

## Summary of Proposed SFS Constitution and By-laws Changes and Updates

Prepared April 19, 2021 by Andreas Leidolf, Executive Director

### **Constitution**

*No changes proposed.*

### **By-laws**

1. Article 1, Section 1: Adds two proposed new membership categories in response to a proposal by Alonso Ramirez, SFS President.

#### ***By-laws change proposal: developing country memberships***

***Goal:*** *to create new memberships categories for members based in developing countries.*

***Argument:*** *most students and professionals based in developing countries have low annual salaries relative to most society members. Professionals in developing countries often make less than US\$ 30,000 per year. The proposed membership categories recognize this and aim to encourage their participation in our society. Annual fee is proposed at \$30 for students and \$40 for professionals.*

***Impact to SFS:*** *The proposed categories will communicate to freshwater researchers in developing countries that SFS recognizes the economic limitations they face and is willing to help facilitate science communication and collaboration in those regions.*

*The economic impact is expected to be minimal. As of February 2021, we have nine members from developing countries, out of 1,127 members (D. Costello, personal communication). Proposed categories are expected to increase participation to some degree, but they will mostly communicate that SFS is aware of challenges faced by colleagues around the world.*

2. Article 2, Section 11: Changes “Constitutional Revisions Committee” to “Constitutional Revision Committee.”

*This is an error in the By-laws text. The proper name of the committee is “Constitutional Revision Committee” (see Article 5, Section 12).*

3. Article 5, Section 2: Expands the membership of the Finance Committee by one non-voting, ex officio member (Chair of the Publications Committee); and clarifies that the

chair serves in addition to the seven members of the committee (thereby increasing committee membership by one).

*The addition of the Publications Committee chair is a logical outgrowth of the combining of Society and Journal finances that was implemented in the previous year.*

*The clarification regarding the role of the chair as an eighth committee member serves to bolster this committee's ability to tackle its heavy workload.*

4. Article 5, Section 3: Expands the membership of the Board of Trustees to eight members (including the chair) to account for the much increased (and growing) workload of this committee; reduces term of service to 4 years to allow for staggered appointment of an equal number of committee members by successive Presidents; and adjusts committee chairpersonship to allow for new, 4-year term: Chair = one member in third year of service as appointed by the President; advisor = past chair.
5. Article 5, Section 6: Clarifies the extant language to allow for a candidate to run unopposed.

*In recent years, it has proved difficult to find multiple candidates to run for certain offices. Additionally, some offices have a learning curve. The language as modified allows for someone to run unopposed without precluding the option of any member of the Society to run for any office.*

6. Article 5, Section 7: Adds language to reflect the newly created Society award for mid-career professionals ("Leadership Award") and subsumes it under the auspices of the former "Award of Excellence, Distinguished Service Award, and Environmental Stewardship Award Subcommittee," now renamed the "Award of Excellence, Distinguished Service Award, Leadership Award, and Environmental Stewardship Award Subcommittee;" and simplifies the language related to the Student Awards Selection Subcommittee.

*The new Leadership Award was approved by the Board in 2020. The By-laws revision proposed here by the Awards Selection Committee (12/29/2020, Ashley Moerke, Chair) is needed to bring our governance documents into accordance with this new operational policy, and to provide a structure for administering the new award.*

*The simplification of the language related to the Student Awards Selection Subcommittee maintains the subcommittee and its role, but eliminates references to the positions of "chair" and "coordinator." The goal is to revise the workflows and SOPs of this subcommittee in the near future, at which point additional language may be added back into the By-laws as part of a future revision.*

7. Article 5, Section 10: Replaces the outdated language of “Web Editor” with the currently used language of “Media Officer.”
8. Article 5, Section 11: Replaces the outdated language of “Web Editor” with the currently used language of “Media Officer.”
9. Article 5, Section 14: Officially changes the previous name of “Early Career Committee” (and associated acronym “ECC”) to “Early Career Development Committee” and associated acronym “ECDC.”
10. Article 5, Section 21: Adds the Membership and Data Committee as a new standing committee of the Society.
11. Article 17: Modifies the current language to clarify that ALL SFS Fellows are “accomplished members” (by replacing “include” with “are”); clarifies the mode of selection from a majority vote of all Fellows to a rotating committee of 5-10 Fellows; and limits designation of two fellows to five per year (rather than the total number of Fellows to 4% of SFS membership).

*This proposal was brought forth by the Fellows Administrative Body on 1/4/21. The Fellows have traditionally been afforded the freedom to regulate their own affairs and have done so conscientiously. The semantic changes are clearly warranted; the changes related to mode of selection of additional Fellows are necessitated by practicality; and the limitation of designation of new Fellows to 5 per year rather than total Fellowship of <4% of membership is reasonable in the face of year-to-year fluctuations in Society membership, which could see the number of Fellows moving in and out of compliance from year to year. This change also provides for continuity in this important and successful program by allowing for the designation of new Fellows annually.*