

Proposal to Amend SWE Bylaws

Proposal #	Title	Article	Section	Proposed by
S-1611	Vacancies	IV	2.C.2.c. 8.A. 8.B. 8.C.	Cherie Cain, Heather Bernardin, Stephanie DeCotiis, Natalie Vanderspiegel, Jessica Messick, Artemis Agelaridou

<p><u>Current Language:</u> <i>Article IV, Section 2.C.2.c.:</i> Fill a vacancy in the office of director of regions for the remainder of the term. A vacancy in the deputy director of regions position shall be filled by the senate within sixty days of the vacancy.</p>	<p><u>Proposed Changes:</u> <i>Article IV, Section 2.C.2.c.:</i> Fill a vacancy in the office of director of regions for the remainder of the term. A vacancy in the deputy director of regions position shall be filled by the <u>membership</u>. senate within sixty days of the vacancy.</p>	<p><u>If Adopted:</u> <i>Article IV, Section 2.C.2.c.:</i> Fill a vacancy in the office of director of regions for the remainder of the term. A vacancy in the deputy director of regions position shall be filled by the membership within sixty days of the vacancy.</p>
<p><i>Article IV, Section 8.A:</i> A vacancy in the office of president shall be filled by the president elect for the remainder of the term, followed by one full term as president, provided that the president elect was elected to that office by the general membership. A president elect elected by the senate to fill a vacancy shall only assume the presidency for the remainder of the term. In such a case, the ballots for the next election will include an election for both president and president elect.</p>	<p><i>Article IV, Section 8.A:</i> A vacancy in the office of president shall be filled by the president elect for the remainder of the term, followed by one full term as president, provided that the president elect was elected to that office by the general membership. A president elect elected by the senate to fill a vacancy shall only assume the presidency for the remainder of the term. In such a case, the ballots for the next election will include an election for both president and president elect.</p>	<p><i>Article IV, Section 8.A:</i> A vacancy in the office of president shall be filled by the president elect for the remainder of the term, followed by one full term as president.</p>
<p><i>Article IV, Section 8.B:</i> A vacancy in the office of president elect shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the senate within sixty days of the vacancy. A person filling a vacancy as president elect shall not automatically become president, but shall be eligible to be a candidate for president or president elect for the following fiscal year, regardless of the amount of time served while filling the vacancy.</p>	<p><i>Article IV, Section 8.B:</i> A vacancy in the office of president elect shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the <u>membership</u> senate within sixty days of the vacancy. A person filling a vacancy as president elect shall not automatically become president, but shall be eligible to be a candidate for president or president elect for the following fiscal year, regardless of the amount of time served while filling the vacancy.</p>	<p><i>Article IV, Section 8.B:</i> A vacancy in the office of president elect shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the membership within sixty days of the vacancy.</p>
<p><i>Article IV, Section 8.C.:</i> A vacancy in any other member-elected board position shall be filled by the senate within sixty days of the vacancy.</p>	<p><i>Article IV, Section 8.C.:</i> A vacancy in any other member-elected board position shall be filled by <u>the membership</u> the senate within sixty days of the vacancy.</p>	<p><i>Article IV, Section 8.C.:</i> A vacancy in any other member-elected board position shall be filled by the membership within sixty days of the vacancy.</p>

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Rationale:

The governance subgroups have each been tasked with identifying areas in the bylaws that can be amended during FY16. The proposed governance structure doesn't include the senate as it is today. A new Strategic Advisory Board would be created to take on the strategic responsibilities of the current Senate and related committees. This change is one step in our governance re-alignment that will better align roles and responsibilities to the correct organizations.

The Nominating Committee already has a process laid out for vetting and slating candidates. In the past, when the Senate has needed to take on this role of vetting and voting to fill a vacancy, they have to work on a compressed timeline, with less information than the nominating committee may already have. The Society is also moving away from snail mail ballot information. This process improvement will be cheaper and help align the traditional election process with filling a vacancy, making it easier for the entire membership to vote in a timely manner.

NOTE: The Deputy Speaker and the Senate Secretary are elected by the Senate. If this amendment passes, it will have no effect on how vacancies in those positions would be filled.

Pro:

The Nominating Committee currently vets candidates during the normal election process.
The membership already elects the board and should elect the person that would fill a vacancy.

Con:

There will be additional workload on the nominating committee that would be out of cycle from their normal process and has the potential for interfering with that process, depending on the timing.
There will be a cost in doing a full ballot of the membership.

Action Items:

The slate will be prepared by the Nominating Committee. The Senate Procedures and the Election Manual will have to be updated to reflect the process change.

Bylaws Committee Comments:

The bylaws committee has concerns about whether this process can be completed in a timely manner, considering that vacancies must be filled within sixty days. The bylaws committee recommends rejection of this proposal, and least while the senate still exists.