

GENERAL STRUCTURE:

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KEY TO DOCUMENT:

Variables are described in sans serif type within parentheses — e.g., (name of unit) — as are comments not intended to be part of the by-laws.

Optional sections/phrases are presented in *maroon italic*.

Variables and comments within optional sections are presented in *sans serif maroon italic*.

## BY-LAWS OF THE (NAME OF UNIT)

Adopted: (insert date)

Revised: *(insert date)*

### [A] NAME

The name of this unit shall be the (insert name) **Constituent Committee until such time as the unit is granted full division status, upon which the name shall become the (insert name) Division.**

### [B] OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this unit are identical with the objectives of the Society as set out in the ASEE Constitution, with an emphasis on those objectives that pertain to (insert description of unit's area of interest or name of engineering discipline). **Specifically, the unit shall:**

[1] *(describe a primary objective)*

[2] *(continue to describe specific objectives as needed/desired)*

### **[C] STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (Optional, Adapt as the unit sees fit)**

The <Insert Name of Unit> (Division /Section/Zone) is committed to fostering collaborative and inclusive environments that value equity and celebrate diversity. The <Insert Name of Unit> (Division/Section/Zone) commits to ensuring that we continually challenge ourselves to deepen and broaden our understanding of inequities, so that we are prepared to take action to transform our (Division/Section/Zone), ASEE, our institutions, universities, and the whole of the engineering community. More information can be found on [ASEE's Statement on Diversity and Inclusiveness](https://diversity.asee.org/about/) at <https://diversity.asee.org/about/> and the [ASEE SEFI Joint Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](https://diversity.asee.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ASEE-SEFI_DEIStatement.pdf). ([https://diversity.asee.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ASEE-SEFI\\_DEIStatement.pdf](https://diversity.asee.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ASEE-SEFI_DEIStatement.pdf))

### [D] MEMBERSHIP

The members of this unit shall be those members of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) who identify to ASEE their wish to be affiliated with the group each year **and who pay the division dues each year.** Dues shall be set by the members of the unit using the procedures indicated below in Section [X] for bylaws amendments. The dues shall be reported to ASEE Headquarters staff for implementation.

### [E] ORGANIZATION

The unit shall be administered by an Executive Committee composed of the Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Program Chair **and (list other members of the Exec Comm. by position title).**

The (insert either Chair or Chair-Elect) shall represent the unit on the Council Board of the Professional Interest Council to which the unit has been assigned by the Society.

### [F] OFFICERS

~~(Officer structure of divisions varies widely, depending on the size of the division and the variety of~~

**Division By-Laws Template, Accepted by Board, 6/2004 (Revised 1/2021)**

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activities in which it engages. A minimum-requirements group, which may be all that a new constituent committee either needs or can fill, is shown as standard. Other positions/functions in common use in existing divisions are shown as optional; in many divisions some of these optional functions are assigned as duties of "standard" officers (e.g., Past Chair serving as Nominations Chair). Other positions may be created by the unit for its specific needs. If a rotational sequence of positions is desired, e.g. Program Chair becomes Chair-Elect becomes Chair, it should be specified in this section. If re-election to a office that does not rotate to another position is to be specifically permitted or barred, such should be included in this section. Note that Secretary and Treasurer may be combined in one position of Secretary-Treasurer.)

[1] The unit's officers shall be:

Chair — serving a term of (insert term of office) and succeeding to the position of *(insert office)*

Chair-Elect — serving a term of (insert term of office) and succeeding to the position of *(insert office)*

Secretary — serving a term of (insert term of office) and succeeding to the position of *(insert office)* (may be combined with Treasurer)

Treasurer — serving a term of (insert term of office) and succeeding to the position of *(insert office)* (may be combined with Secretary)

Program Chair — serving a term of (insert term of office) and succeeding to the position of *(insert office)*

Director — *(insert number of directors)*, serving terms of *(insert term/schedule of office)*

Immediate Past Chair

Nominating Committee Chair — appointed by the Chair *(this is a required function, but optional as a separate officer position)*

Awards Committee Chair — appointed by the Chair *(this is a required function if the unit makes awards, but optional as a separate officer position)*

Membership Chair — appointed by the Chair *(this is a required function if the unit has a membership committee, but optional as a separate officer position)*

Newsletter Editor — appointed by the Executive Committee

Webmaster — appointed by the Executive Committee

Listserv Manager — appointed by the Executive Committee *(needed only if the unit maintains a proprietary listserv separate from the listserv maintained for the unit by the Society)*

Historian — appointed by the Executive Committee

[2] The Chair and other elected officers shall assume their duties at the close of the unit's business meeting conducted at the annual meeting of the Society. Appointed officers shall assume their duties upon appointment.

[3] In the event of the resignation or death of one of the members of the Executive Committee, the vacated office shall be filled for the duration of the unexpired term by a person to be appointed by vote of the Executive Committee, except that:

[a] in the event of the resignation or death of the Chair, the Chair-Elect shall take office as Chair immediately, serving out the duration of the unexpired term followed by the term to which he/she was elected;

[b] in the event of the resignation or death of the Chair Elect, a special election shall be conducted within 30 days to elect a new Chair Elect and the Executive Committee may, at its discretion, appoint a person to fulfill the duties of the Chair Elect until the position is filled by election;

[c] in the event of the resignation or death of the Immediate Past Chair, the vacated office shall not be filled for the duration of the unexpired term.

[G] DUTIES OF OFFICERS

(List here the specific duties of all the officer positions listed in the preceding section. For reference, typical duties of standard positions are described in the Council/Division Officers Operating Manual, which is available on the ASEE web site.)

[1] The CHAIR shall:

- Have administrative responsibility for the conduct of all functions of the unit in accordance with these by-laws and the policies and procedures established by the Executive Committee.
- Schedule, organize and conduct annual business meetings of the unit and all meetings of the Executive Committee.
- Appoint all standing committees authorized by these by-laws and special committees authorized by the Executive Committee.
- Compile an annual report of the activities of the unit as requested by the Secretary of the Society.
- Assure that official cash disbursement signatures are on file at Society headquarters and approve all expenditures of Society funds.
- *Any others desired...*

[2] The CHAIR-ELECT shall:

- Act for the Chair at business meetings and Executive Committee meetings in the event of the Chair's absence.
- Succeed the Chair upon completion of his/her term in office.
- Take office as Chair, as specified in [E-3-a] above, in the event of the resignation or death of the Chair before his/her term is completed.
- *Any others desired...*

[3] The PROGRAM CHAIR shall:

- Arrange and coordinate the unit's activities at the Society's annual meeting.
- Work with the Executive Committee to develop technical programs in accordance with the unit's objectives.
- Coordinate sessions within the time frame set by ASEE headquarters for inviting speakers, notifying headquarters of logistical needs, etc., as set forth in the "Program Chair Guidelines" available from the ASEE Conferences department.
- Work with ASEE Conferences department staff in the on-site management of sessions.
- *Any others as desired...*

[4] The TREASURER shall:

- Oversee and maintain the financial records of the unit and regularly report on financial status to the Executive Committee.
- Collect unit income, if any, and disburse monies authorized by the unit Chair.
- Keep records of all the unit's outstanding receivables and payables.
- Ensure that all the unit's financial activities conform to the standards and procedures set forth in the ASEE Financial Policy Manual, which is available from the ASEE Accounting department.
- *Any others as desired...*

[5] The SECRETARY shall:

- Record the minutes of Executive Committee meetings and the annual business meeting, and distribute copies of the minutes to appropriate unit and Society officers.
- Be responsible for the official records of the Executive Committee and the unit, and ensure that the files of the unit are passed along to his/her successor.
- Tabulate, verify, and communicate the results of unit elections and other ballots.
- Any others as desired...

[6] The DIRECTORS shall:

- Serve on the Executive Committee and, upon appointment, on such other standing and ad hoc committees as the unit may establish.
- Any others as desired...

[7] The IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR shall:

- Serve on the Executive Committee and, upon appointment, on such other standing and ad hoc committees as the unit may establish.
- Any others as desired...

[8] The NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR shall:

- Lead the Nominating Committee in developing the list of candidates for unit elections.
- Keep the Executive Committee informed about the activities and progress of the Nominating Committee
- Any others as desired...

[9] The AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR shall:

- Lead the Awards Selection Committee in selecting recipients of unit awards in accordance with the provisions of each award and the policies and procedures established for awards by the Executive Committee of the unit.
- Promptly communicate awardee selection and information to ASEE headquarters.
- Notify awardee and nominator of selection and of presentation details.
- Plan the presentation ceremony.
- Notify nominators whose nominees were not selected.
- Keep the Executive Committee informed about the activities and progress of the Awards Committee

Any others as desired...

[10] The MEMBERSHIP CHAIR shall:

- Work with the ASEE Membership Department to maximize recruitment and retention of members affiliated with the unit.
- Develop methods for getting unit members involved in unit activities.
- Keep the Executive Committee informed about the activities and accomplishments of the Membership Committee.
- Any others as desired...

[11] The NEWSLETTER EDITOR shall:

- Collect, evaluate, and edit material for periodic newsletters to the unit membership.
- Any others as desired...

[12] The WEBMASTER shall:

- Develop and maintain the unit's web site.
- Ensure that the unit web site adheres to the policies and standards of the Society as to privacy and all other internet issues.
- Any others as desired...

[13] The HISTORIAN shall:

- Keep, catalog, and transfer to his/her successor those unit documents that are not normally kept by the Secretary or/and Treasurer but are records of the activities and achievements of the unit and its members.
- Be responsible for filing the appropriate historical documents in the unit's paper or/and electronic archival library.
- Any others as desired...

[H] ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- [1] The Nominating Committee shall annually nominate two or more candidates for each elected office for which the term is due to expire at the next annual business meeting. Officers to be elected by vote of the unit members are Chair-Elect, Program Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and *(insert titles of other elected officers)*.
- [2] Additional nominations for any elective office may be made at the annual meeting by presentation of such nominations in writing with the signatures of at least (insert number) unit members who are present at the meeting. These additional nominees shall be voted on along with the nominees selected by the Nominating Committee.
- [3] Except in the case of a special election necessitated by the resignation or death of the Chair-Elect, as required in [E-3-b] above, election of officers shall be conducted by written ballot among those members of the unit actually present at the annual business meeting. Special elections may be conducted by e-mail, providing that those members of the unit who do not have e-mail addresses on record have the opportunity to vote by either mail or fax.

[I] COMMITTEES

- [1] The Executive Committee shall establish such standing and ad hoc committees as it deems necessary to carry out the activities of the unit.
- [2] At least (insert number) standing committees shall be maintained: the Nominating Committee and *(insert names of other committees, such as Awards Committee, Membership Committee, etc.)*.
- [3] The Nominating Committee consists of (specify make up of the committee and how the members, if not members by virtue of an elected position, are appointed to the committee). The unit Chair shall appoint one member of the committee to serve as Nominating Committee Chair (if the function is not assigned by by-law to one of the regular officers).
- [4] *The Awards Selection Committee consists of (specify make up of the committee and how the members, if not members by virtue of an elected position, are appointed to the committee). The unit Chair shall appoint one member of the committee to serve as Awards Committee Chair (if the function is not assigned by by-law to one of the regular officers).*
- [5] *(Continue to define standing committees of the unit as desired.)*

[J] MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

- [1] An annual business meeting of the unit shall be held during the annual conference of the Society. Those members present at the meeting shall constitute a quorum. The business meeting shall include at least:
  - [a] Reports from the incumbent officers on the unit's activities for the preceding year, membership, and finances.
  - [b] Election of officers for the following year.
  - [c] Presentation of unit awards, unless the unit schedules a separate function for that purpose.

- [2] The Executive Committee shall hold regular meetings during the annual conference of the Society and special meetings throughout the year as called by the Chair. Those members of the Executive Committee present at meetings of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- [3] The Executive Committee may establish such other activities as deemed desirable to promote the objectives of the unit.
- [4] All meetings of the unit are open to all interested persons. Only members of the Executive Committee, however, are eligible to vote on Executive Committee matters and only members of the unit are eligible to vote on unit-wide matters, including the election of officers.

[J] PUBLICATIONS

- [1] The unit shall produce and distribute such publications as the Executive Committee deems appropriate to promote the objectives of the unit.
- [2] In accordance with Article VIII of the ASEE Constitution, papers and discussions presented at meetings of ASEE and the councils or groups therein shall become the property of ASEE and may be published as ASEE series, miscellaneous or occasional publications if authorized by the Board of Directors or its delegated representative. The ASEE Board of Directors, through its delegated representative, may grant permission to publish such papers and discussions elsewhere on condition that ASEE receive proper credit or may waive any property right ASEE may have in the paper or discussion. Papers not accepted for publication shall be returned to the authors and shall no longer be considered the property of the Society.

[K] AMENDMENTS

- [3] Amendments to these by-laws may be made at the annual business meeting of the unit, or by mail, e-mail, or electronic ballot at any time during the year, upon affirmative vote by two-thirds of the members who vote. If e-mail/electronic balloting is used, those members who do not have e-mail addresses on their membership records shall be provided the opportunity to cast their vote by mail or fax. Only members of the unit may vote on proposed amendments to the by-laws.
- [4] Proposed amendments to these by-laws shall be prepared by a committee of (insert number) unit members appointed by the unit Chair. Proposed amendments shall be sent to the full membership of the unit by letter or in the publications of the unit not less than 30 days before they are to be voted upon. Proposed amendments may also be sent to members by e-mail, providing that they are also sent by mail to those members who do not have an e-mail address on their membership records.
- [5] Amendments approved by the division membership shall be submitted through the PIC (*insert appropriate PIC number*) Chair for approval by majority vote of the ASEE Board of Directors and shall take effect only upon such approval.
- [6] New division and national awards must be approved by the Awards Policy Committee (APC). Once approved by the APC, the award description shall be submitted through the PIC (*insert appropriate PIC number*) Chair for approval by majority vote of the ASEE Board of Directors and shall take effect upon approval.

[L] OTHER PROVISIONS

- [1] Any provision of these by-laws shall be deemed invalid if it contravenes the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society or of the Professional Interest Council (PIC) to which the unit belongs.
- [2] The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern this unit in all matters of parliamentary authority to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society and the By-Laws of this unit. In all other matters, the Constitution of the Society shall govern.