be invited to and notified of all meetings and activities.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Dues and Finance**

Section 1. The Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group will finance its activities through membership dues (if applicable), fundraising projects, with financial support from the department at (insert University here) and from money received from class dues or distributed by student government (if applicable).

**ARTICLE V**

**Meetings**

Section 1. The first meeting of the fall semester shall be held within four weeks after classes start.

Section 2. Regular meetings or activities (ie lunch and learns) shall be held at least once every other month during the school year at time set by the organization, with exceptions to be made by the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Action on any business, old or new, requires a quorum of one-half of the active membership of the organization.

**ARTICLE VI**

**Removal from Office**

Section 1. A Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group officer whose dereliction of duty adversely affects the operations of the organization shall be subject to disciplinary action or removal from office.

Section 2. A written request stating the reasons for dismissal and signed by at least three (3) active members of the organization must be submitted to a member of the Executive Committee before a regular scheduled meeting.

Section 3. Before the next regularly scheduled meeting, written notification of the request and the reasons for dismissal must have been given to the offending officer, who should come to that regular meeting prepared to speak.

Section 4. A majority affirmative vote of all active members is required to remove the officer from office.

**ARTICLE VII**

**Constitutional Amendments**

Section 1. The Constitution is binding to all members of the Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group but is not binding unto itself.

Section 2. Amendments to the Constitution must be proposed in writing or orally by any active member of the Lifestyle Medicine Interest Group at any regular meeting at which a majority of the active members are present.

Section 3. Proposed amendments shall be voted upon only after the introduction of the proposal.

Section 4. Proposed amendments will become effective following a majority affirmative vote of the active members.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**Ratification**

The undersigned student(s) of the (insert University here), after a majority of affirmative vote of active members, do hereby agree to follow the guidelines of this Constitution.

Signed:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Constitution may be ratified by member’s signatures or officers’ signatures and attached petition sheet. All ratifications must be dated)