

**Department of Veterans Affairs  
Charter of the  
National Academic Affiliations Council**

**1. Official Designation.** National Academic Affiliations Council.

**2. Authority.** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Academic Affiliations Council (Council) is established by directive of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. Ch. 10.

**3. Objectives and Scope of Activity.** The Council will advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on matters affecting partnerships between VA and its academic affiliates.

**4. Description of Duties.** VA and the academic community share the same foundational values: a commitment to providing high-quality care; recognition of the inter-dependence of patient care, education and research; and a strong public service ethic. The Council is charged with developing and recommending ways to enhance this historic partnership.

The Council's activities include the following:

- Developing and recommending strategies for effective communication on academic affiliations between VA and relevant stakeholder organizations, including recommendations about the optimal function of affiliation partnership councils;
- Developing and recommending mechanisms to expand the number and type of mutually advantageous affiliations between VA and the academic community;
- Identifying and recommending opportunities to better align the missions and operations of VA and its academic affiliates;
- Recommending approaches for electronic health record modernization consistent with academic affiliate experiences;
- Developing and recommending guidelines for joint strategic, tactical, and operational planning by VA and its academic affiliates in areas of partnership;
- Identifying policy, regulatory, and administrative impediments to effective affiliation management;
- Recommending new approaches to developing a robust and diverse workforce pipeline for VA; and
- Developing and recommending appropriate mechanisms to share faculty, trainees, space, equipment, and other health care resources.

**5. Official to Whom the Council Reports.** The Council will report to the Secretary through the Under Secretary for Health.

**6. Office Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support for the Council.** The Office of Academic Affiliations, Veterans Health Administration, VA, will be responsible for providing support to the Council.

**7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years.** Estimated annual operating costs for the Council are \$388,290.46, which includes 1.5 full-time equivalent employees. Members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with Federal Travel Regulations for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Council.

**8. Designated Federal Officer.** The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full-time VA employee, will approve the schedule of committee and subcommittee meetings. The DFO, or a designee will be present at all committee and subcommittee meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

**9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council is expected to meet up to four times annually.

**10. Duration.** There is a continuing need for the Council to provide advice to the Secretary on the partnership between VA and its academic affiliates. This Council is recommended for continuance.

**11. Council Termination Date.** Unless renewed by appropriate action prior to its expiration, the Council will terminate 2 years from the filing date on the next page.

**12. Membership and Designation.** Members will be selected from among knowledgeable experts with special competence to evaluate and improve the partnership between VA and its academic affiliates. The Chief Academic Affiliations Officer; the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Chief Medical Officer Co-Chair of the Strategic Academic Advisory Council; and a VISN Director will be ex-officio members of the Council. An additional five ex-officio members from partner Federal agencies may be appointed to provide the Council with their unique expertise. Other Council members shall be appointed by the Secretary and shall serve as objective advisors, and not as representatives of any organizations for whom they may otherwise be serving. A term of service for any member shall not exceed 3 years; however, the Secretary may reappoint any member for an additional term of service.

The Council will be comprised of approximately 22 members (total includes eight ex-officio members). Several members may be Regular Government Employees, but most of the Council's membership will be Special Government Employees.

**13. Subcommittees.** With the DFO's approval, the Council is authorized to create subcommittees to perform specific projects or assignments as necessary and consistent with its mission. The Council Chair shall notify the Secretary, through the DFO, of any

subcommittee created including its function, membership, and estimated duration. The objectives of the subcommittees are to make recommendations to the chartered Council on matters related to the responsibilities of the chartered Council. Such subcommittees may have workgroups but may not work independently of the chartered Council and must report their recommendations and advice to the full Council for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the parent committee and cannot report directly to VA.

**14. Recordkeeping.** The Council records shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 or other approved agency records disposition schedules. Those records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

**15. Filing date.**

Approved. AMAL  
Denis McDonough  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

12/6/23  
Date