

## Resolutions before the 2014 Annual Assembly of Delegates

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1	Constitutional change: a. Notice to chapters of bylaws change from 30 to 15 days b. Response period where chapters may offer objection to bylaws change from 90 to 45 days	2-3
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## Item 1 - Constitutional amendment changing notice/response times for bylaws changes

Justification: Because we now have the ability to nearly instantaneously deliver documents, the previous notice/response requirements for posting and objecting to bylaws changes based on the communication standards that existed far in the past are not necessary for the smooth functioning of the Society. Further, they can serve to limit the business that comes before the Assembly in a timely way. To address this, the Board recommends the following change to the Constitution.

Current language:

237. ARTICLE VII. **Bylaws**

238. Bylaws as necessary for the proper governance of the Society may be  
239. enacted or modified by the vote of two-thirds of the members of the  
240. Board of Directors entitled to vote, to become operative not less than  
241. 90 days after adoption provided that such Bylaws do not in any way  
242. modify or conflict with this Constitution and that each chapter shall  
243. have been advised of the amendment to the Bylaws within 30 days  
244. after its adoption, and further provided that, if more than one chapter  
245. shall object in writing to the Executive Director within 90 days after  
246. its adoption, said amendment shall be held in abeyance until the next  
247. Assembly of Delegates, at which time a majority vote of the  
248. Assembly of Delegates shall be required for its adoption and for it to  
249. become immediately operational. Bylaws, or amendments to  
250. existing Bylaws, that are required as a consequence of changes in the  
251. Constitution may be enacted by a majority vote of the Assembly of  
252. Delegates at the time that the change in the Constitution is approved  
253. by the Assembly. The proposed changes in the Bylaws shall have  
254. received prior consideration by the Board of Directors and shall be  
255. presented to the chapters with the relevant proposed amendment to  
256. the Constitution, in the manner prescribed in Article VI.

Revised language:

237. ARTICLE VII. **Bylaws**

238. Bylaws as necessary for the proper governance of the Society may be  
239. enacted or modified by the vote of two-thirds of the members of the  
240. Board of Directors entitled to vote, to become operative not less than  
241. 90 days after adoption provided that such Bylaws do not in any way  
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243. have been advised of the amendment to the Bylaws within 15 days  
244. after its adoption, and further provided that, if more than one chapter  
245. shall object in writing to the Executive Director within 45 days after  
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254. received prior consideration by the Board of Directors and shall be  
255. presented to the chapters with the relevant proposed amendment to  
256. the Constitution, in the manner prescribed in Article VI.

**Item 2 - Amend the Bylaws of the Society regarding a policy on removal of directors, officers, or members.**

*Whereas*, The mission of Sigma Xi includes the statement to foster integrity in science and engineering and

*Whereas*, The members of the Society are tasked with protecting the image and brand of the organization and members have requested this change; now therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Assembly of Delegates approve the following change to Bylaw II, Section 7, Subsection D of the Bylaws of the Society.

In November of 2012 the Sigma Xi Board of Directors approved a change to the bylaws related to a policy on removal of Directors, Officers, and members. This additional section in the bylaws was requested by a member because of all the news about scientific misconduct. They thought we should be able to purge members who display such misconduct, or who are (to take it out of science) otherwise badly reflecting on Sigma Xi (let's say, as an extreme example, someone convicted of child molestation). Scientific misconduct continues to be problematic for the profession and impacts public trust. The mission of Sigma Xi states that the organization will foster integrity in research. The Board of Directors discussed this issue and agreed that Sigma Xi should have a procedure where serious misconduct could be addressed as related to membership in Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society and to protect the brand. The bylaw change was posted for chapters to object. Two chapters did oppose the change of inserting this change to the bylaws. This is now before the next Assembly of Delegates (November, 9, 2013) for a vote.

The Board of Directors encourages support for the insertion in the bylaws the following section:

Bylaw II. Section 7-D

114. **D. Policy on removal of Directors, Officers, or members.**

115. Directors, Officers, or members can be dismissed for cause in

116. accordance with policy set by the Board of Directors. Changes in

117. policy will be communicated to the chapters for a comment period of

118. not less than 30 days. After the comment period the changes may be

119. revised for a new comment period. Should fifteen (15) or more

120. chapters object to a policy change in writing and objections cannot

121. be resolved in a new comment period, the policy change will be held

122. in abeyance until the next Assembly of Delegates where it will be

123. presented for vote. Otherwise the policy change will be

124. implemented upon the close of the comment period.

### **Item 3 - Policy change in good standing requirement to require chapters to submit chapter bylaws and submit an annual chapter treasurer's report**

#### **Text as submitted:**

The Committee on Qualifications and Membership adopted changes (additions) to the policy on Chapters in Good Standing. Those changes are as follows [**noted in red**]:

#### *Good Standing of Chapters*

To remain in good standing, a chapter must:

(a) elect and initiate, via any mechanism open to the chapter, new Members and/or Associate Members on at least one occasion in two consecutive years, or, for chapters at non-academic institutions, provide a record satisfactory to the appropriate committee designated by the Board of either contributions to and involvement in improvement of mathematics and science education or the promotion of science or engineering to young people,

(b) file with the Executive Director an annual report on or about 1 July of each year, providing evidence that the chapter is contributing to the encouragement of scientific research, pure or applied, and is serving the other objectives of the Society,

**(c) file a Treasurer's Report on or about July 1 of each year, with the Annual Report, to ensure that funds from local dues and chapter support are being spent on chapter activities.**

**(d) submit a copy of the chapter by-laws with the Annual Report each year to the Society. Chapters must place the following line into the chapter by-laws:**

**If the chapter goes inactive and remains dormant over 5 years or dissolves, any funds the chapter possesses which were the direct result of local dues and chapter support will go back to the Sigma Xi the Scientific Research Society.**

(e) be represented at the Assembly of Delegates at least once every three years, and

(f) provide timely annual notification to the Executive Director of the officers of the chapter.

Officers of the chapter must be dues-paid active members. Should they lapse in dues payment, notice will be sent to them of their inability to serve until their dues are paid. Should no action be taken, notice will be sent to other officers in the chapter. If no officers are dues-paid, notice will be sent to the most recent past officers of the chapter who are dues-paid indicating that the chapter is no longer in good standing.

A chapter that does not fulfill these requirements is not eligible to receive local support payments or support for delegate travel to the Sigma Xi Annual Meeting.

**The policy would read:**

To remain in good standing, a chapter must:

(a) elect and initiate, via any mechanism open to the chapter, new Members and/or Associate Members on at least one occasion in two consecutive years, or, for chapters at non-academic institutions, provide a record satisfactory to the appropriate committee designated by the Board of either contributions to and involvement in improvement of mathematics and science education or the promotion of science or engineering to young people,

(b) file with the Executive Director an annual report on or about 1 July of each year, providing evidence that the chapter is contributing to the encouragement of scientific research, pure or applied, and is serving the other objectives of the Society,

(c) file a Treasurer's Report on or about July 1 of each year, with the Annual Report, to ensure that funds from local dues and chapter support are being spent on chapter activities.

(d) submit a copy of the chapter by-laws with the Annual Report each year to the Society. Chapters must place the following line into the chapter by-laws:

If the chapter goes inactive and remains dormant over 5 years or dissolves, any funds the chapter possesses which were the direct result of local dues and chapter support will go back to the Sigma Xi the Scientific Research Society.

(e) be represented at the Assembly of Delegates at least once every three years, and

(f) provide timely annual notification to the Executive Director of the officers of the chapter.

Officers of the chapter must be dues-paid active members. Should they lapse in dues payment, notice will be sent to them of their inability to serve until their dues are paid. Should no action be taken, notice will be sent to other officers in the chapter. If no officers are dues-paid, notice will be sent to the most recent past officers of the chapter who are dues-paid indicating that the chapter is no longer in good standing.

A chapter that does not fulfill these requirements is not eligible to receive local support payments or support for delegate travel to the Sigma Xi Annual Meeting.