

2026 AMENDMENTS: Proposed Change to the Composition of the Awards, Ceremonies & Nominations Committee

RATIONALE FOR CHANGES:

The rationale to change the process for voting of the composition of the Awards, Ceremonies & Nominations Committee stems from concerns of many members regarding the process of election of members of this Committee at the Annual Business Meeting at SFB each year. The current process is to have members at the Business Meeting propose nominations from the floor by approaching the microphone and announcing their selection. After the first six nominations are received, the ballot is closed, and no further nominations are allowed. The nominees (present or not) are then placed on the ballot and a paper ballot is used for voting. This ballot is distributed to each voting member prior to entering the Business Meeting to ensure appropriate voting privileges and votes tabulated by AH members. The four elected members are announced at the end of Business Meeting.

The concerns expressed by members have been that 1) unfair advantage is given to those that reach the microphone first, 2) that only the first six nominations are considered, 3) the nominees may or may not be present to accept the nomination, 4) there is no vetting of interest or qualifications of the nominee and 5) only those present at the Business Meeting vote, and this is not a consensus of the general membership and only for those present at the Business Meeting. This proposal hopes to ensure a more equal and fair approach to selection of this important Committee of SFB.

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

ARTICLE VIII - STANDING COMMITTEES

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 by voting prior to the Annual Business Meeting and announced at the Annual Business General Meeting from six or more nominations from the floor. The process shall be to solicit nominations and/or self-nominations from the SFB membership in line with the officer nominations deadline, followed by 1) approval from the nominee to serve on the Committee if not a self-nomination, and 2) a required written statement (150 word maximum) from the nominee as to their interest and qualifications in serving on this Committee. After all nominations have been submitted and received by SFB, they will then be reviewed for assurance of active membership and placed on a ballot with supporting documentation of interest/qualifications on serving on the committee and submitted for voting to general membership by electronic ballot. The top four voted nominations will then be submitted to the Council for final approval. No individual may serve on this Committee for two consecutive years, and committee members will not be permitted to nominate any individual for any award. The fifth voting member of the Committee will be appointed by the Chair of the 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 current SFB President. Additionally, the Committee shall include, in a non-voting capacity, one member from Clemson University, to advise on matters of the Clemson awards. This member shall assure proper communication with the President of Clemson University.

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 at the Annual Business Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia on March 27, 2026.

SIGNATURE ON FILE AT HEADQUARTERS

Joyce Wong, President

SIGNATURE ON FILE AT HEADQUARTERS

Nicholas Ziats, Past President, ACN Committee
Awards Ceremonies and Nominations Committee
and Bylaws Committee Member

SIGNATURE ON FILE AT HEADQUARTERS

Elizabeth Cosgriff Hernandez, L.D.
Past President
Awards Ceremonies and Nominations Committee Chair

SIGNATURE ON FILE AT HEADQUARTERS

Timothy O'Shea, Bylaws Committee Chair

SIGNATURE ON FILE AT HEADQUARTERS

Timmie Topoleski, President-Elect

SIGNATURE ON FILE AT HEADQUARTERS

William Wagner, PhD
Past President

2026 AMENDMENTS: Proposed Change to the Associate Member Category

RATIONALE FOR CHANGES:

Currently, SFB offers a \$120 annual Associate Post-Grad Membership—approximately a 44% reduction from Active membership—but eligibility is limited to recent graduates who are not employed or pursuing additional training in biomaterials. A review of peer organizations (AICHE, ACS, ASEE, ASME, BMES, ORS, MRS, and TERMIS) demonstrates that early-career or recent-graduate discounts are common and range broadly from 12% to 88%, with most societies providing tiered or time-based reductions for up to three to five years post-graduation. Notably, none of the societies mentioned condition discounted membership on unemployment status. To align SFB with prevailing professional society practices, reduce administrative ambiguity, and better support early-career engagement and retention, the Membership Committee recommends revising the Associate Post-Grad Membership as follows.

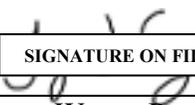
Proposed Changes (Tracked): Insertions are underlined, ~~deletions are in strikethrough~~.

Section 1. Classes of Members

Associate Members - Any full time student who is interested in the field of biomaterials shall be eligible to be an Associate Member. In addition, ~~any recent graduate, if not currently employed or pursuing additional training in the field of biomaterials, is eligible for Associate Membership.~~ Any graduate within 5 years of their terminal degree (e.g. BS, PhD) is eligible for Associate Post-Grad Membership regardless of employment or additional training status.

The proposed amendments have been discussed by the members of the Membership and Bylaws Committees. 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 at the Annual Business Meeting at the **Hyatt Regency Atlanta in Atlanta, Georgia** on March 27, 2026.


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Joyce Wong, President


SIGNATURE ON FILE AT HEADQUARTERS

Jenny Robinson, Membership Committee Chair


SIGNATURE ON FILE AT HEADQUARTERS

Gosia Chwatko, Membership Committee


SIGNATURE ON FILE AT HEADQUARTERS

Timothy O'Shea, Bylaws Committee Chair


SIGNATURE ON FILE AT HEADQUARTERS

Kyle Lampe, Membership Committee


SIGNATURE ON FILE AT HEADQUARTERS

Daniel Alge, Membership Committee