

ROYAL COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

FACULTY BYELAWS

Terms of Reference	
1	These byelaws apply to all faculties of the College and are the rules ("Faculty Byelaws") as referred to in RCGP Byelaw 57. These byelaws are subject to the Charter and Ordinances.
2	The terms of reference of each faculty are to further, in their area, the College object: <i>To encourage, foster and maintain the highest possible standards in general medical practice.</i>
Faculty Name and Geographical Area	
3	Council shall maintain a number of faculties to cover the geographically areas of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Council shall, as per RCGP Byelaw 55, set out the names and areas of each faculty, and this shall be contained in Appendix 1 of these byelaws.
Core Roles for Faculties	
4	The core roles for each faculty shall be to: 1. Inform, debate and respond to College strategic policy priorities from a local perspective. 2. Be an advocate for the future of general practice and involvement with RCGP. 3. Engage, nurture and celebrate local members to encourage participation with the local Faculty and College activity. 4. Understand local member and patient needs and innovate and support development programmes to meet those needs. 5. Shape and lead local and regional networks to improve patient care.
Membership of the Faculty	
5	Membership of the faculty shall be those Associates and GP Registrars, Members and Fellows of the College who either reside, are employed, or practice in the faculty's geographical area as contained in Appendix 1 of the byelaws.
Core Faculty Offer	
6	All Faculties shall: • hold four Board meetings per year, to coincide with discussion of RCGP Council papers. • provide local networking and peer support

	• provide locally relevant CPD and learning • champion leadership development • Celebrate members and primary care teams through events and awards programmes including RCGP Fellowship
Officers of the Faculty	
7	The Officers of the Faculty shall be: 1. Faculty Provost 2. Faculty Chair 3. Vice Chair for Member Outreach and Engagement 4. Vice Chair for Member Value and Inclusion 5. Faculty UK Council Representative 6. Deputy Faculty UK Council Representative
8	No individual can hold more than one leadership role, except for the position of Faculty UK Council rep which can be held by another of the leadership roles. Those individuals undertaking more than one role will have only one vote on the Faculty, and those undertaking role shares will also have only one vote per role.
9	The number of representatives each Faculty is permitted to have on UK Council is determined by the percentage of members active in their Faculty area and is determined by College byelaws.
Faculty Leadership	
10	The management of the affairs of the Faculty shall be vested in a Faculty Leadership subject to the provisions of the Charter, Ordinances and Byelaws of the College and any directions of the Council and/or the Trustee Board.
11	The Faculty Leadership shall ordinarily meet quarterly to ensure planning and delivery of faculty activities.
Elections	
12	All faculty leadership roles (see byelaw 7) shall be elected for a three year term, subject to annual confirmation by the Faculty Board at their November meeting. Other roles (non faculty leadership) shall be elected as described in the respective role descriptions.
13	Faculty Leadership roles as contained in Byelaw 7 shall be held by members for a maximum of two terms for each role.
14	Only Members and Fellows of the College, as defined in Ordinances 4 and 5 of the College, are eligible to stand for election, or serve as, Faculty Leadership as stated in byelaw 7.

15	The Faculty Returning Officer shall be responsible for organising elections. This shall be the appropriate National/Regional Engagement Manager or their designate.
16	No election is required if only one candidate is validly nominated for a vacancy.
17	For a contested election, the Single Transferable Vote voting method shall be used, and it shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure advised by the Electoral Reform Society. The vote will be carried out online.
18	For all elections, including leadership roles, nomination shall be by self-nomination and a submitted candidate statement of no more than 500 words.
19	No nomination may be valid unless accompanied by a completed RCGP declaration of interest form.
20	All members of the faculty including GP Registrars and Associate Members can vote in faculty elections.
21	All elections, including for UK Council representatives, shall be concluded by 30 September of each year. Terms of office for all positions shall start on 1 November; save UK Council representatives, whose term shall start at the first Council meeting of the council year (the first meeting following the College AGM), or devolved council equivalent.
Vacancies and Byelections	
22	The Faculty Leadership shall have the power at any time to fill vacancies by co-option until the next annual elections.
Meetings of the Faculty	
23	The Faculty shall meet quarterly, and all members of the faculty shall be invited on an 'open meeting' basis.
24	The purpose of these meetings shall be to (a) inform, engage and update local members; (b) share information and network; (c) discuss Council business and receive update from faculty Council representatives; and (d) celebrate success and achievement.
25	A Standing Operating Procedure for these meetings shall be contained in the Faculty Governance Handbook.
Power of Vice President Member Standards	
26	In exceptional circumstances the Vice-President (Member Standards) may take any temporary action they reasonably consider necessary to protect the interests of the College.

27	Any action of powers under Byelaw 24 shall be reported to Council within 21 days and are subject to review and ratification by the Faculty Leadership at its next meeting.
Faculty Governance Handbook	
28	The College shall issue a Faculty Governance Handbook, which shall accompany these Byelaws, which will be approved by Trustee Board and contain operational process, give more detailed guidance, and include role descriptions for faculty roles.
Guidance	
29	The College may, from time to time, issue guidance notes, which Faculties are required to follow, subject to them not being inconsistent with these Byelaws, or the Charter, Ordinances and Byelaws of the College.
Amendment, revocation or re-making	
30	These Byelaws can be amended, revoked or re-made by Trustee Board as proscribed in the College Ordinances.
Interpretation	
31	The Interpretation Act 1978 applies to these Byelaws as to an Act of Parliament.
32	Word and phrases used in the Charter, Ordinances and Byelaws of the College mean the same in these byelaws.

Approved by Trustee Board on 16 July 2026 in accordance with Ordinance 38 of the College.