Position Description: Advocacy Coordinator, Environmental Health Action Committee

Updated 12/15/2019

Action Committee overview: Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Action Committee is responsible for executing AMSA’s programming and advocacy efforts including but not limited to climate change, and Earth day. AMSA, back in the late 60s, played a major role in the establishment of Earth Day, which became recognized in 1970, on an international level. While there are other committees that focus on climate change, due to the breadth of information they must cover, there has not been robust programming from AMSA on this topic. This Action Committee has been created to help fill that void, and it is of utmost importance as climate change continues to become a more pressing matter day by day.

Position description

The EH Advocacy Coordinator is responsible for executing AMSA’s advocacy efforts in issues of Environmental Health health.

As a national Advocacy Coordinator, the EH Advocacy Coordinator will fulfill the general duties and responsibilities of a national Advocacy Coordinator as described further below.

In addition to the general duties of a national Advocacy Coordinator, specified responsibilities include:
- Planning and execution of programming for an Environmental Health Week of Action
- Putting forth actionable items about climate change that local chapters can use for chapter events
- Helping AMSA leaders and members understand climate change legislation. If any given legislation aligns with AMSA’s PPP, then the goal is to help chapters support it, and provide awareness to their local members and communities.

Meetings for National Coordinators

Term and transition

The term of an Action Committee coordinator is one year, beginning on May 11, 2020, and ending April 30, 2021. Before the term begins, however, a transition period starts immediately after the coordinator is selected and notified. During this transition period, the incoming coordinator will work closely with the outgoing coordinator to learn about the position and the work of the committee or team.

Coordinators are overseen by the chair of their Action Committee. In addition, they will be supported by the Vice President for Leadership Development (VPLD) and the Vice President for Program Development (VPPD).
Common responsibilities for Action Committee Advocacy Coordinators

Advocacy Coordinators work to design, develop, and execute various elements of AMSA’s advocacy. Advocacy includes—but is not limited to—grassroots organizing, awareness campaigns, membership engagement and mobilization, and contacting policymakers. Particularly in their content area, they will develop and use skills in advocacy to:

- **Continue sustaining projects** and create new advocacy projects.
- **Identify gaps in physician training** as opportunities for advocacy.
- **Promote advocacy opportunities** to membership.
- **Assess the effectiveness of AMSA advocacy** and areas for improvement.
- **Collaborate with members, leaders, or staff** in the development of AMSA advocacy.
- **Maintain relationships with partnership organizations** for AMSA, and identify or connect with new partners, particularly toward collaborative advocacy efforts.
- **Engage members regularly** in advocacy efforts.
- **Support members** in their own advocacy efforts.

Advocacy Coordinators are national leaders of AMSA. In their committee’s content area, they will develop and use skills in leadership to:

- **Represent AMSA’s mission** and work to our members, our partners, and the public.
- **Work effectively and responsibly with members, leaders, and staff.**
- **Build the organization by refining our principles and operations**, inspiring members and leaders, and strengthening AMSA’s presence.

Advocacy Coordinators serve as content experts for AMSA. Particularly in their content area, they will develop and use skills in research and communication to:

- **Build knowledge in their content area**, including past/current events, up-to-date terminology or practices, resources, experts, AMSA’s principles, etc.
- **Document knowledge** for the reference of members, leaders, or staff.
- **Provide consultation for members, leaders, or staff.**
- **Assess AMSA’s principles and work to update them** as needed through processes outlined in AMSA’s Constitution, Bylaws and Internal Affairs document (CBIA).

Additional requirements and responsibilities

- **Priority is given to medical student applicants.**
- **AMSA membership is required.**
- **Establish and maintain contact with the leader’s own local AMSA chapter.** Attempt to attend both the chapter’s tabling events, initial recruitment meetings, and subsequent chapter activities.
- **Work with other national leaders in the competition to recruit new members.** Individual recruitment of at least five new members during the leadership year is strongly encouraged.
- **Submit a mid-year report by November 15, and the end-of-year report by April 1.** A coordinator’s reports are submitted to the chair of their committee. This report should document work accomplished for the committee’s Week of Action, engagement with leaders, any chapter officers, and AMSA members.
- **Required meeting attendance**
- Committee meetings (virtual), typically one or two per month
- Building on Foundations national leadership training and planning meeting, **June 18-21, 2020** (in-person, location TBA. Date subject to change.)
- Travel, hotel, and food are provided for mandatory in-person meetings with some restrictions.
- For coordinators, attendance at the Annual Convention, **February 4-7, 2021** (in-person, Washington, D.C.) is strongly encouraged but not mandatory.