

Proposal to Amend Society of Women Engineers Bylaws

Proposal #	Description	Article	Section	Proposed by
S-2108	Amend Article II Section 1 - Grades of Membership to Remove Corporate Membership Grade Amend by striking out paragraph F in its entirety.	II	1	<i>Alison Bergmann, Kristine Barnes, Stephanie Loete, Lisa Rimpf, Heather Wiest</i>

<u>Current Language:</u>	<u>Proposed Changes:</u>	<u>If Adopted:</u>
<p><u>ARTICLE II – MEMBERS</u> <u>Section 1. Grades of Membership</u></p> <p>F. Corporate</p> <p>An organization shall be eligible for corporate membership in the Society upon payment of annual dues, provided that criteria as established by the board of directors are met.</p>	<p><u>ARTICLE II – MEMBERS</u> <u>Section 1. Grades of Membership</u></p> <p>F. Corporate</p> <p>An organization shall be eligible for corporate membership in the Society upon payment of annual dues, provided that criteria as established by the board of directors are met.</p>	<p><u>ARTICLE II – MEMBERS</u> <u>Section 1. Grades of Membership</u></p>

Conforming Amendment:

In Article II, Section 1.E.1.b., amend by striking out “corporate member.”

Rationale:

Per DC Code § 29–401.02., “Member” means: A person that has the right, in accordance with the articles of incorporation or bylaws, and not as a delegate, to select or vote for the election of directors or delegates or to vote for any type of fundamental transaction...”

The term “Corporate Membership” is used to describe a membership grade in the bylaws, as a partnership level with SWE, and in the Corporate Partnership Council.

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Corporate Membership as stated in the bylaws is a membership grade for organizations, which indicates full membership rights including voting. This grade is not reflective of SWE's current operating structure and is not the desired state of operation for the Society. Per SWE headquarters, corporate entities do not receive ballots to vote in SWE elections, only individual SWE members do. A partnering corporation's employees who are SWE members are able to vote in SWE elections as individual members.

Members whose dues are sponsored by corporate entities that participate in Employee Sponsored Membership (ESM) or corporate partnerships receive individual SWE memberships. These employees can register to be Professional, Collegiate, or Associate SWE members. These employees do not receive a Corporate Membership member grade.

Removal of the Corporate Membership Grade from the bylaws will align with current membership practices and will not remove the Corporate Partnership Council or affect any existing partnership levels. This amendment will remove all references to Corporate Membership from the bylaws.

Pros:

Benefits of adoption of the proposed amendment include:

- By removing the Corporate Membership Grade, the Membership Grades will reflect the current grades available to SWE members. The bylaws would only provide membership for individual people and not corporate entities.
- It would reduce confusion between the various uses of the term Corporate Membership within the Society

Cons:

The following items have been identified as potential risks and/or topics that will require education or action in the implementation plan:

- Additional work and clear messaging will be required to avoid the perception that removing the Corporate Membership Grade would eliminate the Corporate Membership partnership and/or Corporate Partnership Council.