

Society of Women Engineers FY17 Senate Motion Submission Form

Date:	1/28/17	Item #: S1717	
Title:	Endorsement of Proposed Governance Changes		
Description:	Motion for Senate to endorse proposed changes in principle		
Motion Maker:	Pearl Yamaguchi, Dayna Johnson, Sandi Pettit	Second:	Jonna Gerken

The SWE senate hereby endorses the cohesive & integrated plan as presented which includes the following goals, and directs the governance task force to work with the bylaws committee to bring amendments to the next in-person senate meeting to enact them:

- Collegiates shall be granted full voting rights in SWE;
- Terms for senate members shall become three years;
- All nominations and elections shall be competency-based without regard for geographic location;
- Regions shall be dissolved by end of FY18; and
- Selection of the nominating committee shall be on the basis of competency without regard for geographic location.

DISCUSSION PRO

In FY14 SWE began efforts to determine the ideal governance structure and volunteer service model to support the organization's growth and globalization goals and to maximize member involvement. A number of SWE leaders and stakeholders have been involved in benchmarking, discussion and feedback over the past three years, and in FY17 the Governance Task Force was established.

Following up on prior efforts, the Task Force has developed a plan to move the Society toward the desired goals to:

- Create more meaningful SWE leadership opportunities
- Remove geographic barriers/dissolve region boundaries by end of FY18
 - Expanding member segments
 - Align with how members communicate
- Transition the work of the senate to focus on strategic planning
 - Move SPC to Senate by end of FY17
 - Transition to strategic council body in parallel with dissolution of regions
- Shift in section support
 - HQ, WELocal, "section support" committee(s)

In order to ensure the Senate is aligned with the work of the Governance Task Force through the end of FY17 and to minimize lack of clarity for our members, it is important to reach concurrence on a path forward. Approval of this motion will provide the clarity and alignment.

The actual work involved in drafting the bylaws amendments will be undertaken separately and presented in a future motion(s).

DISCUSSION CON

Some members believe regions have provided a solid leadership pipeline, sufficient avenues for communication and equitable geographic representation and this plan may not adequately address these areas.

BUDGET IMPACT

Region budgets – each region is developing a plan to dispose of their respective funds in accordance with SWE’s mission, by the end of FY18.

HQ budget – the impacts of additional HQ staffing have been considered in the Annual Strategic Plan Review and will be incorporated in the 3-year budget to be approved by the end of FY18.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff supports the proposed changes.

DECISION

ACTION ITEMS