

2025 AMENDMENTS: Renaming the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee to the Community, Opportunity, Outreach, Leadership (COOL) Committee.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGES:

In recent years, the Society has taken intentional steps to foster a more inclusive, respectful, and equitable environment for all members. This commitment remains steadfast. However, in light of evolving federal scrutiny and legal interpretations related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts—particularly those receiving government funding or engaging in regulated activities—the Bylaws Committee has undertaken a careful review of our governance language.

The proposed changes reflect a renaming of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to better align with current regulatory expectations while continuing to uphold the Society's core values of fairness, access, and respect. This update is intended to preserve the important work of this committee while ensuring our bylaws remain clear, compliant, and sustainable in the present environment.

We submit these proposed amendments in the spirit of adaptability and continued progress, affirming our belief that inclusive excellence benefits all members and strengthens the Society's mission.

Proposed Changes (Tracked): Insertions are underlined, ~~deletions are in strikethrough~~.

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Composition and Number of Committees

There shall be fourteen standing committees:

Awards, Ceremonies & Nominations Committee

Membership Committee

Bylaws Committee

Publications Committee

Finance Committee

Education and Professional Development Committee

Liaison Committee

Program Committee

President's Advisory Committee

Industrial Affairs Committee

Special Interest Group Committee

Audit Committee

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Community, Opportunity, Outreach and Leadership Committee

Section 2. Awards, Ceremonies & Nominations Committee

Composition: The number of members of the Awards, Ceremonies & Nominations Committee shall be six with four members being elected at the Annual General meeting from six or more nominations from the floor. The fifth voting member of the Committee will be appointed by the Chair of the ~~Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee~~ Community, Opportunity, Outreach and Leadership Committee. These committee members shall serve with the chairperson who shall be a past president and shall have been appointed by the President.

Additionally, the Committee shall include, in a non-voting capacity, one member from Clemson University, to advise on matters of Clemson awards. This member shall assure proper communication with the President of Clemson University.

Section 9. Program Committee

Duties: The Program Committee shall promote, review and select scientific and technical papers for presentation at meetings of the corporation.

Composition: The Chairperson of the Program Committee shall be appointed by the President. The number of members of the Program Committee shall be at least three and shall include the Special Interest Group Representative and a member appointed by the Chair of the ~~Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee~~ Community, Opportunity, Outreach and Leadership Committee.

Section 13. ~~Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee~~ Community, Opportunity, Outreach and Leadership Committee (COOL Committee)

Duties: The Community, Opportunity, Outreach and Leadership ~~Diversity, Equity & Inclusion~~ Committee shall consider, advise, and make recommendations to the Council that support the strategic objective to cultivate and promote a ~~diverse and~~ an inclusive Society community by increasing ~~access and opportunities for all members~~. The Committee will ensure that strategic objectives relating to ~~diversity, equity and inclusion~~ building a stronger community, and providing opportunities for engagement and leadership for all members are incorporated into the Society's governance structure, initiatives, awards, and programs.

Composition: The ~~Diversity, Equity & Inclusion~~ Community, Opportunity, Outreach and Leadership Committee shall consist of at least seven members, but no more than are necessary to accomplish the goals of the Committee, with the Vice Chairperson being appointed annually by the President. Such person will serve a three-year term, beginning as Vice Chairperson and then succeeding to the positions of Chairperson and Past Chairperson. One Committee member will be appointed by the Young Scientist Group Representative of the Education and Professional Development Committee, and three or more Committee members will be appointed by the Chairperson of the Committee.

The proposed amendments have been discussed by the members of the Bylaws Committee and the Board of Directors. The Bylaws Chair forwarded the proposed change to the five other active members of the Society for their signatures, shown below, and then to the Society office for distribution to the Society membership as instructed by Article XVI [Amendments to Bylaws].

In accordance with Article XVI [Amendments to Bylaws] of the Bylaws for the Society For Biomaterials, the following active members sign the proposed amendments shown above to bring this proposal to a vote via electronic ballot to be active between August 14th and August 30th, 2025.

SIGNATURE ON FILE AT SFB HEADQUARTERS

Joyce Wong, President

SIGNATURE ON FILE AT SFB HEADQUARTERS

Nicholas Ziats, Past President, Bylaws Committee

SIGNATURE ON FILE AT SFB HEADQUARTERS

Elizabeth Cosgriff Hernandez, Past President

SIGNATURE ON FILE AT SFB HEADQUARTERS

Timothy O'Shea, Bylaws Committee Chair

SIGNATURE ON FILE AT SFB HEADQUARTERS

Riccardo Gottardi, DEI Committee Chair

SIGNATURE ON FILE AT SFB HEADQUARTERS

L.D. Timmie Topoleski, President-Elect