

Proposed SWE-SNH Section Bylaws Change Description

The Society Bylaws have been updated to reflect the governance changes the SWE Senate passed at WE17. As of July 1, 2018 (FY19) SWE no longer has regions. This has created cascading changes for section bylaws that require review and adoption by our section. Specifically this eliminates the need for Section Representative (and alternate) who served on the Region Council.

At the same time, the SWE-SNH Executive Council (EC) has proposed to make further changes to the SWE-SNH bylaws that will essentially bring them into compliance with Standardized Section bylaws. By adopting standard bylaws it reduces maintenance since the standard bylaws are administered by the Society so changes affecting the standard bylaws are automatically incorporated without the Section having to revisit our bylaws.

SWE-SNH proposes to adopt the new standard section bylaws.

Explanation:

When SWE-SNH was chartered the section leadership felt the modifications made to the standard were in our best interest. Over the last 10 years that position has changed. The required change as well as proposed changes are as follows:

1. Eliminate the officer positions of Section representative and associated alternate.
2. Eliminate the elected officer positions of 2nd VP of Programs and 3rd VP of Outreach.
3. Revert nomination process to standard procedure.
4. Miscellaneous changes to comply with current standard bylaws.

Below are the specific changes and associated discussion:

1. Remove all references to Section representative and alternate section representative from the bylaws.

Discussion: Society mandate.

2. Remove all references to 2nd VP of Programs and 3rd VP of Outreach from the bylaws.

Discussion: SWE-SNH has struggled to fill these positions in recent years, and they have often been left vacant. These were never Society designated officers, but were positions SWE-SNH chose to adopt when chartering. The EC has determined section governance can be more flexible if these functions are handled by committee.

3. Adopt nominating committee as standard procedure for choosing candidates for office.

Discussion: The current format tasks the EC with soliciting candidates for all officer positions. The ballot process, including the receipt and vote count was tasked to a Teller's committee selected by the EC. This method was seen as simpler given our small section size and larger EC at time of charter. It does however, carry risk of bias. Whereas the conventional nominating committee process eliminates these issues (see bylaws for details). The Society bylaws committee has recommended this change.

4. Miscellaneous changes to comply with current standard section bylaws.
 - a. Fifteen (instead of ten) voting members or thirty percent of the voting members of the section, whichever is less, shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of the business of the section. Note: for the purpose of the FY19 officer election and the bylaws adoption, the ten voting member quorum remains in effect until the new bylaws are authorized.
 - b. Add the following under Officer Eligibility:
The president and vice president must also be non-collegiate members of the Society. Collegiate members who will be assigned to the section may be candidates for positions other than president or vice president provided they will be members of the section and will qualify for professional membership before the start of the term of office; however, they must meet these requirements in order to serve.
 - c. A vacancy in the office of a vice president, secretary, or treasurer must be filled by election by the executive council. This eliminates the option to assign the responsibilities of the position to the remaining council members, since now there would only be three elected officers.
 - d. Parliamentary authority will be as specified in the Society bylaws (instead of the tenth edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*).

Discussion: If we wish any of these to remain the same we will not be able to adopt the standard bylaw and will have to submit Modified section bylaws which must be authorized by the Society Bylaws committee. And there is no guarantee they will be. Also, any future Society mandated changes will have to be adopted by the section.

The Proposed SWE-SNH Standard Section Bylaws are included in this correspondence. The current SWE-SNH bylaws are available on the SWE-SNH website.

Submit any questions to officers@swesnh.org