



**Society of Women Engineers  
FY19 Senate  
Motion Submission Form**

<b>Date:</b>	July 20, 2018	<b>Item #:</b>	S-1902
<b>Title:</b>	FY19 Special Senator		
<b>Description:</b>	Election of Dhanu Thiyagarajan as Special Senator to FY19 Senate		
<b>Motion Maker:</b>	Kate Hull	<b>Second:</b>	Gail Dyer

**DISCUSSION PRO**

By authority of the bylaws, I nominate Dhanu Thiyagarajan as a Special Senator for FY19. Up to three (3) Special Senators can be nominated by the Speaker and elected by the Senate to serve for one fiscal year or remainder thereof.

The FY19 Senate currently lacks a collegiate voice and perspective. In addition, the FY19 Senate has been tasked with having a sub-team focus on collegiate engagement this year. Accordingly, it is important for the FY19 Senate to have a collegiate member on the team to ensure we have the appropriate voice and perspective to perform this work.

Dhanu has been a member of SWE since 2011 and has held numerous leadership positions within the Society including Section President and Collegiate Senator. As Collegiate Senator, Dhanu submitted Motion S-1809 Collegiate Section Counselors to increase the number of leadership opportunities for collegiate members and allow collegiate sections a bigger pool of candidates to better suit individual section needs. Dhanu also assisted in finalizing the Senate communications recommendations that will be implemented in FY19. Her knowledge of SWE, previous leadership experience and collegiate perspective will be a huge value to the Senate as we look into collegiate engagement this year.

Please find enclosed Dhanu’s biography.

**DISCUSSION CON**

None

**BUDGET IMPACT**

Negligible – included in Senate budget

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**ACTION ITEMS**

N/A



I joined SWE in 2011 during my first bioengineering project, where I was at a disadvantage due to my gender. I wanted to change this. SWE provided me the support and avenue to do that.

As President of Pitt SWE, my goal was to form Pitt SWE as a strong-knit, sustainable community. One example of how I worked to accomplish this was by improving the officer structure and partnering a few officers with each board member. This allowed for small group meetings to ensure everybody's voices are heard as I am a strong believer in a good leader hearing their constituents and using their voice as a focus. This and other experiences cumulated in SWE recognizing me as an Outstanding Collegiate Member at WE15.

As FY18 collegiate senator, I significantly utilized and improved my communication skills, which is also important to a good leader, to become the motion maker for S-1809: Collegiate Section Counselors. To pursue this endeavor, I talked to members to learn about their vision for the society, recognized a common concern, and hosted discussions to determine a possible solution.

I continually expand upon and utilize my leadership, communication, and strategic planning skills to provide other SWE members the same support that I receive. As a collegiate, it can be difficult to understand how SWE works as a society. I want to work to bridge the gap between the society and collegiates and ensure that the society understands the strength and passion that collegiates have.

The basis of my leadership style is being inclusive and promoting open communication to ensure that members feel valued allowing for effective discussion of important topics and determination of the best solution. It is crucial that collegiates are increasingly involved at the societal level, so that our voices are always heard and help to shape the future of SWE.