

So, You Want to Be a CFAS Representative?

An FAQ for Residents Interested in Making a Transition from ORR to CFAS

What Is CFAS? The Council of Faculty and Academic Societies (CFAS) represents academic medicine faculty and academic specialty societies within the AAMC's governance and leadership structures. The council provides a voice for faculty and academic societies about critical issues to the AAMC as they relate to creation and implementation of the AAMC's programs, services, and policies, exploring the critical issues and challenges facing faculty along the way. CFAS is comprised of about 350 representatives appointed by medical schools and roughly 70 AAMC-member academic societies. Collectively, CFAS reps serve as a communications conduit between the AAMC and faculty across the country on matters related to the core missions of academic medicine.

Who Are CFAS Reps? In almost all cases, CFAS reps are faculty at academic health centers, regardless of whether they are appointed by schools or specialty societies. Beyond that, they can be nearly anyone: clinicians, medical educators, basic scientists or researchers; junior or senior faculty; department chairs; assistant professors just out of their fellowships or residencies; and virtually anyone in between. Within the ranks of CFAS representatives, you will find faculty of nearly every clinical specialty, scientific discipline, and medical educator role. Our strength is in our diversity.

What Do CFAS Reps Do? CFAS reps convene at the AAMC's Learn Serve Lead Annual Meeting and in the annual CFAS Spring Meeting in addition to monthly online events designed to encourage community engagement. In these meetings and through committee work, CFAS reps explore an array of issues and challenges affecting faculty in the interest of advancing and improving faculty experiences. Topics range from faculty well-being to leadership development, faculty governance within an academic health system, medical education issues, diversity and inclusion issues as they affect faculty, and the very definition of what it is to be faculty in today's academic health center. Additionally, CFAS reps create programming on these themes and write papers exploring key concepts about the faculty experience.

How Can I Become a CFAS Rep? CFAS reps are appointed by AAMC-member medical schools and academic societies. Each school and society is able to appoint two reps: a junior rep (within the first 10 years of an initial faculty appointment) and a senior rep (a department chair, center director, or similar faculty leader). Typically, if your school has an open rep position, a faculty affairs office or a faculty senate will consider you for a term-limited position. Also, your academic society may appoint reps to CFAS if they are AAMC members. If you are unsure about whether a school or society is able to name reps or has a space, you can reach out to a member of the CFAS team for assistance.

How Can I Learn More? For questions about CFAS rules and regulations and how faculty can become engaged in CFAS, reach out to Eric Weissman, senior director of faculty and academic society engagement, at eweissman@aamc.org. For information about member societies or current representation at your school or society, reach out to Stephen Barry, senior specialist, at sbarry@aamc.org. For general information about CFAS, find us online at: www.aamc.org/cfas.