

External Advocacy Guidelines

UNSWMS 2019

Scope: these guidelines apply to when UNSW Medical Society is approached by external agencies (e.g. NSWMSC) to advocate and take a position on issues. This does not apply to AMSA advocacy as there is also a set national process for gathering this feedback.

Guidelines

If approached by NSWMSC or another external organisation, UNSW Medical Society Executive will first debate the topic internally.

On advocacy points with a clearly objective outcome that relate to medical education and employment, such as limiting medical student numbers or supporting internships for international medical students, the executive will formulate a stance on behalf of the cohort. They will publicise the decision via the MedSoc Mailout before it is sent to the external organization. The minutes of the discussion will be published (excluding any content deemed by the executive to be sensitive). The percentage of the executive who vote for, against, and abstain from the vote will be published along with the decision. If significant issues are noted or a revision is called for by a minimum of ten students, the matter may be taken to council for further discussion.

On issues which do not disproportionately affect medical students as a population, the decision may be deferred to a council vote. The intention to hold a vote will be noted in the council agenda, which will be shared via mailout minimum one week before the council meeting along with relevant resources. The intention to hold this discussion should be heavily emphasised in social media posts. Furthermore, council meetings will be promoted via social media (the Facebook group, UNSW Medicine Noticeboard) to encourage attendance by all medical students.

Any vote held at council will require a minimum attendance of 60 students in person and a supermajority ($\frac{2}{3}$ majority) to pass. Before a final decision is passed, minutes will be shared with rural students who will have the opportunity to vote. If either of these conditions are not met UNSW Medical Society will abstain from the vote.



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