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COMJEC Report to the GLAO

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The Council on Membership, Ethics, and Judicial Concerns is responsible for reporting to and making recommendations to the AAO Board of Trustees on matters concerning membership, the enforcement of the Principles of Ethics, and Judicial concerns.

During its January 2018 meeting, COMEJC determined that the AAO's Principles of Ethics, Code of Professional Conduct and Advisory Opinions lacked any guidelines regarding sexual harassment/professional demeanor in the workplace. As a result, COMEJC submitted a resolution to amend the Code of Professional Conduct, which was approved by the 2018 House of Delegates. Section 3.C.now reads: "Members shall provide a workplace environment devoid of inappropriate harassment that upholds respectful and cooperative relationships for all employees and patients".

A link to the Principles of Ethics ("Ethics Resources") has been added under the Legal & Advocacy section of the AAO member website (<https://www.aaoinfo.org/legal-advocacy>). You can also find the Principles of Ethics linked under the Education tab and within the policy manuals under "Governance".

The council continues to monitor membership trends regularly, including quarterly membership statistics and recruitment/retention updates, as well as the annual Secretary's Report prepared each March. Following are some key points and trends identified from the 2018 Secretary's Report:

1. Active member retention increased for the first time since 2014 (97.0% in 2017 to 97.1% in 2018).
2. Active member totals have remained between 9,200 and 9,300 since 2011, when it reached its highest total.
3. Former members who rejoined as active members increased by 85.5% from 2017 to 2018 (62 to 115).
4. Life active member retention reached its lowest point in at least ten years (95.3%).
5. The total number of student members has grown by 22.3% since 2013 (1,193 to 1,459 in 2018). This outpaces the growth of total resident enrollment, which has increased approximately 6% during that same span.
6. Student member retention increased for the first time since 2015 (93.6% in 2017 to 96.1% in 2018).
7. The total number of international members has grown by 25.9% since 2008 (2,322 to 2,923 in 2018).
8. International member retention increased for the first time since 2012 (90.1% in 2017 to 90.3% in 2018).
9. Former members who rejoined as international members increased by 39.0% from 2017 to 2018 (77 to 107).
10. The number of total members decreased for the first time in at least 25 years (19,014 in 2017 to 18,955 in 2018).