

Proposal to Amend Bylaws

Proposal #	Title	Article	Section	Proposed by
S1809	Collegiate Section Counselors	VII	2.B.	Dhanalakshmi Thiyagarajan, Genevieve Kane, Sarah Watzman, Liberty Schmidt, Erica Stevens, Cassandra Zook, Madelyn Langin

<p><u>Current Language:</u></p> <p>The collegiate section shall elect a non-collegiate member in good standing of the Society as a counselor to the section. The counselor shall be considered a nonvoting member of the collegiate section.</p>	<p><u>Proposed Changes:</u></p> <p>The collegiate section shall elect a non-collegiate <u>counselor to the section. The counselor shall be a member in good standing, eligible for professional membership in</u> of the Society, as a counselor to the section. The counselor shall <u>not be a member of that collegiate section.</u> shall be considered a nonvoting member of the collegiate section.</p>	<p><u>If Adopted:</u></p> <p>The collegiate section shall elect a counselor to 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>
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<p><u>Rationale:</u></p> <p>This amendment would allow graduate students who are collegiate membership grade to be eligible to serve as collegiate section counselors.</p> <p><u>Discussion Pro:</u></p> <p>Currently, many collegiate sections struggle with their counselor for a variety of reasons, some of the most common being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They are unable to find a counselor, and a collegiate section must have a counselor to be in good standing. ● They have a counselor who is not in contact with them, and not actively engaged. ● They have a counselor who is not able to properly support the section because they felt obliged to take on this role for ‘good standing.’ <p>The motion allows for collegiate sections to have a bigger pool of possible counselors to choose from to better suit individual section needs to best thrive and support their collegiate membership. Counselors take on a more vital role for collegiate sections as the RCT (region collegiate team) will not be present effective July 2018, and an expanded pool of candidates will aide in this transition process as well.</p> <p>Recent graduates may be able to shed light to how collegiate sections function and would be able to provide more support to the operation of a collegiate section and help newer sections thrive and develop into more stable sections. Graduate students would also understand the time constraints of collegiate members and be able to promote society leadership in a more timely and appropriate manner to encourage collegiate to see the future of SWE, especially as a role model of how to stay involved past college. Graduate students will also have more opportunities to get involved with SWE and keep them engaged throughout their graduate school career.</p> <p>Each collegiate section is ultimately responsible to determine who has the best perspective, and experiences to best guide their sections’ needs. This motion would ultimately provide more options to collegiate sections for a supportive counselor.</p>
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It is noted that many of the cons presented are also items that would be a detriment to professional members that are beginning their career, so by opening this opportunity to graduate students, we would be providing equal member benefit across the society.

Discussion Con:

Some graduate students do not have industry experience, or connections to professional sections. For some sections, this will not be suitable because they are further developed and have several industry contacts, so they would need to determine if having someone without industry experience is in their best interest.

The statement, "The counselor shall not be a member of that collegiate section." is placed to ensure that there is no potential conflict of interest that can arise between the counselor and the section, so that counselors may freely express their opinions and provide proper guidance to the section. Additionally, any SWE member may only be a member of one section; and therefore, could not also be a member of the collegiate section for which they are a counselor.

Several concerns arose regarding responsibilities of counselors for sections in understanding what support could be expected from a counselor and for counselors to understand what support they should give. This is out of the scope of this motion and needs to be addressed as the role of counselor as a whole.

Bylaws Committee comments:

This change to the Society bylaws will require a change to the collegiate section template.