

National Student Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Society (NSVECCS) Constitution

Mission: NSVECCS exists to promote the education and involvement of veterinary students in all aspects of emergency and critical care medicine. NSVECCS aims to provide SVECCS Chapters with opportunities to advance their knowledge in Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of interdisciplinary approaches, team work, and communication to members of the community and professionals within veterinary medicine.

1. Article I – Organization

1.1. Section I: Name

This organization will hereafter be known as the National Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society; hereinafter referred to as “NSVECCS.”

1.2. Section II: Incorporation

NSVECCS is a nonprofit organization operated under the guidance of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society; hereinafter referred to as “VECCS.” VECCS is incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas as a nonprofit 501(C)(3) corporation. All student chapters of the Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society and non-National Board related information will be hereafter referred to as “SVECCS.”

1.3. Section III: Structure

This organization will be a sub-organization of VECCS and will adhere at all times to the guidelines set forth by that organization. NSVECCS will exist as a liaison and parent organization for the individual student chapters established at various Colleges and Schools of Veterinary Medicine (CVM/SVM).

1.4. Section IV: Logo

NSVECCS and all SVECCS chapters shall have the logo displayed above. The symbol shall have the VECCS “dog and cat” logo and bear the words “Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society.”



1.5. Section V: Communication

Communication to all SVECCS Chapters will occur via NSVECCS board members and VECCS Education Manager. All updates will be communicated through email, https://veccs.org/sveccs/, or the NSVECCS newsletter "Vital Signs."

2. Article II – Purpose

2.1. The purpose of this organization will be the advancement of knowledge and promotion of the Emergency and Critical Care (ECC) specialty in veterinary medicine. To this end, the NSVECCS Board will function in the following capacities.

2.1.1. Dissemination of information about the functioning of VECCS to its membership, particularly in regards to policy changes, activities, symposiums, potential externship opportunities etc. To this end, a newsletter ("Vital Signs") will be published biannually (Spring and Fall) and distributed to all student members.

2.1.2. Dissemination of information about various SVECCS chapter activities, included in the regular newsletter, "Vital Signs."

2.1.3. All NSVECCS funds are to be managed by VECCS, including sponsorships, scholarships and grant distribution, etc. Encourage the inclusion of ECC topics in the curriculum for those CVMs/SVMs having student chapters.

2.1.4. To encourage the members to pursue activities related to ECC, such that the members are able to gain exposure and experience in this important topic prior to graduation.



1.Article I – Membership

1.1.Section I: Individual School Chapters

Individual school chapters shall submit updated contact information at least once a year to be considered active and must be approved by the VECCS Education Manager. Any activity carried out by a SVECCS chapter that is in variance with the bylaws of VECCS or the NSVECCS will jeopardize the membership of that chapter. To be considered as a chapter in good standing, an individual chapter must meet the qualification requirements in Article VII.

1.2. Section II: Members

Members of the NSVECCS Board must be in good standing with their respective SVECCS chapter. Members will be required to follow the bylaws of the VECCS, NSVECCS, and their respective SVECCS chapter in order to be considered in good standing with NSVECCS. To qualify for any awards or promotions sponsored by VECCS or NSVECCS, members must be in good standing with their respective SVECCS chapter and that same chapter must be in good standing with NSVECCS and VECCS.

2.Article II – Dues

2.1.Section I: Individual Member Dues

Individual members must pay dues for the respective SVECCS chapter at the discretion of that individual chapter and its current officers.

2.2.Sections II: SVECCS Chapter Dues

Individual SVECCS chapters do not pay dues to be in good standing with NSVECCS.

3.Article III – Officers

3.1.Section I: Elected Officers

The elected officers of NSVECCS will consist of a Chairperson and 5 elected board members. Elections will be carried out by electronic ballot. Students in good standing with their respective SVECCS chapters are eligible for applying. Voting will take place once all identifying information has been removed from each application to ensure fairness. Voting will be carried out by the outgoing NSVECCS officers and is decided by the majority. In the event of a tie, the VECCS CEO (professional organization, not NSVECCS) will be the tiebreaker. Students that get elected into office must remain in good standing with their respective SVECCS chapter in order to maintain their current position throughout the term.

3.2.Section II: Term of Office and Nominations

Terms of office for all elected officers will be twenty five calendar months, starting and ending officially on April 30th. 3 positions will be available for elections each year to ensure there are 3 incumbent board members retained on the board. Officers will assume their elected position immediately upon election through until new board members are elected 2 years thereafter.

3.3. Section III: Vacancies

Any vacancy left when an officer is unable to complete their term of office will be filled by special election conducted by the Chairperson. The Chairperson will send notice to Chapter Presidents and receive applications for new positions and remove any personal information. Remaining board members will then elect the new board member from these applicants to serve the remaining term by electronic vote.

3.4.Section IV: Scheduling Elections

Students in good standing with their respective SVECCS chapters that wish to run for a position on the NSVECCS Board must submit their application via the online application system in place on the VECCS website (veccs.org/sveccs) for

their desired position no later than the date decided by the current board on a yearly basis. The current Chairperson will announce the results to those nominated and to the individual chapters by electronic mail within three (3) business days of receiving the results.

3.5.Section V: New Positions

If the current NSVECCS Board unanimously votes to create an additional board position, a formal proposal must be drafted and sent to the VECCS Staff Liaison assigned to NSVECCS and the current VECCS CEO for approval. The position will not be created if approval from VECCS is not granted. The position will be created if VECCS approves the proposal.

4.Article IV – Duties of the Officers

4.1. Section I: Chairperson

The Chairperson shall serve in the capacity of administrator of NSVECCS, subject to the policies and bylaws of the organization. They shall serve as spokes-person for the organization, to VECCS, sponsors, and to the general public. They shall also conduct monthly meetings of the NSVECCS officers to discuss policy change, ideas, concerns, questions, and shall carry out all other responsibilities by the office. The Chairperson will appoint and direct ad hoc committees as necessary for specific projects. It is the duty of the Chairperson to oversee the activities and communications of the officers. The Chairperson will be nominated from the incumbent members of the board and confirmed by majority electronic or hand vote at the first meeting of the incoming board. The voting body will consist of the 3 outgoing board members, remaining incumbent board members and 3 incoming board members. The nominated individual is to recuse themselves from voting.

4.2.Section II: Board Members (5)

The Board Members will consist of 5 elected members (2 incumbent, 3 new elects) to participate in the operations of NSVECCS. These responsibilities include attendance at monthly meetings, voting on all scholarships, awards or other matters required by the board or VECCS, maintaining contact with

assigned school chapter presidents, maintaining the NSVECCS webpage on VECCS website and fulfilling any other responsibilities required by the board within reason and with understanding of veterinary school obligations.

4.3. Section V: All Positions

Each position is not limited to the responsibilities listed above and may be asked to take on additional responsibilities for the betterment of the board and NSVECCS. Each member is expected to be present at 60% of the meetings conducted by the NSVECCS board with reasonable understanding of emergencies and prior veterinary school commitments.

5.Article V – Board of Directors

5.1.Section I: Duties and Responsibilities

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for carrying out the business of NSVECCS. To this end, the Board shall function in the following capacities:

5.1.1. Directing the policies and management of NSVECCS.

5.1.2. Providing guidance to the various committees, SVECCS chapters, and individual members as possible.

5.1.3. Determining the time, place, and content of meetings.

5.1.4. Voting and producing decisions upon the recommendations of the various committees.

5.1.5. Coordinating and working with the VECCS office as necessary to promote VECCS, NSVECCS, SVECCS, and IVECCS.

5.2. **Section II: Composition**

The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers as mentioned above.

5.3. Section III: Meetings

A meeting will be scheduled and held once annually with the current officers. Various meetings are to be scheduled and held as necessary with at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice. The Board will meet by conference call at least once per quarter, along with the introduction meeting held at the annual IVECCS

conference. Additional meetings may be scheduled in need of emergency sessions.

6.Article VI – Benefits

6.1. Section I: IVECCS

Each NSVECCS Board Member, shall be invited to attend IVECCS each year to plan and prioritize objectives for the organization of that year.

6.2.Section II: VECCS Membership

The NSVECCS Board Members shall also receive a complimentary yearly membership to VECCS and the associated benefits of that organization.

7.Article VII – Chapter Requirements

7.1.Section I: Status of the Chapters

The following sections are stated as requirements for all SVECCS chapters regardless of their country of origin. A chapter is deemed “Active” or “In Good Standing” if and when they are in accordance with the following sections. Any chapter and all chapters that fail to provide the required information at least once a year, will be considered "inactive" and will not receive active chapter benefits including scholarship and grants. During that period the chapter may fulfill the requirements and become “Active” once again.

7.2.Section II: Chapter Officer Changes

Each chapter is required to submit updated Chapter information via https://veccs.org/sveccs/. Required chapter information includes current chapter president, current chapter advisor, updated constitution, member list, and all current contact information for chapters and advisors.

7.3.Section III:National Newsletter (“Vital Signs'')

Each chapter is encouraged to submit at least one contribution to “Vital Signs" each year. This can be done any time of year, and should be submitted through https://veccs.org/sveccs/. It can be from members of the respective chapter or officers and should be related to VECCS, IVECCS, NSVECCS, or their own SVECCS. Topics may include, but are not limited to fundraising events, wet labs, rounds/talks/lectures, special topics in ECC, externships, internships, residencies, or chapter business and marketing. Contributions will be curated and distributed Nationally to SVECCS clubs at regular intervals throughout the year corresponding with other important communications.

7.4.Section IV: Updated Constitutions

Each chapter must provide an updated copy of their Constitution at least once a calendar year to remain on file at the discretion of the executive board. All copies should be electronically submitted through https://veccs.org/sveccs/with updated chapter information.

7.4.1. Constitutions should be submitted with the results of the chapter elections as described in Section 7.2.1.

7.5.Section V: Updated Member Lists

Each chapter must provide an updated list of their members at least once per calendar year (either Fall or Spring). The roster should be uploaded with updated chapter information via https://veccs.org/sveccs/.

7.6.Section V: Updated Advisor Information

Each chapter must provide an updated contact information (full name and email) for their faculty advisor at least once a year and any time there is a change or addition of an advisor. This should be submitted with updated chapter information via https://veccs.org/sveccs/.

8.Article VIII: Active Chapter Benefits

8.1. Chapters and members of the associated chapters that are considered “Active” will be able to apply for, and receive, the following:

8.1.1. IVECCS Volunteer Stipend

8.1.2.IVECCS Change Agent Scholarship

8.1.3. SVECCS Education Grant

8.1.4.SVECCS Change Agent Scholarship

8.1.5. VECCS Proficiency Award

8.1.6. Free VECCS membership for their entire academic career including 6 months post-graduation

8.1.7. Any new or future programs sponsored by VECCS or NSVECCS

9.Article X: Amendments to the Constitution

9.1. Section I: Amendments to the NSVECCS Constitution and Bylaws can be made at any time by the Chairperson and National Board Members.

9.2. Section II: Voting and Ratification
Amended Constitutions and Bylaws must be voted for in favor by at least 2/3 of the current elected NSVECCS Board Members. Once the vote has been passed to amend either the Constitution or Bylaws, each officer must e-sign at the end of this document in order to ratify the amended version. An updated version must be posted to the SVECCS website at https://veccs.org/sveccs/.

NSVECCS Board Members 2025-2026

VECCS Staff - Ridglea Callahan

Chairperson – Sarah Handshy Mitchell

Board Member – Veronica Welke-Olmos

Board Member – Katherine Woolf

Board Member – Ashlyn Lewis

Board Member – Angelina Johnson

Board Member – Morgan Klingbein

Revised 9/2014, 1/2018, 7/2020, 3/2021, 1/2023, 3/2024 Date of Ratification: 04/24/2025