Resolution 1: Governance of the Minnesota Medical Association
Submitted by the Governance Evaluation Work Group and the Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, the 2013 House of Delegates passed Substitute Resolution 300 that suspended House of Delegates meetings for three years; created a new Policy Council; developed new mechanisms to gather member input on emerging issues throughout the year; and, established member-wide elections for the MMA President-Elect, the board of trustees, and the AMA delegation; and

WHEREAS, these changes were designed to ensure that our governance structure is efficient, nimble, and strategic, while maintaining mechanisms that ensure adequate representation, allow opportunities for engagement, and is responsive to all components of our membership; and

WHEREAS, the board of trustees established a number of measurements to determine if these changes met the goals for the association and established a Governance Evaluation Work Group to review these and provide annual governance reports to the membership; and

WHEREAS, the results of the annual reports in both 2014 and 2015 show an increase in attendance at the MMA Annual Conference, a vibrant Policy Council that is discussing and recommending positions on key issues, and elections that are engaging nearly four-times the number of members than the previous model; and

WHEREAS, the MMA has implemented many new policy forums on topics such as physician-patient relationships, medical cannabis, public programs, value-based payments, end-of-life care, opioids, primary care physician workforce, health disparities, single payer, and more, and the satisfaction level of attendees at these forums has consistently been high; and

WHEREAS, the MMA’s use Policy Forums, Listening Sessions, webinars and other avenues is essential for gathering member input on critical public policy issues throughout the year, not just annually at annual meeting; and

WHEREAS, Substitute Resolution 300 directed the MMA to reconvene the House of Delegates in 2016 “for the sole purpose of determining whether the new model shall continue;” therefore be it

RESOLVED, that based on the experience of the three-year pilot on MMA governance changes the MMA House of Delegates be dissolved; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Policy Council continue to serve as a body designed to synthesize member input and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on critical policy issues, meeting at least two times each year, including at the Annual Conference, and as needed other times throughout the year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that for recommendations adopted by the Policy Council with at least a two-thirds majority, the requirement continue that they can only be overturned by the Board of Trustees with at least a two-thirds vote by the Board of Trustees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the size of the Board of Trustees be 17 members to include 15 voting members—3 officers, 11 trustees, 1 appointee—and 2 non-voting members. The voting members include: the MMA President-Elect, President, and Immediate Past President; 1 appointee from the Policy Council; and 11 trustees elected by the membership including one who is a medical student, one who is a resident or fellow at the time of his/her election, and at least one trustee from each of the 6 trustee districts with no more than 50 percent of the 11 trustees being from any one trustee district. The 2 non-voting members are the AMA Delegation chair and MMA CEO; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all members be given the opportunity to vote in the election of MMA President-Elect, MMA trustees, and members of our AMA delegation through the use of electronic voting, with nominations from component medical societies, specialty societies, sections, and individuals submitted to, reviewed by, and approved by the MMA Nominating Committee; and that there be a concerted effort to encourage contested races, particularly for open seats; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all component medical societies be authorized to nominate one nominee for a trustee position who will be assured to be on the ballot, if that society has a trustee opening from their trustee district; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Minnesota Medical Association continue to hold an Annual Conference that provides a combination of educational opportunities, prominent speakers on key healthcare topics and sessions designed to engage physicians in policy discussions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these changes take effect upon approval of the MMA bylaws amendments needed to implement these changes by the membership.