



Learner Advisory Board

(ΑΩΑ-LAB)

Purpose, Process, and Impact

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Alpha Omega Alpha Learner Advisory Board (AΩA-LAB)

Purpose, Process, and Impact

Why create the AΩA-LAB?

The Alpha Omega Alpha Learner Advisory Board (AΩA-LAB) is a national advisory body created to ensure that learner perspectives (students and residents from across member schools) are gathered systematically, thoughtfully synthesized, and clearly communicated to the AΩA Board of Directors.

The AΩA-LAB is designed to:

- Provide a formal channel for learner input into national governance
- Promote professionalism, collaboration, and leadership development
- Identify emerging challenges and opportunities in medical education
- Strengthen transparency and trust between learners and the Board

The AΩA-LAB serves **in an advisory role only**. Final governance authority remains with the Board of Directors.

How Learner Voices Flow to the Board

The AΩA-LAB uses a multi-level engagement and synthesis model:

Local: Each school will gather ideas from AΩA student and resident members. After 2-3 consensus building national meetings/surveys, each school will appoint or elect two-three learner representatives who gather perspectives from peers through conversations, surveys, and written input. Depending on engagement, we may develop regional teams.

National: The full AΩA-LAB convenes regularly using structured agendas, facilitated discussion, and consensus-seeking processes. Board Councilors serve as Faculty Liaisons to support continuity and alignment.

Board Interface: Two learner presenters will convey the synthesized themes and recommendations to the Board, supported by written summaries reflecting broad participation.

What the Board Can Expect

The AΩA-LAB is designed to deliver:

- **Representative Insight:** national patterns rather than isolated anecdotes
- **Actionable Recommendations:** clearly framed issues and consensus positions
- **Inclusive Participation:** multiple ways to contribute, including written input and small groups
- **Leadership Development:** learners trained in professional dialogue and stewardship
- **Organizational Learning:** early signals of emerging trends across institutions

Oversight and Accountability

Regional structures and operational processes are reviewed periodically to ensure equity, effectiveness, and scalability. The Board receives regular reports on activities and outcomes and retains authority over structural changes.

In Summary

The Alpha Omega Alpha Learner Advisory Board establishes a durable, transparent mechanism for elevating learner perspectives to national leadership. Through regional engagement, national synthesis, and disciplined communication to the Board, the AΩA-LAB strengthens AΩA's mission and ensures that learner voices meaningfully inform strategic decision-making.

Flow of Ideas in AΩA-LAB

(AΩA Learners Advisory Board)

AΩA Student Members share ideas/concerns
in their Chapter (With Councilor Assistance)



Structured Collection & Documentation



Alpha Omega Alpha Learner Advisory Board (AΩA-LAB)

- National representation
- Consensus-seeking deliberation
- Chapter Councilor support (process & continuity)



Synthesis of Themes & Recommendations

- Areas of alignment
- Key concerns
- Documented tensions



Delegated Representation

- Two student/resident presenters
- One back-up student



AΩA Board of Directors

- Two presenters speak
- Written synthesis submitted
- Board reviews information, deliberates and decides as needed

AΩA-LAB (*Learners Advisory Board*)

Student Roll-Out and Overall Timeline

Thank you, Councilors, for your engagement and support of this pilot project.

The overall goal is to better gather learner consensus and concerns and to share them with the AΩA Board of Directors and Executive Director. This is a pilot, so I expect we will encounter some challenges. And, we will work through them together with the students/residents.

Phase 1 is all virtual, the goals are to capture as many ideas and concerns as possible. As we prepare for Phase 1, Councilors will need to review the instructions and communicate to their students how they can participate. Councilors and the National Office will share the details as quickly as possible.

At each school, students/councilors will work through the survey as a group or as individuals. Some schools may not have AΩA students selected for this early survey (if they don't have third year AΩA), but we'll gather what data we can. We will use the first round (Phase 1) to gather ideas and concerns without judgement or evaluation (that will come in Phase 2+). Phase 1, 2, & 3 will be open to all AOA students and residents, Phase 4 and 5 invitations will be based on engagement, participation, and advisement from Councilors and National Office/Board of Directors discussion.

Phase 2, 3, and 4 will be Zoom sessions. We will likely have duplicate sessions at 7a PT and 4p ET on the same day to allow for participation. We may switch times based on participation.

We will start Phase 1 (MS Forms survey) after we notify Councilors. Phase 2, 3, and 4, will likely be Poll Everywhere on Zoom. Learners will have opportunities to brainstorm and debate issues during the meeting and then bring them forward to the next meeting.

Let me know if you see any problems and if you see any gaps or needs.

Phase	Timing	Goal	Deliverable
Phase 1 - 8/11	2-3 weeks before first meeting	Identify concerns independently (On-line survey to ALL, no in person discussion)	Baseline priorities
Phase 2 - 8/27	Zoom Session #1	Explore and clarify issues	Shared understanding
Phase 3 - 9/4	Zoom Session #2	Prioritize and narrow issues	Preliminary consensus
Phase 4 - 9/10	Zoom Session #3 (optional)	Develop recommendations	Draft recommendations
Phase 5 - ~9/25	Penultimate Meeting	Final recommendations and presenter selection	Board agenda and presenters
October Board Meeting 10/24	Presentation	Student recommendations	Consensus report

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