

Resolution Number: 204-2026

Title: Amendment to Current Statements of Position or Policy B-17 Sustainability in Curricula

Reference Committee Assignment: Education

Sponsor(s): 2025-26 Council on Advocacy

Financial Impact: None

Board of Trustees Comments: The Board recommends a yes vote.

Board Vote: Unanimous

Summary of Board Vote: Nothing to report as the vote was unanimous.

Reference Committee Comments:

Background: The Council on Advocacy acknowledges the growing threats of climate change and determined that ASDA's policies should encourage dental schools to teach students how climate change will affect the profession. The council's research indicated that climate change may affect dentistry in these ways and more:

- Heat stress can lead to dry mouth and increased risk of tooth sensitivity;
- Air pollution has a significant correlation with periodontitis; and
- Water-borne pathogens can cause dental caries and other oral health diseases.

Therefore, be it

RESOLUTION

Resolved, that ASDA adopt policy B-17 Sustainability in Curricula as follows:

ASDA encourages dental schools to incorporate programs and curricula that educate students on the impacts of climate change on oral health and the dental workforce **as appropriate, including but not limited to:**

- **The effects of heat stress on patient care, workforce productivity, antibiotics, and medication longevity.**
- **The connection between air pollution and oral and systemic diseases.**
- **The effects of water-borne illnesses on community oral health.**

ASDA encourages dental schools to incorporate programs and curricula that develop and implement sustainability-focused education and research including, but not limited to:

- Education on the procurement of environmentally responsible and ethically sourced dental supplies.

- 47 • Minimally invasive dentistry practices that reduce material usage and environmental
48 impact.
- 49 • Development of frameworks for sustainable water management in dental practices,
50 including water-efficient equipment and processes.
- 51 • Education on the environmental impact of dental materials, with strategies to minimize
52 their footprint, reduce pollution, and implement best practices for waste reduction and
53 environmentally responsible disposal.
- 54 • Integration of environmentally-responsible technologies to support sustainable
55 practices.