

2024 Bylaws Proposed Changes - Executive Summary

June 2024

- Abstract
 - The ACS membership will consider and vote on an updated version of the ACS Bylaws. The proposed changes were compiled and drafted by the Governance Committee on behalf of the Board of Directions. The role of the Membership is now to review proposed changes for a membership vote to take place in the weeks after Conference 2024.
- Timeline:
 - June and July: Membership open review period. Members may send all comments concerning the Bylaws language to info@cheesesociety.org. Comments will be reviewed by the Governance Committee and the Board.
 - July: Discussion of any Bylaws-related questions during in-person Town Hall meeting in Buffalo Conference
 - August: in the weeks after Town Hall meeting at Conference, vote to be conducted to approve or decline the revised Bylaws

5 Topics Addressed in this Bylaws Draft:

1. ACS Mission
 - a. Added 5th point to the Mission (Article II, Section 1.5): “To foster a culture that values diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, respect, and empathy for all in our industry and the communities we serve”. Added related provision governing committee nomination. (Art. IX, Section 2)
 - b. Clarified geographic reference from “American” to “North and South America”
2. Membership Structure:
 - a. Recommendation to review and modernize membership categories in 2025.
 - b. Clarified definition of a general membership quorum in light of expansion of membership and the move toward email voting and participation. Art. V, Section 4.
3. Board of Directors and ACS Officers
 - a. Explicitly defined Chairperson of the Board. Art. VIII, Section 10.
 - b. Added clarification of the system by which a Director may be considered for a second term. Art. VI, Section 3 and Art. IX, Section 6.
 - c. Note questions vis-a-vis the role of the Secretary. Art. VIII, Section 7.
4. Committees
 - a. Proposed refinement of limitation of the power of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directions. Art. IX, Section 3.
 - b. Nominating Committee structure and process amended to create a more inclusive nominations process. Art. IX, Section 6.
 - c. Modified Finance Committee requirements to be more inclusive of volunteer participation as opposed to membership identical to the Executive Committee, in

order to create a more stable finance committee, with more institutional memory, and more checks and balances with the Board. Art. IX, Section 4.

- d. Added a Governance Committee as one of the required standing committees. Article IX, Section 5.
5. Miscellaneous
- a. General cleanup of language in many sections of the bylaws without changing the intent of a given section. For example, the proper use of the term "Corporation" to legally refer to the ACS or decreasing use of the passive voice to better identify responsibility.