

**BYLAWS OF THE D023, LOWCOUNTRY SECTION
OF
THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS**

ARTICLE I – NAME AND OBJECTIVES**

Section 1. Name

The name of this organization shall be the D023, Lowcountry section (hereinafter called “the section”) of the Society of Women Engineers (hereinafter called “the Society” or “SWE”).

Section 2. Objectives

The section is an organizational unit whose purpose is to further the objectives of the Society.

Section 3. Powers

The section is empowered by the Society to pursue the objectives of the Society under these bylaws and in consonance with the Society bylaws.

Section 4. Non-discrimination

In accordance with the Society’s policies and purposes, the section shall not discriminate in connection with its membership and its services to the public at large.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Members

Members of the section are those members of the Society assigned to the section. All members of the section shall have the right to attend all in-person section and executive council meetings.

Section 2. Grades of Membership

Members shall have the same membership grade in the section as they have in the Society and voting privileges as specified in the Society bylaws.

Section 3. Business Meeting

A meeting of the general membership to conduct the business of the section may be called by the president, the executive council, or by a group of five percent or five of the voting members of the section, whichever is greater. At least thirty days written notice shall be provided to all members prior to such a business meeting.

Section 4. Quorum

Fifteen 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.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers**

The officers of the section are the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and section representative(s) as designated in the Society bylaws.

Section 2. Eligibility and Term of Office**

- A. The officers must be voting members of the Society and assigned to the section.
- B. Section officers shall serve for a term of one fiscal year, to coincide with the Society's fiscal year.
- C. Officers may hold more than one office provided that there is a minimum of three elected officers of the section. No one may hold the office of president and treasurer at the same time.

Section 3. Duties**

- A. The president shall:
 - 1. Represent the section before the public and preside at meetings of the section and its executive council;
 - 2. Appoint the chairs of all committees, with the approval of the executive council, except the chair of the nominating committee;
 - 3. Approve the appointment of all committee members, except the members of the nominating committee;
 - 4. Authorize the disbursement of section funds within the budget approved by the executive council;
 - 5. Be an authorized signatory on all section accounts;
 - 6. Coordinate activities and execute the business and policies of the section between meetings;
 - 7. Review and approve the year-end section financial report;
 - 8. Provide oversight and guidance to the committee chairs as assigned, and
 - 9. Perform other duties normally associated with the office of president or as may be assigned by the executive council or the governance documents.
- B. The vice president shall:
 - 1. Assume the duties of the president if the president is temporarily unable to serve;
 - 2. Provide oversight and guidance to the committee chairs as assigned; and
 - 3. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the president, the executive council, or the governance documents.
- C. The secretary shall:
 - 1. Maintain the records of the section;
 - 2. Provide oversight and guidance to the committee chairs as assigned; and

- 90 3. Perform other duties normally associated with the office of secretary or as may
91 be assigned by the president, the executive council, or the governance
92 documents.
93

94 D. The treasurer shall:

- 95 1. Be responsible for the collection, distribution, and safekeeping of section funds;
96 2. Prepare, maintain, and report as directed on the financial position of the section
97 in relation to the approved budget;
98 3. Submit a financial report to the Society in accordance with established
99 procedures;
100 4. Provide oversight and guidance to the committee chairs as assigned; and
101 5. Perform other duties normally associated with the office of treasurer or as may
102 be assigned by the president, the executive council, or the governance
103 documents.
104

105 E. The section representative(s) shall

- 106 1. Perform those duties expected of them as described the region governance
107 documents; and
108 2. Perform other duties normally associated with the office of section representative
109 or as may be assigned by the president, the executive council, or the governance
110 documents.
111

112 Section 4. Nomination and Election

- 113 A. The executive council shall elect at least two members to serve on the nominating
114 committee. The nominating committee shall select its own chair, who must be a
115 voting member of the Society but does not need to have been elected to the
116 committee by the executive council.
117

- 118 B. Members of the nominating committee may not become candidates during their
119 tenure of service on the nominating committee.

- 120 C. The nominating committee shall propose at least one qualified candidate for each of
121 the officer positions. The slate shall be presented to the members of the section by
122 mail, electronic mail, or posting on the section web site by April 15 of each year.
123

- 124 D. Additional candidates may be nominated by petition, provided that:

- 125 1. The member is eligible for the position;
126 2. The member has given written consent to being placed on the ballot;
127 3. A minimum of two percent or five of the voting members of the section,
128 whichever is greater, have signed a petition or endorsed an email to place the
129 candidate's name on the ballot; and
130 4. The petition, together with the written consent, is submitted to the chair of the
131 nominating committee by April 30 or fifteen days after the slate is announced to
132 the members of the section, whichever is later.
133

- 134 E. The chair of the nominating committee shall arrange for the distribution of ballots to
135 occur at least twenty-one days prior to the required return date for the vote. Voting
136 may be by mail, electronic mail or web-based provided that mail ballots are sent to
137 those without electronic access. The chair of the nominating committee shall select
138 a tellers committee to receive and count the votes, and to report the results to the
139 president.
140
141 F. The voting members of the section shall elect the section officers.
142
143 G. A plurality shall elect for each office. Write-in votes for eligible candidates shall be
144 allowed. In the event of a tie, the election for that position shall be determined by lot,
145 conducted by the chair of the nominating committee.
146

147 Section 5. Alternate Section Representative(s)**

- 148 A. Alternate section representatives may be elected during the officer election process.
149
150 B. The executive council may elect alternate(s) for the purpose of attending a region
151 council meeting if the section representative(s) or alternate(s) cannot attend.
152
153 C. All alternates shall be designated in the order in which they will be called to serve,
154 with alternates elected by the membership serving before those selected in any
155 other manner.
156
157 D. Alternate section representatives must meet the same eligibility requirements as
158 section representatives.
159

160 Section 6. Vacancies

- 161 A. A vacancy in the office of president shall be filled by the vice president for the
162 remainder of the term.
163
164 B. A vacancy in the office of vice president, secretary, or treasurer shall be filled by
165 election by the executive council
166
167 C. A vacancy in the office of section representative shall be filled by the next available
168 alternate section representative. If there is no available alternate section
169 representative, the executive council may elect an alternate to fill the vacancy.
170

171 **ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

172 Section 1 Composition

173 The governing body of the section shall be the executive council. The officers of the
174 section shall constitute the executive council. An individual holding more than one
175 position on the executive council has only one vote and counts as a single person for
176 the purpose of a quorum.
177

178 Section 2. Duties

179 The executive council shall:

- 180 1. Transact the business of the section;
- 181 2. Implement section policies as determined by the membership;
- 182 3. Elect the members of the nominating committee;
- 183 4. Approve the appointment of all committee chairs, except the chair of the
- 184 nominating committee;
- 185 5. Ensure that the section is represented at region council meetings; and
- 186 6. Approve the section budget and authorize expenditures not included in the
- 187 approved budget.

188
189 Section 3. Conducting Business

- 190 A. The executive council shall meet regularly to conduct the business of the section
- 191 upon the call of the section president or by written petition of at least one-third of the
- 192 voting members of the executive council.
- 193
- 194 B. Unless otherwise restricted by law or these bylaws, the executive council may also
- 195 conduct business by telephone, mail, electronic mail, fax, or other electronic devices.
- 196

197 Section 4. Quorum

- 198 A. A quorum shall be a majority of the members of the executive council then in office,
- 199 but not less than three, one of whom is the president, vice president, or section
- 200 representative.
- 201
- 202 B. No member of the executive council may vote by proxy.
- 203

204 Section 5. Removal

205 Any officer may be removed for cause by a vote of two-thirds of the voting members of

206 the section responding to a recall ballot, provided that votes have been received from at

207 least the number of members required for a quorum. Such removal shall be effective

208 immediately upon the recording of such vote. Removal procedures not covered by law

209 or these bylaws shall be developed and approved by the executive council.

210

211 **ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES**

- 212 A. The executive council may establish committees as the need arises.
- 213
- 214 B. The chairs of the committees shall be appointed by the president. The members of
- 215 the committees shall be appointed by the chair of the committee with the approval of
- 216 the president.
- 217
- 218 C. The executive council shall prepare a description of the duties and reporting
- 219 relationships of each committee.
- 220

- 221 D. Each committee chair shall present a status report to the membership when
222 requested by the executive council contact. Each committee chair shall also prepare
223 an annual report providing input to the section representative for the section's final
224 report to the Society.
225

226 **ARTICLE VI – DISSOLUTION****

227 In the event of dissolution, the assets of the section shall be first used to pay any
228 remaining debts, after which any remaining funds shall be disbursed to SWE regions,
229 SWE sections, the SWE members at large organization, the Society, or SWE
230 endowment funds as recommended by the section's executive council and approved by
231 the SWE board of directors.
232

233 **ARTICLE VII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY****

234 The rules contained in the parliamentary authority specified in the Society bylaws shall
235 govern this section in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not
236 inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the section may adopt.
237

238 **ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENT****

- 239 A. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and
240 voting at a meeting or of the ballots received prior to the stated deadline.
241 B. Amendments may be proposed by a majority of the executive council or five voting
242 members of the section. All proposed amendments must be submitted to the
243 secretary.
244 C. Written notice, delivered either by mail or electronically, must be given to all
245 members of the section at least thirty days prior to the date of the meeting or the
246 specified date for voting to be completed.
247 D. 1Amendments adopted by the section shall be sent to the Society secretary
248 according to established procedures, and shall become effective after approved by
249 the Society secretary.
250 E. Required sections are marked with a double asterisk (**) and conform to the
251 professional section bylaws template. Changes to these sections of the professional
252 section bylaws template shall become part of these bylaws upon approval of the
253 Society. The section secretary shall incorporate such changes into the section
254 bylaws and forward the updated bylaws to the Society secretary within six months of
255 notification of the change to the section bylaws template.
256