

1903 Correspondence regarding proposed amendment
to the Constitution of the AAMC

Folder 13

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Dodson

Proposed Amendment of Article III of the Constitution of
the Association of American Medical Colleges.

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Your committee, appointed at the annual meeting in June, 1902, to consider and report on the advisability of amending Article III of the Constitution, beg leave to report as follows:

One of the chief objects of this Association since its organization has been held to be the elevation of the standards of medical education in America. For some years after its inception, its standards were higher than those demanded by the several State Examining Boards, and progress toward higher standards was steadily made. For the last three or four years, however, this has not been the case, and the present requirements for admission to the medical schools, as prescribed in Article III of our Constitution, are considerably below those demanded by some of the State Boards. If the Association is to command the respect of the profession, and, to be a factor in the promotion of higher medical education, these requirements must be advanced. Your committee would therefore recommend the adoption of the following amendment to Article III of the Constitution.

It is moved to amend Article III by striking out all of it and inserting in lieu thereof, the following:

Article III.

Section 1. Every college holding membership in this Association, shall demand of each student, as a requirement for admission to the medical course, either a), a diploma from a four years high school or academy whose credits are accepted by a state university; or b), the diploma of a state normal school having a course of instruction equivalent to a four years high school course whose credits are accepted by a state university; or, c), a certificate of admission to the freshman class of a state university; or, d), an examination in the following branches:

- A), English, - grammar, rhetoric, and composition, the equivalent of two years of high school work in this branch.
- B), Algebra, to quadratics.
- C), Latin, - one year of high school work including grammar and four books of Caesar or a full equivalent thereof.
- D), Physics, - one year of high school work, including some laboratory work.
- E), U.S. History, - one year of high school work and seven additional branches of the student's choice selected from the following:
 Latin, one year: - Caesar, Cicero, or Virgil.
 German: " " grammar and literature.
 French: " " " " "
 Chemistry, one year, - with laboratory work.
 Botany, " " "
 Zoology, " " "
 Geometry, " " - plane.
 " " - solid.
 Trigonometry, one year.
 Astronomy, " "
 Physiology, " "
 Physical geography, one year.
 English Literature, " "
 Advanced Algebra, " "
 Civics, " " "
 General History, " "

Section 2. This examination must be conducted by members of the faculty of a literary or scientific college, or by a superintendent of public instruction; in no case shall it be conducted by any person connected with the faculty of the medical school to which the student is seeking admission.

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Section 3. A student may be allowed to enter upon his medical work conditioned in not more than two branches, (one year's work in each), but these conditions must be removed by satisfactory examination before he is allowed to enter upon the second year of his medical course.

Section 4. Colleges members of this Association may honor the official credentials presented by students from other colleges having the standard of requirements maintained by members of this Association, excepting for the fourth year of their course.

Section 5. Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine shall have attended four years courses of study, each annual course to have been of not less than seven months duration and at least twelve months shall intervene between the beginning of any course and the beginning of the preceding course.

Section 6. Time credits may be given to students who have the necessary entrance requirements and who are graduates or students of colleges of homeopathic or eclectic medicine for such courses of instruction of the required duration as they have successfully fulfilled, excepting in the course of the fourth year, provided they pass satisfactory examinations in materia medica and therapeutics. Credit for one year of time may be given to students holding the degree of A.B., B.S., or other equivalent, from a reputable university or literary college.

Section 7. A college which gives less than a four years' course of study, but does not graduate students and is possessed of other required qualifications, may be admitted to membership.

NOTE. One year's work in any subject of a high school or academic course is defined to mean a series of daily recitations, of forty-five minutes or more in time, for each week of a school year of not less than thirty-six weeks.

10

Association of American Medical Colleges

DR. W. L. RODMAN, PRESIDENT
1826 SPRUCE STREET
PHILADELPHIA PA

DR. WINFIELD S. HALL, SECRETARY
2431 DEARBORN STREET
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719 NORTH HIGH STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Jan 3-1903.

790

Dr. William H. Howell, Dean,
John Hopkins Medical School,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Doctor:--

The Association of American Medical Colleges is entering upon a new year of its history. It has accomplished much in the past; it has yet much to accomplish. Several institutions are applying for admission; but we must look to the older members of the Association to give direction to its progress.

We shall expect your institution to be represented at the New Orleans Meeting in May. Questions of importance are to come before the Association.

You may remember that the Treasurer reported a deficit of over \$200.00 at the Saratoga Meeting. This deficit still rests as an incubus upon the Association. A printing bill of \$184.00 and the stenographer's bill are causing us much embarrassment. Your dues for 1903 are due. Though it has not been customary to ask the payment of this before the Annual Meeting, the officers of the Association ask that you pay this at the earliest possible moment to save them further embarrassment. The dues have been too small for the very moderate expenses of the Association. They were raised to \$10.00 last year to take effect Jan. 1st, '03. All bills can be met this year. There will be no deficit in the future. With this, the new secretary makes his bow.

Winfield S. Hall sec'y.
Assn. Amer. Med. Colleges.

W. L. Rodman

Rush Medical College
IN AFFILIATION WITH
The University of Chicago

Chicago Jan. 28th, 1903.

My dear Doctor:-

At a meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges last June, a committee was appointed for the purpose of drawing up an amendment to the constitution of the Association in reference to the requirements for admission to the medical schools; that committee has been at work and I send you herewith copy of the proposed report. If this be compared with the present requirements for admission it may seem a somewhat radical advance on the requirements as set forth in Article 3, but if it be compared with the requirements for admission now laid down by the State Boards of Medical Examiners in Illinois, Colorado, New York, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and probably in other states, it will be found that the present amendment will barely bring the standards of the Association up to these requirements. That the standards of an Association which was organized for the express purpose of elevating the standards of medical education in this country should continue to be less than those actually demanded by the rulings of the State Boards of Medical Examiners would seem an anomalous situation, and if such a state of affairs is to continue, it would seem as if the Association of American Medical Colleges had sacrificed its right to exist. It seems very important, therefore, that this amendment should be passed at the meeting to be held at New Orleans in May.

Would your college join in seconding this amendment as presented by the committee? If so, will you kindly write me to that effect as it will greatly strengthen the report if the names of some of the stronger colleges can be attached as seconding the same. I should be glad of a prompt reply as the time is short. I am,

Very truly yours,

John H. Dodson

Chicago Apr. 4th, 1903.

Dear Doctor;-

You are doubtless in receipt of the notice of the meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges, to take place in New Orleans, May 4th, sent out by the secretary, Dr. Hall. I feel sure you will be in sympathy with the amendment proposed to Article III by the committee appointed to draw up such amendment. It is quite possible that minor changes may seem necessary or wise, but the fundamental purpose of the amendment to bring the standard of the Association up to a point on a level with the demands of the time as expressed in the requirements of the State Boards of Health, can scarcely be questioned.

May I ask you to let me know whether your institution will be represented at New Orleans? If so, by whom, and whether we may rely upon the presence there of some one from your school who will not only vote for this amendment but will speak to the question and use his influence to bring the standards of the Association up to the grade proposed. A prompt reply will greatly oblige,

Yours very truly,

