
Undergraduate Student National Dental Association

Organizational Constitution

Article I Name

The name of this organization shall be the Undergraduate Student National Dental Association (USNDA). This organization shall be the official undergraduate arm of the Student National Dental Association (SNDA).

Article II Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to aid in increasing the number of minority students entering dental schools, increasing the knowledge of dentistry in undergraduate students, and in improving DAT scores of pre-dental undergraduates. Additionally, the USNDA will provide students with the opportunity to visit dental schools and to shadow dentists, as well as to inform students of summer programs and dental research experiences. Records will also be kept of those members accepted into various dental schools.

Article III Officers

Section 1. The officers of the organization shall be president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. At the beginning of the year, all Executive members should meet to decide on a meeting schedule for the upcoming year.

President

- Conduct all meetings
- Be in contact with dental schools
- Arrange visits to dental schools
- Arrange shadowing opportunities/volunteer/community service
- Responsible for everything the organization does
- Responsible for obtaining guests speakers at meetings
- Plan and organize the High School Dental Outreach Program
- Communicate chapter's status with SNDA once a month
- Co-signs all checks

B. Vice President

- Carry out duties assigned by the President
- Help with recruiting/speaking to freshman classes
- Conduct meetings when President is absent
- Help plan and organize the High School Dental Outreach Program

C. Treasurer

- In charge of organization's account
- Co-signs checks
- Calculates cost for visiting dental schools and other trips
- Organize fundraising activities
- Give Account Report at each Executive Board meeting

D. Secretary

- Keeps meeting minutes
- Makes notes about trip events
- Procures meeting locations
- Design and keep scrapbook updated

Article IV Elections

Section 1. The term for each office shall be one year and then voted on for the following year. The president must be elected by USNDA members and approved by chapter's faculty advisor. President may also be impeached by SNDA if communication and duties are not fulfilled.

Section 2. Elections should be held at the last meeting of the school year. The chapter's faculty advisor is responsible for counting the ballots and announcing the results.

Article V

Membership

Section 1. Membership is open to all students interested in supporting the goals of the organization. USNDA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation, and physical or mental disability.

Section 2. Members must pay national dues of \$15 and local dues (depends on chapter).

Section 3. Members will be classified as Honorary Members (no right to vote nationally).

Section 4. Each chapter must have at least 1 meeting for every full month of the school year (summers excluded).

Section 5. Each chapter must have at least 1 local dentist to shadow.

Section 6. Each chapter must host a High School Dental Outreach Program each school year.

Article VI

Attendance

Section 1. If any member accumulates more than two unexcused absences per semester from general body meetings, the end result shall be expulsion from the organization. It is a member's personal responsibility to inquire about his or her unexcused absences. Any member expelled from the organization for poor attendance has the right to submit a letter of appeal to the executive committee for review.

Section 2. An excused absence is determined by the local chapter. All excuses must be submitted by email to the secretary by 3pm the day of the meeting. In case of extenuating circumstances, the excuse must be submitted within twenty-four hours following the absence. The executive committee shall have final say on the granting of excused absences.

Article VII

Affiliation

The organization shall be affiliated with and responsible to the Student National Dental Association. It is understood that the organization shall be an undergraduate student undertaking, and in this respect, shall develop and conduct programs for past, present, and future students.

Article VIII

Adoption and Amendment of the Constitution

This constitution shall become effective upon majority vote of members. The power to alter, amend, or repeal this constitution shall be vested in the executive committee, subject to the majority approval of the general body and the advisor. Any proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted to SNDA for further discussion and final approval.

History/ Accomplishments

Founded at Tennessee State University (TSU) with the help of Meharry Medical and Dental College in 2000.

- In 2002, TSU took nine (9) students to Louisville/UNC dental Schools.
- In 2002, visited Meharry several times in which students were allowed to assist in clinic.
- In 2002, conducted several community service projects, including tutoring at elementary schools, and cleaning dental offices.
- In 2002, had several dentists to shadow (one from each specialty).