

AANPE CONSTITUTION (DRAFT - JANUARY 2007)

Article 1. TITLE: The Association of Advanced Nursing Practice Educators

1.1 The organisation shall be called the Association of Advanced Nursing Practice Educators hereinafter referred to as the AANPE.

Article 2. STATUS

2.1 The AANPE is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit association of members, defined as in Article 6 of this constitution.

Article 3. MISSION

3.1 The mission of the AANPE is to coordinate and represent a collaborative network of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Academics and Professionals across the United Kingdom (UK) who have a common interest in the education, development and advancement of advanced nursing practice and in other related professional and educational developments in advanced clinical practice.

Article 4. PURPOSES

The purposes for which the AANPE is established are:

- 4.1. To enable collaborative curriculum development and standard setting for Advanced Nurse Practitioner education across the 4 countries of the UK.
- 4.2. To establish the role and status of Advanced Nurse Practitioners through interface with other professions, professional and statutory bodies, commissioners, employers and relevant government bodies
- 4.3. To promote collaboration between the United States of America (US) and UK Advanced Nurse Practitioner education providers via NONPF (National Organisation of Nurse Practitioner Faculties) and the AANPE. In addition, the AANPE will also promote collaborations with other international organisations and other international Advanced Nurse Practitioner education providers.
- 4.4. To enable sharing of information on national and international developments that are pertinent to Advanced Nurse Practitioner education, and thus to promote best practice.
- 4.5. To develop a national educator network that will facilitate problem sharing, problem solving and mutual support.
- 4.6. To act as an expert advisory group for consultation, professional advice and UK and international policy development.

Article 5. ACTIVITIES

The purposes of the AANPE will be pursued individually and / or in partnership with other disciplines and organisations through the following activities:

5.1 Exchanging information on or about research, education, and contemporary advanced nursing practice, and making it available to nurses, policy makers, health providers, and others in the health community in the UK.

5.2 Holding seminars, debates, conferences and other events, and publishing their proceedings.

5.3 Organising expert study groups and publishing the results of their work.

5.4 Providing support, advice and mentorship to members, and acting as a resource to nurse researchers and clinical practice innovators in the UK.

5.5 Developing links with other organisations to share information and, where appropriate, resources.

5.6 Responding to government consultations and, where appropriate, lobbying government agencies.

5.7 Promoting debate on emerging issues related to advanced nursing practice and commenting as appropriate on related national needs and priorities in health and social care.

5.8 Support other activities as can from time to time be provided, subject to funding.

Article 6. MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Members are i) any Higher Education Institute preparing / delivering programmes of education and curricula that develop and enable nurses to work as Advanced Nurse Practitioners or in a similar advanced clinical role, or ii) individuals with a stake or strategic interest in the above (Article 6.2).

6.2 AANPE Membership Categories

6.2.1 AANPE Full Member:

Membership for a fully paid up member HEI institution. Full membership allows free access to AANPE events, access to all consultation activity, and access to the members' area of the Website. Full members are eligible to vote and stand for AANPE Committee membership.

6.2.2 AANPE Associate Member:

Membership for other stakeholders with a specific interest in Advanced Nurse Practitioner development. Associate members have the same rights as Full Members. However the AANPE Committee may not have more than three

Associate Members elected at any one time, and Associate Members may not be elected to the role of Committee Chair, Deputy Chair / Secretary or Treasurer (Article 7.3.).

6.2.3 AANPE Co-opted Advisors:

Co-opted Advisors are individuals with specific expertise to AANPE membership or activities. Co-opted advisors are appointed at the Committee's discretion. They have free access to AANPE events, including the AGM, consultation activities, and access to the members' area of the Website. Co-opted Advisors may attend the Committee by invitation either intermittently or on as a regular basis. However, Co-opted Advisors are not eligible to vote or stand for Committee membership.

6.3 AANPE Membership Issues

6.3.1 Full Membership of the AANPE is Higher Education Institution based (rather than based on individuals). Thus, there is no restriction on the number of individual AANPE members represented from each HEI.

6.3.2 Full AANPE membership is open to any Higher Education Institute preparing / delivering full undergraduate and / or postgraduate programmes of education developing nurses to work as Advanced Nurse Practitioners or in a similar advanced clinical role.

6.3.3 Each Full Member HEI will have a designated contact person responsible for authorising the payment of the membership fee; replying to circulated emails and updating the other interested parties from the HEI.

6.3.4 Alternatively, Associate AANPE membership is available for other stakeholders with a specific interest in Advanced Nurse Practitioner development.

6.3.5 Co-option of advisors with specific expertise to AANPE membership or activities will be considered by the Committee as the need arises and will be recorded separately from the AANPE Full or Associate membership list as 'Co-opted advisor'.

6.3.6. The AANPE uses an Email Mailing List to circulate information to AANPE Members and to others. This mailing list is inclusive of Full AANPE members, Associate AANPE members and Co-Opted AANPE members. In addition, other interested individuals or HEIs may also be included in the Mailing List who are not AANPE members, and who have not paid AANPE fees. These other interested parties included to the AANPE Mailing list are not AANPE members, are not recorded on the AANPE membership lists, and have no AANPE membership rights or privileges.

6.3.7. AANPE events (excluding the AGM) are open to non-member attendees who will be required to pay an entrance fee agreed in advance by the AANPE Committee.

6.4 AANPE Membership Fees (Full and Associate membership):

6.4.1 Membership fees for Full Members and Associate Members are per annum per HEI or Associate and are fixed by the AANPE Committee. Fees are to be paid to the AANPE annually in January of each year.

6.4.2 The annual fee is used to manage administrative costs, web-site costs, speaker fees, conference fees and other related AANPE expenses.

6.4.3 Paid members have free access to AANPE events.

6.4.4 Co-opted advisors will not be subject to the annual AANPE membership fee.

Article 7. ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE

7.1 The AANPE is an independent organisation composed of its members.

7.2 The governing body of the AANPE is the Committee. Only AANPE Full Members and Associate Members may stand for election to the Committee and be able to vote in election of Committee Members.

7.3 The Committee shall consist of the Chair, Deputy Chair / Secretary, the Treasurer, and other elected members up to a maximum of fourteen Committee Members that should ideally, and when possible, represent the four Countries of the United Kingdom. No more than three elected Committee members may be Associate Members. In addition, Associate Members may not be elected to the role of Chair, Deputy Chair / Secretary or Treasurer. Co-Opted Advisors attending Committee, either intermittently or on a regular basis, are considered as additional to the Committee Membership. Co-opted Advisors may not vote on AANPE Committee agenda items, administrative decisions or other related AANPE motions.

The Structure of the AANPE Committee:

- 1) Chair
- 2) Deputy Chair / Secretary
- 3) Treasurer
- 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) Committee Member (Full AANPE Member)
- 12, 13, 14) Committee Member (Full or Associate AANPE Member)
- 15 +) Co-Opted Advisors

7.4 The Chair shall act as chairperson of the AANPE Committee. In his / her absence, the chair shall be taken by the Deputy / Secretary Chair. The quorum for meetings of the Committee shall be five.

7.5 The term of office of members of the Committee shall be two years. Members of Committee including the Chair, the Deputy Chair / Secretary, and the Treasurer shall normally be eligible to stand for election for a second term of office, and may, if required or requested, be eligible to stand for a third and final term.

7.6 Elections shall be held Bi-annually. All AANPE Full Members and Associate Members shall be entitled to stand for election and to vote in accordance with Article 7.3 and Article 7.7; voting in elections shall be conducted at the Annual General Meeting and the results shall be announced at that occasion.

7.7 The Annual General Meeting, which consists of all the AANPE Full and Associate members, shall meet once in each year. The Committee shall present to the AGM each year:

- a report of the previous year's activities
- a report of financial accounts
- an action plan for the forthcoming year

The AGM shall provide a forum for discussion of all issues relating to the AANPE, advise the Committee, and approve the accounts. Each HEI member or Associate member shall be entitled to one vote. Membership voting on AANPE AGM agenda items may be, at the Committees discretion, by ONE of the following:

- i) email returns from membership
- ii) postal ballot of membership
- iii) paper ballot of those present at the AGM
- iv) a show of hands of those present at the AGM

Voting is based on a 50% or more majority of the balloted membership return, or in the case of a change to the AANPE Constitution a 66% majority of the balloted membership return.

Notice of meetings of the AGM shall be circulated to all members not less than four weeks in advance of the date of the meeting. The Deputy Chair / Secretary shall receive items for inclusion in the Agenda of meetings in writing not less than six weeks before the meeting.

7.8 In the event that AANPE membership is dissatisfied with the Committee's management of the Association, a general vote of no confidence can force an election of a new Committee membership at any time. A general vote of no confidence must be proposed by a Full Member, and must seconded by ten other Full Members, of which five must be from other HEIs than that of the proposer. The motion shall be carried if a two-thirds majority of the total AANPE membership favours a vote of no confidence. A full Committee election must then proceed within one month of the no confidence motion being carried.

7.9. In the event of the dissolution of the AANPE any residual funds will be donated to an appropriate charity of the committee's choice.

Article 8: Amendment to the Constitution

8.1 The AANPE will be responsive to social, educational, professional, legal, regulatory, political or other changes that affect the Articles and related detail outlined

in this constitution. Subsequent amendment to this constitution shall require a two-thirds majority (66%) of those voting on such an agenda item proposed for an AGM.