



Bylaws Revisions 2021 Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will a vice president still be elected in 2021?

A: Yes, a vice president will still be elected in 2021 and serve during the 2021-2023 biennium. If the proposal to eliminate the vice president position is passed, that change will not go into effect until the next election in 2023.

Q: If the vice president position is being removed from the board, will another director position be added?

A: No other position would be added as part of this proposal. The Sigma board would reduce in size from 11 to 10 members, plus the Sigma CEO who is a non-voting member.

Q: Will chapter bylaws also be updated to remove the vice president position?

A: The vice president position will not be removed from the chapter bylaws. Also, the president-elect position remains an optional position at the chapter level and can be elected to serve a one- or two-year term.

Q: Will chapter bylaws be updated to change who fills a presidential vacancy?

A: The Sigma Governance Committee recommends chapters be given the choice to determine how best to fill presidential vacancies. For those chapters that use the president-elect position, chapter bylaws will allow for them to determine if such a vacancy is filled by the vice president or the president-elect.

Q: Isn't it a problem for there to be an even number of members on the board?

A: No, it is not a problem to have an even-numbered board. Regardless of how many members there are on the board, attendance at meetings is never guaranteed and odd-numbered boards often end up conducting business with an even number of board members present and voting. If a voting tie should occur, the motion fails.

Q: By moving to a simple majority requirement for quorum, the board could convene without a set number of officers present. Isn't that a problem?

A: It's unusual to have quorum requirements based on specific subcategories within the membership. Doing so empowers certain smaller groups within the board or house to prevent the board or house from taking action. Officers and directors are equal members on the Sigma board—they just have a different function.

Q: Although the CEO is an ex-officio member of the board, do they count toward quorum?

A: No, the CEO is a nonvoting ex-officio member of the board per the Sigma bylaws. The quorum consists of those members who must be present in order to take action, and Robert's Rules states that the term "members" refers to those who have the full rights of membership. The CEO does not have the right to vote and does not have the full membership rights and, therefore, is not counted in the quorum.

Q: What is the timeline for adopting these bylaws and updating the chapter bylaws template?

A: Once the house of delegates votes on these proposals, all approved amendments relevant to the chapter bylaws will be incorporated into the chapter bylaws template. The Sigma board of directors ratifies the international bylaws and approves the chapter updates at the first board meeting of the new biennium typically held in February or March. Updated bylaws templates are then provided to chapters.

Q: Are the proposed changes in alignment with Robert's Rules of Order?

A: As part of Sigma's bylaws revision process, all proposed changes were received by Sigma's parliamentary and legal counsel and were deemed to be appropriate, follow the recommendations of Robert's Rules of Order, and meet Indiana state law.

Q: Can you please explain the role of Robert's Rules of Order?

A: Robert's Rules of Order provides the "safety net" of rules and norms for situations during and between meetings, along with basic job descriptions and definitions. It provides procedural guidance for board decision-making. With Robert's Rules of Order in place, Sigma doesn't have to try to invent new rules for every situation that might develop. In cases where Sigma wants to vary from what is in Robert's Rules, special rules of order are created. It provides continual general guidance and, when complications arise, gives the organization somewhere objective to seek a solution.

Q: Is the parliamentary a staff position?

A: No. Sigma currently contracts the services of Colette Collier Trohan of A Great Meeting, Inc. to serve in this capacity. You can learn more about Colette and her credentials by [viewing her video](#) about the proposed changes.

Q: Why is Indiana state law referenced in Sigma's bylaws?

A: Sigma is incorporated in the state of Indiana and must therefore abide by Indiana state law.

Q: Since so much policy and procedural language is being removed from the bylaws, where will this information be located for chapter use?

A: Policy and procedures pertaining to chapter operations will be located in the All Chapter Officers Workgroup. A version of the chapter bylaws template will also have links to these documents.