

2024 AES Bylaws Amendment Proposal Membership Explanation

In the following proposed amendments to the [AES Bylaws Revised 2023](#), where Bylaws text is shown, words and characters to be deleted are printed in ~~red strikethrough type~~, and the words to be added are printed in *red italics*.

Amendment Proposal One

Broaden the range of students qualifying for membership, simplify student membership application and notification of acceptance, and simplify text regarding maximum time limits of student membership and upgrade criteria.

Reasoning:

The Education Committee, in conjunction with the Membership Committee, is committed to making the path for entry to AES by students more open and intuitive. The proposed language will allow and encourage a wider group of students to apply for and engage with AES (including high school students and students of other related disciplines) while removing barriers for many potential student members. Where language is simplified, the intent remains unchanged while administration of sub-sections (c) (ii) and (c) (iii) can adapt to evolving technologies and practices.

Proposed amendment to Bylaws:

ARTICLE III Section 2.

(c): Student Members:

- (i) A student interested in audio engineering and enrolled in ~~an audio program at a school, college, or university~~ shall be eligible for appointment as a Student Member of the Society, and upon such appointment shall become eligible to the rights, privileges, and benefits thereof. A Student Member shall be eligible to vote in, to serve on committees of, and to hold office in, Student Sections and the Student Delegate Assembly, but shall not be entitled to nominate candidates for office or vote in the Society's elections, serve on a Standing Committee, or become a Director or Governor of the Society.
- (ii) Student Membership: Candidates for Student Membership shall ~~make submit an application in writing to the Society on such forms or electronically as shall be provided.~~ Upon acceptance, the candidate shall be ~~so~~ notified by ~~a representative of the Society AES Headquarters Office.~~ *make submit an application in writing to the Society on such forms or electronically as shall be provided.* Upon acceptance, the candidate shall be *so* notified by *a representative of the Society AES Headquarters Office.*
- (iii) ~~Students may retain their status as Student Members during absences from academic training that do not exceed one year in duration, but they may not continue in Student class for longer than one year following graduation or withdrawal from their educational institution. An active S student Member who remains in academic training is entitled to~~ may remain a Student Member for a maximum of *a ten* cumulative ~~maximum ten~~ years ~~in this class.~~ *After ten years Upon graduation, a Student Member shall have the opportunity to upgrade their membership depending on will be converted to a Member or Associate Member, at the prevailing fees, qualifications and experience, subject to payment of applicable fees and fulfillment of all other obligations of membership.*

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Proposed amended Bylaws text, clean

ARTICLE III Section 2.

(c): Student Members:

- (i) A student interested in audio engineering and enrolled in a school shall be eligible for appointment as a Student Member of the Society, and upon such appointment shall become eligible to the rights, privileges, and benefits thereof. A Student Member shall be eligible to vote in, to serve on committees of, and to hold office in, Student Sections and the Student Delegate Assembly, but shall not be entitled to nominate candidates for office or vote in the Society's elections, serve on a Standing Committee, or become a Director or Governor of the Society.
- (ii) Student Membership: Candidates for Student Membership shall submit an application to the Society. Upon acceptance, the candidate shall be notified by the Society.
- (iii) An active student may remain a Student Member for a maximum of ten cumulative years. Upon graduation, a Student Member shall have the opportunity to upgrade their membership depending on qualifications and experience, subject to payment of applicable fees and fulfillment of all other obligations of membership.

Amendment Proposal Two

Remove Sustaining Member class of membership from Bylaws

Reasoning:

AES is an individual membership organization. Applying the rights and privileges of membership to companies and organizations making donations to the Society has proved unwieldy. The Sustaining Membership category no longer represents our goals, interactions, and relationships with outside companies, organizations, institutions, and corporations. The class of membership was extremely rarely applied to individuals. The proposal eliminates the Sustaining Member class of membership. The current functions of the class are now transitioning to fulfillment through newly developed institutional/organizational/corporate partnership and donation programs.

Proposed amendment to Bylaws:

ARTICLE III, Section 2.

~~(f) Sustaining Members:~~

- ~~(i) Any person, corporation, or organization making a substantial annual contribution to the Society shall be eligible for appointment as a Sustaining Member of the Society, and upon such appointment shall become entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Society, except the right to vote, or to hold any office, or to serve on a Standing Committee.~~
- ~~(ii) Existing members appointed as Sustaining Members shall retain all rights and~~

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~~privileges of their class of membership.~~

Note: Upon ratification of this amendment, ARTICLE III, Section 2 (g) (Life Members) would be redesignated as ARTICLE III, Section 2 (f)

Amendment Proposal Three

Changes to Nominations Committee membership and leadership mandates

Reasoning:

The proposed amendment conforms the Nominations Committee to the pattern of other standing committees whose Chairs are nominated by the incoming President, subject to the consent of the Board of Governors. This practice encourages consistency in committee operation and enables accountability. With the current bylaws mandate that the immediate Past President serve as Nominations Chair, the designee has no path to decline the post. There is also no authority assigned for the appointment and approval of a replacement should one be necessary.

The immediate Past President remains the preferred choice for the Nominations Committee Chair. The requirement that the immediate Past President be appointed as the Nominations Committee chair will be addressed in the AES Organizational Guide, accompanied by the proviso that the incoming immediate Past President has the first right of refusal to the appointment. The amendment also requires that AES immediate Vice Presidents serve on the Nominations Committee and, to ensure representation from all AES regions, the amendment codifies as a requirement the practice that Regional Vice Presidents serve as Nominations Committee members.

Proposed amendment to Bylaws:

ARTICLE VIII, Section 1.

- (a) There shall be a Nominations Committee *consisting of at least ten members. The immediate Past President and all Vice Presidents shall be members of the Nominations Committee. The chair of the Nominations Committee shall be the immediate Past President. The Nominations Committee shall consist of at least ten members, including at least one from each Region.*

Proposed amended Bylaws text, clean

ARTICLE VIII, Section 1.

- (a) There shall be a Nominations Committee consisting of at least ten members. The immediate Past President and all Vice Presidents shall be members of the Nominations Committee.