

Proposal to Amend Society of Women Engineers Bylaws

Proposal #	Description	Article	Section	Proposed by
S-2102	<p>Amend Article VI, by removing references to SWE Counselors</p> <p>Amend Article VI, Section 1.C., by striking out the sentence “Collegiate sections must additionally have an elected counselor”; and</p> <p>In Section 1.D., striking out the section in its entirety.</p>	VI	1	<p><i>Genevieve Kane, Alina Bartley, Kelsey Harper, Brittany Wun, Nicole Woon, Megan Beck, Amanda Weissman, Kerrie Greenfelder, Libby Taylor, Heather Doty</i></p>

<u>Current Language:</u>	<u>Proposed Changes:</u>	<u>If Adopted:</u>
<p><u>ARTICLE VI – SECTIONS AND OTHER GROUPS</u></p> <p><u>Section 1. Sections</u></p> <p>C. In order to be in good standing, a section must have at least ten voting members in good standing and have filed its annual documents and officer lists. Collegiate sections must additionally have an elected counselor.</p> <p>D. A collegiate section shall elect a counselor for the section. The counselor shall be a member in good standing, eligible for professional membership in the Society. The counselor shall not be a member of that collegiate section.</p>	<p><u>ARTICLE VI – SECTIONS AND OTHER GROUPS</u></p> <p><u>Section 1. Sections</u></p> <p>C. In order to be in good standing, a section must have at least ten voting members in good standing and have filed its annual documents and officer lists. Collegiate sections must additionally have an elected counselor.</p> <p>D. A collegiate section shall elect a counselor for the section. The counselor shall be a member in good standing, eligible for professional membership in the Society. The counselor shall not be a member of that collegiate section.</p>	<p><u>ARTICLE VI – SECTIONS AND OTHER GROUPS</u></p> <p><u>Section 1. Sections</u></p> <p>C. In order to be in good standing, a section must have at least ten voting members in good standing and have filed its annual documents and officer lists.</p>

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Conforming Amendment:

Striking out Article VI Section 1.D. requires the renumbering of Article VI Section 1.E.

Rationale:

This amendment includes provisions that would remove the requirement of a SWE Counselor from the Society bylaws. This language would then be recommended to be added to Section Procedures. This was part of the Collegiate Engagement Taskforce Recommendation report out at the end of FY20, given the new governing document structure.

Currently, less than half of collegiate sections have a counselor, and the viability of this role with the increased required interaction of the Leadership Coaching Committee is being vetted and reviewed by the Counselor and Faculty Advisor Coordinator. This will also give flexibility for changes to the existing role if needed, as the information will be in the Section Procedures.

Pros:

Benefits of adoption of the proposed amendment include:

- Allow for information about the counselor / faculty advisor roles to be in the most visible procedure documents for the section, enabling increased awareness of the roles
- With the intent of our changes to governing documents last year, this allows the sections more flexibility to self-govern, and choose the appropriate roles within SWE to assist their section (be it a Faculty Advisor, Counselor, LCC coach, etc.)
- Annual election of a Counselor is currently not enforced in the determination of a section's good standing. Removal of a provision that is not currently being enforced eliminates the question of severability (legal basis for validity of a document in the event that an individual provision is unenforceable).

Cons:

The following items have been identified as potential risks and/or topics that will require education or action in the implementation plan:

- Need for a revision to the newly developed Section Management Manual that adds language for Counselors/ Faculty advisors.

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- Requires additional work from section in placing language in Section Procedures/Other Documentation.
- Sections may feel that a counselor / faculty advisor is beneficial to the section and **perceive** this change as removing an existing benefit.