Executive Director’s Note: This includes the portion of the minutes related to the debate and passage of the nine amendments to the Constitution approved by the 2018 Convention. They include passages from the reports of the committees on Program Review, Petitions, and Constitution and Bylaws. The remaining reports and actions of the Convention are NOT included in this summary document. Portions not related to the amendments have not been included and are noted by with ellipses (...). If you have any questions, please contact Curt Gomulinski at curt@tbp.org.

SECOND BUSINESS MEETING
Friday, October 12, Denver Marriott Tech Center, Denver, Colorado

Chairman Hickling called the meeting to order at 8:58 a.m. and requested a revised quorum report. Executive Director Gomulinski stated that registration was complete with 210 collegiate chapter delegates, 30 alumni chapter delegates, and 28 Association Officials for a total of 268 voting delegates.

... 

The Report of the Committee on Program Review was called. J.M. Grady (ILE), Chair, said his group was charged to review the program eligibility requirements in Const. Art. 2, Sec. 1. The committee was considering whether or not to recommend striking the clause “administered by a unit of engineering and includes the noun ’engineering’ in its name” which would require chapters to appeal programs currently deemed eligible under this provision. He invited delegates to attend the committee’s meeting this evening to discuss the proposed changes.

... 

The Report of the Committee on Petitions was called. M.S. Burton (PAG), Chair, noted that her committee was tasked with three items of business including review and recommend action on: proposed sample bylaws used by chapters and petitioning societies, reactivation of Colorado Gamma, and changes to the petitioning process. Regarding the first charge, Ms. Burton stated the committee found the model collegiate chapter bylaws to be in good shape, but recommended changes including providing materials to each candidate accepting election and meeting notification by the Corresponding Secretary. The committee also recommended removing the cataloger position since it is no longer required at the Association level.

... 

Ms. Burton presented the final charge of the committee related to changes to the petitioning process. Ms. Burton moved, seconded by P.L. Mundy (FLI), to amend Article VI on establishment of collegiate chapters as displayed on the screen. She indicated the purpose of the proposed changes would be to clean up and simplify the language in the section. A.J. Hall (WVA) moved to table the motion until Saturday’s business meeting. Hearing no objections, Mr. Hickling ruled the motion postponed until Saturday.

... 

The Report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws was called. H.C. Yanagida (TNZ), Chair, stated the committee studied the Executive Director’s editorial changes and has confirmed that none of the changes are substantive and are not proposing any action at this time. Chairman Hickling ordered, without objection, that the editorial changes be adopted as presented.

The second charge to the committee were referrals from the 2017 Convention. Mr. Yanagida moved, seconded by L.G. Saccucci-Bryan (NY S), to amend Art. III, Sec. 2(a) to update the language regarding allowed candidate activities. B.D. Wattenbarger (TNG) stated the wording should be clear and concise regarding prohibition against activities that were physical in nature. S. Rokni (D16 Director) expressed concern about removing the language related to intellectual abilities. A. Tapia Carrillo (TX M) indicated the change was intended to emphasize that activities are not to be a physical test. S.T. Stewart (D6 Director) moved, seconded by P.L. Mundy (FLI), to amend the motion to insert “official” between the words “candidate’s” and “responsibilities” and to strike “and” and replace it with “related to.” A.E. Wallaart (OHI) spoke against the amendment stating the proposed version is intentionally vague to allow flexibility for each chapter and moved, seconded by an unknown delegate, the previous question. Chairman Hickling put the previous question to a vote and 2/3 of those present voted in the affirmative and debate on the amendment was closed. On a voice vote, the amendment failed. J.B. Stephan (SCA) spoke in favor of the main motion stating that responsibilities should not impede a candidate’s election. B.D. Williams (CO A) spoke against the motion. Chairman Hickling requested that amendments should be made in writing. I.B. Navarro (DE A) moved, seconded by J.S. Zola (OR B), to postpone consideration of the motion to a future meeting. The motion to postpone passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Yanagida presented changes to Art. III, Sec. 2(b) regarding a candidate’s objection to a chapter’s required duties for membership. Mr. Yanagida moved, seconded by M.C. Debrito (MI H), to amend Art. III, Sec. 2(b) as displayed on the screen.
J.B. Stephan (SC A) provided background on the proposed change which leaves the final authority with the chapter’s Advisory Board. D.S. Kaplan (MD A Advisor) recommended wording changes. M.L. Benson (MI G Advisor) spoke in favor stating an external person could offer advice and he supports the change as presented. Hearing no further debate, Mr. Hickling explained the voting by text procedure to delegates. The motion passed with 228 in favor and 9 against, but final approval of the change is subject to chapter ratification. The wording of the motion appears below.

**Article III**

*Election to Membership*

**SECTION 2. Candidate Activities.**

(b) If a candidate objects to the required duties and the chapter cannot resolve the objection, the candidate may appeal to the chapter’s Advisory Board. If the candidate is not satisfied with the outcome Advisory Board’s decision, the candidate may contact a District Director, one of the chapter’s District Directors (see Const. Art. XI, Sec. 6) to mediate and help resolve the situation. The Advisory Board will either affirm or modify their decision. This action is final (see Const. Art. VII, Sec. 11(b)).

[Struck words deleted; underlined words added]

Mr. Yanagida presented proposed changes to Art. IX, Sec. 7(f) and Art. X Sec. 5(k) in regards to creating and ending all official programs. He moved, seconded by M.C. Debrito (MI H), to amend both sections by inserting the word “modifying,” after “creating.” Mr. Yanagida noted the current wording does not allow Convention or the Executive Council to modify programs. N.T. Bussett (D16 Director) inquired if both trial and official programs were included in the proposal, and Mr. Hickling stated the amendment would change both. K.L. Martin (Alumnus Visitor) explained the changes to delegates. After clarifying what the changes would be, Chairman Hickling put the amendment to a text vote. This wording would be clarified. The motion passed with 235 in favor and 5 against, but final approval of the change is subject to chapter ratification. The wording of the motion appears below.

**Article IX**

*The Convention*

**SECTION 7. Responsibilities.** In addition to the responsibilities defined elsewhere in the Constitution and Bylaws, the responsibilities of the Convention include:

(f) Creating, modifying, and ending all official programs which shall be listed in the Bylaws.

[Underlined word added]

**Article X**

*The Executive Council*

**SECTION 5. Responsibilities.** In addition to the responsibilities defined elsewhere in the Constitution and Bylaws, the Council’s responsibilities include:

(k) Creating, modifying, and ending trial programs. Trial programs may be for up to three years in length. After three years, the Executive Council may request the Convention continue the trial or make it an official program (see Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7(f)).

[Underlined word added]

Mr. Yanagida presented Art. X, Sec. 2(a) regarding the Council Nomination Deadline proposal. He moved, seconded by J.D. Cook (CA AA), to amend Art. X, Sec. 2(a) by substituting “July” for “April.” D.A. La Haye (DC B) stated the new model of electing Executive Council each year should allow more time to recruit new members and allow current members time to consider running for an additional term and is in favor of the amendment. K.N. Morgan (Rocket City AC) inquired if the July publication deadline is still in force, and Mr. Hickling responded in the affirmative. Hearing no further debate, Chairman Hickling put the matter to a vote and the motion passed with 217 in favor and 19 against, but final approval of the change is subject to chapter ratification. The wording of the motion appears below.

**Article X**

*The Executive Council*

**SECTION 2. Nominations.** (a) Any chapter may nominate Association alumni who are interested and willing to serve on the Council. Such nomination shall be sent to Headquarters by April July 1.

[Struck word deleted; underlined word added]

Mr. Yanagida presented changes to Art. I, Secs. 4 and 5 regarding member discipline. He moved, seconded by G. Zamojski (FL E), to amend Art. I, Secs. 4 and 5 as displayed on the screen. C.M. Lombardi (AZ B) moved, seconded by G.B. Fleeman (CA S), to amend the amendment to clean up language and provided the proposed changes which were displayed to the
delegates. A delegate spoke regarding objection to the proposed changes to the original motion. B.A. Moorman (Tucson AC) spoke against the motion because it prohibits all future membership. She inquired as to what infractions would be covered by this scenario and would it also apply to alumni. P.S. Mahal (MI G Advisor) spoke against the proposed changes. M.S. Burton (PA G) spoke against the changes due to grammar concerns. S. Diaz (FL G) moved, seconded by M.R. Odorizzi (PA Z), to commit the motion back to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The motion to commit passed on a voice vote.

Chairman Hickling declared the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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THIRD BUSINESS MEETING
Saturday, October 13, Denver Marriott Tech Center

Chairman Hickling called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. and requested a revised quorum. Secretary Gomulinski provided a revised credentials report stating that registration was complete with 221 Collegiate Chapters, 31 Alumni Chapters, and 20 Association Officials for a total of 282 voting delegates.

... Continuing the Report of the Committee on Petitions, M.S. Burton (PA G), Chair, moved, seconded by A.E. Wallaart (OH E), to take from the table the proposed changes to Art. VI regarding the collegiate chapter petitioning process. P.E. Panger (WV A) stated the proposed changes to the petitioning process outlined in the Constitution make the process clearer and do not substantially change the requirements or process for petitioning societies. Hearing no further debate, Mr. Hickling put the matter to a vote by a show of hands and the motion passed, but final approval of the change is subject to chapter ratification. The wording of the motion appears below.

**Article VI**

Collegiate Chapter Establishment

SECTION 1. Eligibility Requirements. (a) Any regionally accredited college or university is eligible for a collegiate chapter when the following criteria are met:

1. All or at least three of the institution's undergraduate engineering programs meet the requirements of Const. Art. II, Sec. 1(a)(1).
2. The institution confers at least 40 engineering bachelor's degrees each year from programs meeting the requirements of Const. Art. VI, Sec. 1(a)(1), and the number of graduates is stable or increasing.
3. A group of students meeting the eligibility standards outlined in Const. Art. II, Secs. 2 or 3 has organized and operated a local society patterned after an Association chapter described in Const. Art. VII for at least two full years after the local society's establishment and installation of charter members. These students shall meet the eligibility standards outlined in Const. Art. II, Secs. 2 or 3.
4. At least three faculty members who are members of the Association serve as advisors to the local society.
5. A majority of the engineering faculty are members of their respective technical, professional, scientific, or honor societies.

(b) Chapters may be established at colleges or universities that do not meet all the requirements of Const. Art. VI, Sec. 1(a) by the Convention on the Council's recommendation.

SECTION 2. Petition for Chapter. (a) A petition to establish a collegiate chapter may be made to the Association by members of the local society by a group of students and graduates when the requirements of Const. Art. VI, Sec. 1(a) are met. In addition to documenting compliance with those requirements, a petition shall include:

1. A letter of intent explaining their local society's interest in establishing a chapter.
2. A pledge by the local society members of their willingness to subscribe to and obey the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.
3. A statement welcoming consenting the chapter's establishment by the institution's administration and that the institution shall identify future students meeting these requirements so they may be informed of their eligibility.
4. A statement certified by the institution's administration that the eligibility requirements specified in Const. Art. II are met by each of the petitioners meeting the eligibility requirements specified in Const. Art. II.
5. The institution's current admission requirements.
6. The number of weeks required to be spent on academic classroom and laboratory work for a degree in engineering. A detailed list of degree requirements and course descriptions for each eligible program as outlined by Art II, Sec. 1, including lab hours as appropriate.
The length of the institution's curriculum for a degree in engineering.

The number of engineering students in each of the engineering classes and the names and number of the engineering degrees awarded in each program during the last five years.

Description of the programs and courses offered and any other Other materials as may be available to assist the Council in reaching its decision.

(b) The Council shall review the petition and determine if the institution is qualified for an inspection. An inspection shall assess the petitioning society's qualifications for a Tau Beta Pi Chapter.

(1) If approved by the Council, an Inspection Committee shall assess the petitioning institution's qualifications for a Tau Beta Pi Chapter. An Inspection Committee shall be led by a Council member and should include members from neighboring chapters and Association Officials (see Const. Art. XI, Sec. 1).

(2) If the Council considers further actions by the petitioners necessary, they shall be advised of the specified deficiencies and given the opportunity to take corrective action and resubmit the petition. The Council shall then reconsider the petition and if approved, authorize an Inspection Committee in accordance with Const. Art. VI, Sec. 2(b)(1).

(3) The Council shall report to the next Convention if an institution is not qualified for an inspection. The Convention may sustain the action of the Council, or it may vote to request the Council to proceed with an inspection in accordance with the Constitution.

(c) The Council shall consider the Inspection Committee's report and recommendation. Based on this information, the Council shall approve recommend, conditionally approve recommend, or disapprove not recommend a petition. The Inspection Committee's recommendations report and the Council's action recommendation shall be presented to the Convention following the inspection. If the Council disapproves, the Convention may approve the preliminary petition and request the petitioners to submit a formal petition in accordance with the Constitution, to be considered by the next Convention.

SECTION 3. Granting a Chapter. (a) The Petitions Committee (see Const. Art. IX, Sec. 6) shall review the petition and inspection report, meet with petitioning group's representatives, and recommend action on the petition to the Convention.

(b) A petitioning group shall be represented at the Convention by at least one of its student members and at least one faculty advisor member who is preferably an Association member.

(c) A collegiate chapter shall be established or abolished, and a charter granted or withdrawn, only by at least a three-fourths majority of those present and entitled to vote at the Convention, taken by recordable voting method.

The Report of the Committee on Program Review was called. J.M. Grady (IL E), Chair, thanked his committee members and stated their group had two charges including review and recommend action on: an appeal from Florida Alpha to add Human-Centered Computing and an appeal from New Jersey Epsilon to add Engineering Entrepreneurship; and a proposal to change the requirements for eligible programs.

The final charge to the committee was to review a proposal to change the requirements for eligible programs. He provided slides on Art. II, Sec. 1(a) regarding programs which include the noun “engineering” in their names. He stated that a program with the name “Entrepreneurial Engineering” would require Convention approval but a program with the name “Entrepreneurial Engineering” would not require Convention approval. The proposed change would require all programs that are not ABET-EAC accredited or have the same name as an ABET-EAC accredited program to be approved by Convention. Mr. Grady moved, seconded by J.P. McLaury (MT B), to strike Sec. 1(a)(3) from Art. II and that a proviso be included so chapters whose programs would become ineligible as a result of the amendment be granted an extension of present eligibility until the conclusion of the 2023 Convention. S. Bailes (DC G) said the proviso will allow chapters whose programs become ineligible because of this to continue initiating students through the 2023 Convention and they can appeal impacted programs at the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Conventions. J.P. Fairbanks (Tampa Bay AC) expressed concerns about retroactivity and believes programs already successfully appealed should not have to appeal again. P.S. Mahal (Alumnus Visitor) inquired about the appeal deadline, and Executive Director Gomulinski reported they are due June 1 each year. On a request by Chairman Hickling, the Convention passed a motion to extend the meeting time to finish debate of this matter. On a request by a delegate, Mr. Gomulinski replied that up to 90 programs at 50 chapters could be impacted, but the number of eligible candidates was not available. J.S. Zola (OR B) expressed concern about not being a member anymore with this change. Mr. Hickling indicated this change would not impact current members of Tau Beta Pi. A.E. Wallaart (OH E) moved, seconded by D.R. Bethea (AL A), the previous question. Hearing no objection to the previous question, Mr. Hickling put the matter to a vote. The motion passed, but final approval of the change is subject to chapter ratification. The wording of the motion appears below.
Article II

Collegiate Chapter Establishment

SECTION 1. Program Eligibility. (a) An engineering program is defined as one that meets any of the following criteria and is listed in the chapter’s bylaws (see Const. Art. VII, Sec. 4):

1. Accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET or recognized by any engineering-accreditation successor(s) to ABET or recognized by an ABET mutual recognition agreement as equivalent to such programs that are accredited in the United States;
2. Administered by a unit (a department, school, or college) of engineering and has the same name as any program accredited as described in criterion (1); or
3. Administered by a unit of engineering and includes the noun ‘engineering’ in its name.
4. Approved by Convention under the requirements of Const. Art. II, Sec. 1(b). Programs approved by Convention are specific to the appealing chapter.

Continuing the Report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, H.C. Yanagida (TN Z), Chair, reported the committee had continued its review of proposed changes and was ready to report its recommendations. He moved, seconded by M.C. De Brito, to amend Art. I, Sec. 5 regarding disciplinary action as displayed on the screen. The proposed changes protect a chapter’s rights by only allowing other chapters to recommend suspension or expulsion when a member’s initiating chapter is inactive. B.A. Moorman (Tucson AC) inquired if this applied to any member.

Chairman Hickling reported that all available time for this meeting had expired, and delegates needed to leave the room so the hotel staff could prepare the room for dinner. Any pending and upcoming business would be dropped due to a lack of time. He adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

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FINAL BUSINESS MEETING
Saturday, October 13, Denver Marriott Tech Center, Denver, CO

Chairman Hickling took charge of the Final Business Meeting on the banquet program in the Rocky Mountain Center and called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Hickling indicated there was an interest in allowing the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws and New Business to be added to the agenda for the meeting. This would require a suspension of the rules, and the motion to suspend the rules passed on a text vote of 156 in favor and 42 against. Mr. Hickling had the Convention stand at ease while the appropriate officials came forward so formal business could continue during dinner.

Continuing the Report of the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, H.C. Yanagida (TN Z), Chair, stated that no further action would be taken regarding amendments to the Constitution regarding discipline. However, the committee noticed there was a lack of defined pathways for a member who resigned to re-apply for membership. He moved, seconded by D.B. Nguyen (OH B), to direct the 2019 Committee on Constitution and Bylaws to consider pathways for resigned members to re-apply for membership and to direct the Executive Council to provide the committee with a proposal for consideration. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Yanagida reported the committee had considered the proposal regarding the changes to the trustee. He moved, seconded by A.E. Wallaart (OH E), to direct the Executive Council to have the proposed change reviewed by the Trust Advisory Committee and provide a more detailed proposal to the 2019 Convention if the Trust Advisory Committee supports the proposal. Mr. Wallaart stated the committee required additional information on the proposal and sought the opinion of the Trust Advisory Committee prior to further consideration. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Regarding the number of nominees for the Executive Council, Mr. Yanagida indicated the current Constitution does not provide a mechanism for nominations from the floor when the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies. He moved, seconded by D.A. La Haye, to amend Art. X, Sec. 2(d) by inserting "or equal to" between the words "less than" and "the number." Mr. La Haye expressed his support of the change because it provides more choice and ensures there is a mechanism for nominations when the number of nominees is only equal to or less than the number of vacancies. The motion passed on a show of wristbands, but final approval of the change is subject to chapter ratification. The wording of the motion appears below.
Article X
The Executive Council

SECTION 2. Nominations.
(d) The Convention shall vote only on the nominated individuals, except if the number of nominees is less than or equal to the number of vacancies, any delegate to the Convention may nominate eligible members who are alumni to serve on the Council, provided the delegate is certain the nominees are willing to serve if elected.

[underlined words added]

Mr. Yanagida reported the committee also considered the situation where a single candidate remains for election to the Executive Council, but a majority of the Convention does not want to elect this candidate. He moved, seconded by C.M. Lombardi, to amend Art. X, Sec. 3(a) to allow for floor nominations when an unopposed candidate does not receive a majority vote of the Convention as displayed on the screen. J.B. Stephan (SC A) spoke in favor of the amendment as this essentially would allow for a no-confidence vote in a particular candidate. S.T. Stewart (D6 Director) stated that a candidate who does not receive a majority vote should also not be eligible to be appointed to any vacancy in the Executive Council. Responding to a question from A.D. Brown (WY A), Mr. Hickling stated there would be a vacancy on the Executive Council if the Convention did not elect an acceptable candidate to a position on the Council. The motion passed on a show of wristbands, but final approval of the change is subject to chapter ratification. The wording of the motion appears below.

Article X
The Executive Council

SECTION 3. Election. (a) Elections for the Council shall occur annually for voting members whose terms expire prior to the next regular Convention, hereinafter referred to as open positions. All nominees who have not been elected to an open position on the Council shall be candidates for the open position in question. If a candidate receives a majority vote of the Convention or if only one candidate remains, that candidate shall be elected to the open position in question. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from further consideration for the open position in question. Voting shall be repeated until all open positions are filled. The numerical results of each ballot shall be made known to the Convention before any subsequent ballots are cast. Should an unopposed candidate not receive a majority vote of the Convention for an open position, nominations from the floor will be accepted and elections shall follow the procedure above. The unopposed candidate is ineligible for further consideration for election at the current Convention and ineligible for appointment by the Executive Council and nominations proceed in accordance with Const. Art. X, Sec. 2(d).

[strikethrough words deleted; underlined words added]

The committee noticed that the election procedure for the Executive Council is currently contained in the standing rules of Convention. Mr. Yanagida moved, seconded by J.B. Stephan (SC A), to direct the 2019 Committee on Constitution and Bylaws to consider including the election process for Executive Councillors in the Constitution or Bylaws from a proposal created by the Executive Council. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Yanagida noted the current Constitution does not allow a graduate student without a primary academic advisor to be considered for membership. He moved, seconded by S. Diaz (FL G), to amend Art. II, Sec. 3(a) by inserting the words "institution or" between "the student’s" and "primary academic advisor." Mr. Yanagida shared the proposed change allows institutions to provide graduate eligibility information if a student’s primary academic advisor is not available or if the school has a different process. This process also aligns with undergraduate eligibility requirements. The motion passed on a show of wristbands, but final approval of the change is subject to chapter ratification. The wording of the motion appears below.

Article II
Eligibility

SECTION 3. Eligibility of Graduates. (a) To be eligible for membership as a graduate, a student shall have completed at least one semester, one trimester, or two quarters in a graduate engineering program of the institution and shall have completed at least fifty percent of the degree requirements, including coursework and research, as determined by the student’s institution or primary academic advisor.

[underlined words added]

Mr. Yanagida advised delegates that the committee had also considered simplification of the graduate eligibility process. He moved, seconded by J.A. Capuano (CO E), to amend Art. II, Sec. 3(b) to simplify the graduate eligibility process as
Mr. Yanagida stated that this concluded his committee's business and he thanked the delegates for taking the time to consider the committee's proposals.