Trainee Affiliate shall be subject to an annual eligibility review by section officers.

7. STUDENT: Individuals in undergraduate, graduate or accepted supervised training programs leading to a career in one of the disciplines of the forensic sciences may become Student Affiliates of the Academy.

SECTION 4 - ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD OFFICE: Only Fellows shall be eligible to hold any Academy or Section office.

SECTION 5 - DUES OBLIGATION OF MEMBERS: The annual dues period shall be the calendar year, January 1 to December 31.

Article II: CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT

SECTION 1 - THE CODE: As a means to promote the highest quality of professional and personal conduct of its members, the following constitutes the Code of Ethics and Conduct which is endorsed and adhered to by all members of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences:

a. Every member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences shall refrain from exercising professional or personal conduct adverse to the best interests and purposes of the Academy.

b. Every member of the AAFS shall refrain from providing any material misrepresentation of education, training, experience or area of expertise. Misrepresentation of one or more criteria for membership in the AAFS shall constitute a violation of this section of the code.

c. Every member of the AAFS shall refrain from providing any material misrepresentation of data upon which an expert opinion or conclusion is based.

d. Every member of the AAFS shall refrain from issuing public statements which appear to represent the position of the Academy without specific authority first obtained from the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2 - MEMBER LIABILITY: Any member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences who has violated any of the provisions of the Code of Ethics (Article II, Section 1) may be liable to censure, suspension or expulsion by action of the Board of Directors, as provided in Section 5h. below.

SECTION 3 - INVESTIGATIVE BODY: There shall be constituted a standing Ethics Committee (see Article VI for composition) the primary function of which will be:

a. To order or conduct investigations and, as necessary, to serve as a hearing body concerning conduct of individual members which may constitute a violation of the provisions of Article II, Section 2.

b. To act as an advisory body, rendering opinions on the ramifications of contemplated actions by individual members in terms of the provisions of Article 2.

SECTION 4 - INVESTIGATION INITIATING ACTION: The following are the principal forms by which the Ethics Committee may initiate investigative proceedings:

a. A member of the Academy may submit a formal written complaint or allegation of violation(s) concerning a member to the Secretary of the Academy (see Section 5, Rules and Procedures, below) or to the Chairman of the Ethics Committee.

b. The Ethics Committee may institute an inquiry based on any evidence brought to its attention which in its opinion indicates the need for further query or action under the provisions of these Bylaws. Appropriate to this form of action, Section Officers, upon receipt of a complaint or allegation concerning the professional or personal conduct of a member of their section, may refer the complaint or allegation to the Ethics Committee in writing, accompanied by a recommendation, if any, concerning the need for further investigation. Such recommendations, however, shall not be binding on the Ethics Committee.

SECTION 5 - RULES AND PROCEDURES: The following procedures shall apply to any written complaint(s) or allegation(s) of unethical or wrongful conduct against a member of the Academy whether initiated by a member or resulting from an inquiry originated by the Ethics Committee.

a. Written complaints or allegations against a member if delivered to the Academy Secretary, shall promptly be transmitted to the Chairman of the Ethics Committee.

b. The Ethics Committee shall determine whether the complaint(s) or allegation(s) fall(s) within its jurisdiction and whether there is probable cause to believe that the complaint(s) or allegation(s) may be well founded.

c. If the Ethics Committee, in its preliminary determination, finds that it does not have jurisdiction or that there is a lack of probable cause to believe that the complaint(s) or allegation(s) may be well founded, it shall dismiss the complaint(s) or allegation(s). It shall issue a report of such determination to the Board of Directors, setting forth the basic facts but omitting the names of the parties, and stating the reasons for its decision to dismiss. Notice of the filing of the complaint or allegation shall also be given to the accused.

d. If the Ethics Committee finds that it has jurisdiction and that there is probable cause to believe that the complaint(s) or allegation(s) may be well founded, it shall give notice of the filing of a complaint(s) or allegation(s) to the accused, and, in accordance with Rules and Regulations formulated by the Ethics Committee and approved by the Board of Directors, assemble such written data from both the accused and the accuser(s) which will permit the Ethics Committee to determine whether the complaint(s) or allegation(s) requires further investigation.

e. The Ethics Committee may appoint an Academy Fellow or Fellows to investigate the complaint(s) or allegation(s) and, if necessary, to present the charge(s) on behalf of the Academy to the Committee.

f. If, as a result of an investigation, the Ethics Committee decides to dismiss the charge(s) without a formal hearing, it may do so. It shall notify the accused and the accuser(s) of its decision and shall
issue a report to the Board of Directors setting forth the basic facts but omitting the names of the parties and stating the reason(s) for its decision.

g. If the Ethics Committee decides to formally hear the charge(s), it shall give both the accused and the accuser(s) a reasonable opportunity to be heard and to confront each other. It shall then make a decision and notify both parties of its decision. The Ethics Committee shall then make a report to the Board of Directors on its decision including reasons and any recommendation for further action.

h. Following receipt of a report of the Ethics Committee and upon a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members of the Board of Directors present and voting, the party accused of unethical or wrongful conduct may be censured, suspended or expelled. No member of the Board of Directors who is the subject of a pending accusation under the provisions of this Article shall sit in deliberation on any matter concerning ethics.

i. The accused has the right to appeal from the action of the Board of Directors to the membership of the Academy. In effecting an appeal, the appellant must file a brief written notice of the appeal, together with any written statement he may wish to submit in his behalf, with the Academy Secretary not less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the next Annual Meeting of the Academy. The Secretary shall immediately advise each member of the Board of Directors of the appeal and shall forward to each a copy of the supporting papers submitted by the appellant.

j. The Board of Directors shall then prepare a written statement of the reasons for its actions and file the same with the Academy Secretary not less than forty (40) days prior to the next Annual Meeting.

k. Within twenty (20) days thereafter, the Academy Secretary shall mail to each voting member of the Academy a copy of the appellant’s notice of appeal and his supporting statement, if any, and a copy of the Board of Director’s statement.

l. A vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members present and voting at the Annual Business Meeting shall be required to overrule the action of the Board of Directors in regard to censure, suspension or expulsion of a member.

m. The Ethics Committee shall formulate internal Rules and Procedures, designed to facilitate the expeditious, fair, discreet, and impartial handling of all complaints or matters brought before it. The Rules and Procedures, and any subsequent deletions, additions or amendments thereto, shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

Article III: INSTITUTE ASSOCIATES

SECTION 1 - ELIGIBILITY: Any firm, association, corporation, research or other institute, or governmental agency at local, county, state, or federal level desiring to support the objectives, purposes, and activities of the Academy and lawfully engaged in its respective activities in the United States and/or Canada and/or their territories and possessions may be considered for enrollment as an Institute Associate of the Academy. Such enrollment as an Institute Associate shall not constitute membership in the Academy, nor confer the rights or privileges of personal membership in the Academy.

SECTION 2 - PRIVILEGES: An Institute Associate in good standing shall be entitled to:

a. Refer to itself as an “Institute Associate of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences” and to so identify itself in publications, advertisements and on its stationery.

b. Such additional privileges as approved by the Board of Directors and enunciated in publications dealing with Institute Associates.

SECTION 3 - FEES AND PROCEDURES:

a. Consideration for Institute Associate status may be initiated through invitation issued by the Academy or by the applicant.

b. Termination of an Institute Associate status may be initiated by the Associate upon written notification to the Academy or by the Board of Directors for failure to pay the annual fee or for other reason(s) deemed by the Board of Directors in the best interests of the Academy.

c. An annual fee for Institute Associates shall be established by the Board of Directors.

Article IV: MEETINGS

SECTION 1 - ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS: There shall be an annual meeting of the members of the Academy during the month of February, unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors. It will meet at a specific time and place selected by the Board. At the annual meeting there shall be a scientific program, the administration of membership matters, the election of officers and the transaction of such business as may be necessary. Notice of such meeting shall be mailed in any form and by whatever means to the last recorded address of all members ten (10) to fifty (50) days prior to the meeting. Other meetings of the members may be called at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS: The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held prior to the annual meeting of the members. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by the President; or by a majority of the Board members upon notification to the Academy Secretary of the time, place and purpose of the meeting.

SECTION 3 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The Executive Committee shall meet prior to the annual meeting of the Board of Directors and at least once between annual Board meetings, at the call of the President.

SECTION 4 - SECTION MEETINGS: Sections shall hold scientific sessions as well as a business meeting at each annual meeting of the Academy. All classes of members shall be eligible to attend the business meetings of their respective sections.