

Proposed 2013-2015 International Bylaws Changes

Amendment Number	Location	Current Bylaws Wording	Proposed Changes	Wording if Adopted
1	Article III. Membership Section 2. Qualifications for Membership	<p>a. Sigma Theta Tau International does not discriminate. Candidates are qualified for membership so long as eligibility requirements are met.</p> <p>b. Student candidates shall have demonstrated superior academic achievement, academic integrity and professional leadership potential.</p> <p>c. Regular Member</p> <p>1) Students in Basic Program</p> <p>a. Definition – Basic program is defined as a baccalaureate or equivalent nursing degree program that leads to the first professional nursing degree.</p> <p>b. Academic Achievement – Students in basic programs shall be eligible for membership if they have achieved excellence according to the standards approved by the Society.</p> <p>c. Rank in class – Basic students who are elected shall rank not lower than the highest 35 percent of their class in scholarship.</p> <p>d. Curriculum – Students shall have completed at least one-half of the required nursing curriculum.</p> <p>e. Exceptions – Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the chapter's governance committee</p>	<p>a. Sigma Theta Tau International does not discriminate. Candidates are qualified for membership so long as eligibility requirements are met.</p> <p>b. Student candidates shall have demonstrated superior academic achievement, academic integrity and professional leadership potential.</p> <p>c. Regular Member</p> <p>1) Students in Basic Program</p> <p>a. Definition – Basic program is defined as an accredited baccalaureate or equivalent nursing degree program that leads to the first professional nursing degree.</p> <p>b. Academic Achievement – Students in basic programs shall be eligible for membership if they have achieved excellence according to the standards approved by the Society.</p> <p>c. Rank in class – Basic students who are elected shall rank not lower than the highest 35 percent of their class in scholarship.</p> <p>d. Curriculum – Students shall have completed at least one-half of the required nursing curriculum.</p> <p>e. Exceptions – Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the</p>	<p>a. Sigma Theta Tau International does not discriminate. Candidates are qualified for membership so long as eligibility requirements are met.</p> <p>b. Student candidates shall have demonstrated superior academic achievement, academic integrity and professional leadership potential.</p> <p>c. Regular Member</p> <p>1) Students in Basic Program</p> <p>a. Definition – Basic program is defined as an accredited baccalaureate or equivalent nursing degree program that leads to the first professional nursing degree.</p> <p>b. Academic Achievement – Students in basic programs shall be eligible for membership if they have achieved excellence according to the standards approved by the Society.</p> <p>c. Rank in class – Basic students who are elected shall rank not lower than the highest 35 percent of their class in scholarship.</p> <p>d. Curriculum – Students shall have completed at least one-half of the required nursing curriculum.</p> <p>e. Exceptions – Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the</p>

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		<p>following the guidelines adopted by the International Board of Directors.</p> <p>2) Students in Graduate Programs</p> <p>a. Definition – Graduate program is defined as an accredited program of graduate study in nursing including master, post-master, doctoral and post-doctoral.</p> <p>b. Academic Achievement – Students in graduate programs shall be eligible for membership if they have achieved excellence according to the standards approved by the Society.</p> <p>c. Curriculum – Students shall have completed a minimum of one-quarter of the required graduate curriculum.</p> <p>d. Exceptions – Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the chapter's governance committee following the guidelines adopted by the International Board of Directors.</p> <p>3) Nurse Leader</p> <p>A Nurse Leader, who is a registered nurse, legally recognized to practice in his/her country with a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field, and who has demonstrated achievement in nursing, shall be eligible for membership.</p>	<p>chapter's governance committee following the guidelines adopted by the International Board of Directors.</p> <p>2) Students in Graduate Programs</p> <p>a. Definition – Graduate program is defined as an accredited program of graduate study in nursing including master, post-master, doctoral and post-doctoral.</p> <p>b. Academic Achievement – Students in graduate programs shall be eligible for membership if they have achieved excellence according to the standards approved by the Society.</p> <p>c. Curriculum – Students shall have completed a minimum of one-quarter of the required graduate curriculum.</p> <p>d. Students in graduate programs who are registered nurses, legally recognized to practice in their country and have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field, shall be eligible to be considered as a Nurse Leader at any point in the program.</p> <p>e. Exceptions – Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the chapter's governance committee following the guidelines adopted by the International Board of</p>	<p>chapter's governance committee following the guidelines adopted by the International Board of Directors.</p> <p>2) Students in Graduate Programs</p> <p>a. Definition – Graduate program is defined as an accredited program of graduate study in nursing including master, post-master, doctoral and post-doctoral.</p> <p>b. Academic Achievement – Students in graduate programs shall be eligible for membership if they have achieved excellence according to the standards approved by the Society.</p> <p>c. Curriculum – Students shall have completed a minimum of one-quarter of the required graduate curriculum.</p> <p>d. Students in graduate programs who are registered nurses, legally recognized to practice in their country and have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field, shall be eligible to be considered as a Nurse Leader at any point in the program.</p> <p>e. Exceptions – Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the chapter's governance committee following the guidelines adopted by the International Board of Directors.</p>
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Amendment Number	Location	Current Bylaws Wording	Proposed Changes	Wording if Adopted
2	Article IV. Chapters Section 2. Organization of a Chapter b. Chapter Models	3) Amending an established chapter's charter One or more schools the meeting criteria listed in Article IV. Section 2. a. establish an honor society under the Society's guidelines. An at-large chapter is formed by amending the established chapter's charter to include the school(s) comprising the honor society. An existing at-large chapter may split into separate chapters following established guidelines. Two or more established chapters may merge to form an at-large chapter following established guidelines.	3) Amending an established chapter's charter One or more schools meeting the criteria listed in Article IV. Section 2. a. establish an honor society under the Society's guidelines. An at-large chapter is formed by amending the established chapter's charter to include the school(s) comprising the honor society. An existing at-large chapter may split into separate chapters following established guidelines. Two or more established chapters may merge to form an at-large chapter following established guidelines. 3) Amending an established chapter's charter: a. An existing chapter may form an at-large chapter by adding one or more honor societies that were formed under Society guidelines; b. Two or more established chapters may merge to form an at-large chapter following established guidelines; c. An existing at-large chapter may split into separate chapters following established guidelines.	3) Amending an established chapter's charter: a. An existing chapter may form an at-large chapter by adding one or more honor societies that were formed under Society guidelines; b. Two or more established chapters may merge to form an at-large chapter following established guidelines; c. An existing at-large chapter may split into separate chapters following established guidelines.
Rationale:	Rewording to improve clarity. No change in chapter charter amendment processes.			
Impact on Chapters:	None – This change will only apply to the international bylaws and the chapter charter amendment process remains unchanged.			

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			<p align="center">Directors.</p> <p>3) Nurse Leader A Nurse Leader, who is a registered nurse, legally recognized to practice in his/her country with a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field, and who has demonstrated achievement in nursing, shall be eligible for membership.</p>	<p>3) Nurse Leader A Nurse Leader, who is a registered nurse, legally recognized to practice in his/her country with a minimum of a baccalaureate degree or the equivalent in any field, and who has demonstrated achievement in nursing, shall be eligible for membership.</p>
<p>Rationale:</p>	<p>The term "accredited" was added under the definition of basic program, as it was previously omitted.</p> <p>Bachelor's prepared registered nurses who return to graduate school often do so after achieving many professional accomplishments which would have warranted Nurse Leader membership status had they not been in school. As it currently stands, eligibility criteria for bachelor's prepared registered nurses are more restrictive if a candidate is a current graduate student than if they are not. For example, a registered nurse with a master's degree who is enrolled in a doctoral program would need to complete at least one-quarter of the program and achieve a 3.5 cumulative GPA (or equivalent) in order to be inducted. Meanwhile, a registered nurse with a master's degree who is not enrolled in graduate school would be eligible to be inducted as a Nurse Leader at any time by any chapter.</p> <p>In an effort to reduce arbitrary barriers while also maintaining the integrity of the organization, it is important to provide strategies for ensuring consistency of access for qualified individuals. The proposed bylaws change will provide chapters with the ability to induct qualified graduate students into the chapter using both the original criteria (one-quarter program completion and 3.5 cumulative GPA or equivalent) and (for qualified individuals) as Nurse Leaders, essentially creating two paths to membership for graduate students. Graduate students with past leadership and accomplishments can apply as Nurse Leaders at any point in the graduate program. Graduate students seeking membership via Nurse Leader may be considered for membership by any chapter as stated in Article III, Section 3.a.2. within the existing bylaws.</p>			
<p>Impact on Chapters:</p>	<p>Students in graduate programs are immediately eligible as Nurse Leaders if they meet the criteria. Chapters will need to adjust their procedure for inducting graduate students to incorporate the new pathway for membership.</p>			

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Amendment Number	Location	Current Bylaws Wording	Proposed Changes	Wording if Adopted
3	Article VII. Board of Directors Section 1. Membership	The Board of Directors of Sigma Theta Tau International shall consist of five (5) elected officer directors, five (5) elected non-officer directors, the elected Regional Chapters Coordinating Committee Chair and the chief executive officer who is a non-voting director.	The Board of Directors of Sigma Theta Tau International shall consist of the president, president-elect, vice president, secretary and treasurer comprising the five (5) elected officer directors, five (5) elected non-officer directors, the elected Regional Chapters Coordinating Committee Chair and the chief executive officer who is a non-voting director.	The Board of Directors of Sigma Theta Tau International shall consist of the president, president-elect, vice president, secretary and treasurer comprising the five (5) elected officer directors, five (5) elected non-officer directors, the elected Regional Chapters Coordinating Committee Chair and the chief executive officer who is a non-voting director.
Rationale:	Designating the five officer directors here makes it clearer when the term is used later in the bylaws.			
Impact on Chapters:	None – This change will only apply to the international bylaws.			
Amendment Number	Location	Current Bylaws Wording	Proposed Changes	Wording if Adopted
4	Article IX. Elections Section 4. Terms a. Officer Directors	Members shall hold no more than one elected office at a time. A member holding an elected position who has served more than half a term in that position is considered to have served a full term. a. Officer Directors The five (5) officer directors will be elected for a term of two (2) years, or until their successors are elected and assume office. Their term of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which the elections take place. Officer directors may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms, except in the case of a director who is	Members shall hold no more than one elected office at a time. A member holding an elected position who has served more than half a term in that position is considered to have served a full term. <i>Strike all of Section a and insert:</i> a. Officer Directors 1) The president-elect will be elected for a term of two (2) years, or until a successor is elected and assumes office, and after which shall succeed to a two-year term as president. <i>[NOTE: mention of succeeding to</i>	Members shall hold no more than one elected office at a time. A member holding an elected position who has served more than half a term in that position is considered to have served a full term. a. Officer Directors 1) The president-elect will be elected for a term of two (2) years, or until a successor is elected and assumes office, and after which shall succeed to a two-year term as president. 2) The vice president will be elected for a term of two (2)

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		<p>elected as president-elect.</p>	<p><i>president moved from Article VIII, Section 2.d.]</i></p> <p>2) The vice president will be elected for a term of two (2) years, or until a successor is elected and assumes office.</p> <p>3) The secretary and treasurer will each be elected for a term of four (4) years, or until their successors are elected and assume office. Terms shall be staggered so that the secretary is elected in the same biennium as two non-officer directors and treasurer is elected in the same biennium as three non-officer directors.</p> <p>4) The terms of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which the elections take place. The vice president may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive two-year (2-year) terms and the secretary and treasurer may serve a maximum of one (1) four-year (4-year) term after which they may not be consecutively re-elected as an officer director except as president-elect.</p> <p><i>PROVISO: This amendment shall not take effect until the 2015 elections for the treasurer and 2017 elections for the secretary. A</i></p>	<p>years, or until a successor is elected and assumes office.</p> <p>3) The secretary and treasurer will each be elected for a term of four (4) years, or until their successors are elected and assume office. Terms shall be staggered so that the secretary is elected in the same biennium as two non-officer directors and treasurer is elected in the same biennium as three non-officer directors.</p> <p>4) The terms of office shall begin at the close of the meeting at which the elections take place. The vice president may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive two-year (2-year) terms and the secretary and treasurer may serve a maximum of one (1) four-year (4-year) term after which they may not be consecutively re-elected as an officer director except as president-elect.</p> <p><i>PROVISO: This amendment shall not take effect until the 2015 elections for the treasurer and 2017 elections for the secretary. A treasurer elected for a first (two-year) term in 2013 may be re-elected to a four-year term as treasurer in 2015. A secretary elected for a first (two-year) term in 2015 may be re-elected to a four-year term as secretary in 2017.</i></p>
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			<i>treasurer elected for a first (two-year) term in 2013 may be re-elected to a four-year term as treasurer in 2015. A secretary elected for a first (two-year) term in 2015 may be re-elected to a four-year term as secretary in 2017.</i>	
4 (continued)	Article VIII. Officers Section 2. Duties	d. The president-elect shall succeed into the presidency at the end of the term of office.	d. The president-elect shall succeed into the presidency at the end of the term of office. <i>Re-letter accordingly.</i>	NOTE: This is a conforming amendment if the above proposal is adopted.
Rationale:	<p>The proposed bylaws amendment calls for the extension of terms for secretary and treasurer and for the introduction of staggering for these positions. This amendment will facilitate a more equitable distribution of board of directors' officer terms, ensure greater continuity of governance across biennia for the International Board of Directors, and promote position mastery. Continuity across biennia is necessary for a large international organization.</p> <p>This bylaws change will: 1.) increase length of terms for the secretary and treasurer positions, and 2.) create a method of staggering terms to ensure optimal continuity over biennia (in any given biennium, approximately half of the board will be new and half will continue in service). In order to stagger terms, extension of term lengths from two years to four years will be required.</p> <p>Secretary and treasurer positions were chosen because several other board positions are already structured to provide continuity over the biennia. For example, the overlapping nature of the president and president-elect positions provide mentoring and continuity, and the non-officer directors already have staggered four-year terms.</p> <p>Because of the increased term length to four (4) years, individuals holding these positions will only be able to serve one consecutive term on the board, except if elected to president-elect.</p> <p>Increased term length is not expected to be a barrier to recruiting candidates to these positions for the following reasons: 1.) a four-year (4-year) term length is common for national and international boards and is consistent with other major professional organizations, and 2.) many individuals in these positions often seek re-election to the board (in either the same or different position).</p> <p>Provisos have been put in place to begin the process of re-structuring positions.</p>			
Impact on Chapters:	None – This change will only apply to the international bylaws.			

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5	Article XIII. Parliamentary Authority	The rules contained in the 10 th edition of <u>Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised</u> shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws or special rules of order of the Society.	The rules contained in the 10th most recently published edition of <u>Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised</u> shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws or special rules of order of the Society.	The rules contained in the most recently published edition of <u>Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised</u> shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws or special rules of order of the Society.
Rationale:	The 11 th edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised was published in 2011. Removing the mention of the edition number will eliminate the need to further revise this article in the future.			
Impact on Chapters:	This change will also be incorporated into the chapter bylaws under Article XIII.			