

## Proposal to Amend SWE Bylaws

Proposal #	Title	Article	Section	Proposed by
S-1713	Other Groups	VII	5. (NEW)	Jessica Rannow, Jonna Gerken, Heather Doty, Stephanie Loete, Mary Perkinson, Anca Eisele, Karen Roth, Michele O’Shaughnessy, Amy Jo Moore, Lisa Rimpf, Sarah Watzman, Tim Carson, Cheri Chappelle

<u>Current Language:</u>	<u>Proposed Changes:</u>	<u>If Adopted:</u>
(none)	<b><u>Section 5. Other Groups. Other groups may be created and managed by the board of directors to support the Society’s mission under such requirements as the board may determine.</u></b>	Section 5. Other Groups. Other groups may be created and managed by the board of directors to support the Society’s mission under such requirements as the board may determine.
<b><u>Conforming Amendment: If the above amendment is adopted, the title of Article VII will be changed to “Sections and Other Groups.”</u></b>		

**Rationale:**  
 Bylaws provide the structure of an organization and its flow of authority. As SWE continues to grow and expand, we need to update the bylaws to reflect the changes made for expanding markets. Various entities now exist within the Society that are not reflected in the bylaws. This update will capture the current groups and allow flexibility as SWE continues to determine how to best expand its influence and serve its members.

Collegiate Interest Groups (CIGs) were created nearly a decade ago as an option for community colleges and other groups of collegiate SWE members who may not have the population base to fit into the requirements for a collegiate section. Initially CIGs were a subsidiary of a sponsoring section. Over time, changes were made for improved tracking of these groups within the membership directory, and they were recognized separately with an alphanumeric code akin to how sections are identified. Those changes have taken the groups out of compliance with the society bylaws.

As SWE continues to develop our international expansion, we also need to make sure international collegiate and professional affiliate groups are part of the organization’s structure. Additionally, SWE Next is a recent effort during the last 2 years to more formally engage the K-12 population and promote STEM education efforts. SWENexters can form SWENext Clubs to affiliate with SWE which are another new aspect of the organization’s structure.

**Pro:**  
 The proposed language will update the bylaws to cover the existing SWE structure and allow for flexibility as the society continues to develop new ways to reach out to stakeholders, underserved membership populations, and expand internationally. The board of directors understands SWE’s competitive and global markets and is poised to monitor these groups with support from SWE-HQs engagement services team.

The intent of this update is in alignment with the current strategic plan to ensure that other groups are formed that support the Society’s purposes:

- Professional Excellence: SWE will develop women engineers at all stages of their personal and professional lives.
- Globalization: SWE will be recognized as a global, inclusive organization, promoting diversity and inclusion and serving women engineers wherever they are.
- Advocacy: SWE will advocate for the inclusion and success of women, present and prospective, in engineering and technology.

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**Con:**

Potential dilution of SWE's brand if too many entities are approved.  
No clear checks and balances on the creation and management of these groups.

**Bylaws Committee Comments:**

None