

## **By-laws**

Some questions about the by-laws and my answers:

### *What constitutes the executive committee?*

The executive committee consists of:

1. Section officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer
2. Directors: Directors must have a specific function; they also must carry out some duties. People that show up to executive committee meetings and offer their opinions are not automatically Directors. I've proposed that the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster be director positions. The section operating manual lists numerous committees that a section can have; I've assumed that these can also constitute roles for directors. Directors can be thought of as committee chairs, though this is not strictly correct. The section committees listed in the operating manual are:

- Finance
- Programs
- College Relations
- Industry Relations
- Government Relations
- History and Heritage
- Membership
- Member Interests
- Professional Development
- Honors and Awards
- Public Information

Some of these committees do not cry out for a director. Because we elect a treasurer, for example, it doesn't make much sense to also have a finance director. There's also provision for a committee on minorities and women, but the section manual states that the section chair appoints the chair of the BMW committee, so this would not be a director role.

Directors have certain responsibilities and goals, and are expected to work to fulfill their responsibilities and achieve the goals.

3. Ex-officio members: The ex-officio members are technical chapter chairs and the immediate past chair of the section.

All members of the executive committee are elected. Ex-officio members are elected, or, in the case of the past chair, were previously elected, to their positions. Only the executive committee votes on administrative issues and proposals.

### *What is the program committee?*

The program committee is responsible for development and execution of monthly events. Each monthly event will have a responsible person, or program organizer. All program organizers are members of the program committee. Executive committee members can serve on the program committee, but membership on the program committee does not guarantee membership on the executive committee. Program committee members are not elected and do not vote on administrative issues and proposals.

Program committee membership is a typical first step towards section leadership and executive committee membership.

*What is the nominating committee?*

The nominating committee considers, recruits, and selects candidates for nomination to section executive committee roles. The section by-laws are written such that the nominating committee selects a single candidate for each position. The section vote is a ratification vote on the nominating committee's selections. The nominating committee consists of all past chairs who care to participate. The retiring past chair is the chair of the nominating committee. If the current chair is not retiring, the immediate past chair is the chair of the nominating committee. It is the responsibility of past chairs to declare their interest in serving on the nominating committee. It is not the responsibility of the retiring chair to "consult" with past chairs who do not declare their interest in serving. Past chairs should declare their intent to serve no earlier than March, and should do so in writing, though this can be left to the discretion of the nominating committee chair. Blanket declarations are not acceptable; a new declaration should be made each year.

*Why all these committees?*

We will have 3 committees. There can be many more. Three is about the minimum number that we can have to be organized at all.

*Why don't we have multiple candidates on the ballot?*

The by-laws were revised only slightly from the ASME boilerplate by-laws. All ASME leadership positions (President, Region VP, etc.) are filled by nominating committees and ratified by the membership. Members can submit a ballot but withhold their vote. If more than 50% of the voting membership does this, it signifies a vote of no confidence, and the nominating committee must try again. Realistically, we're not talking about positions of great power and influence here. The candidates are nominated to unpaid, and generally thankless, roles. Also, it's difficult enough to get a single candidate for most positions, let alone try to have a contentious election. Should the membership revolt, and dozens of activist members emerge from the woodwork, the by-laws will probably be re-written to allow multiple candidates.

*What is meant by "qualification of voters"?*

This is stated in the ASME constitution. I interpret the constitution to say that corporate members vote and non-corporate members do not.

C3.1.1 of the ASME Constitution states:

"The corporate membership shall consist of Honorary Members, Fellows and Members. The non-corporate membership shall consist of Affiliates and Student Members."

So, student members and affiliate members do not get to vote. This includes "student" members who are employed full-time as engineers but avoid full membership dues because they're enrolled somewhere as a student.

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*9Apr03*