



July 2, 2024

Dear Members,

As part of our ongoing commitment to effective governance and responsiveness to the needs of our community, we are pleased to present proposed updates to [our current bylaws](#). These amendments address key areas within our organizational structure to better serve our mission and membership. The proxy vote is now open and closes on July 31, 2024, at 11:59 PM EDT.

The proposed amendments include changes to three articles of our current bylaws, which are listed below.

First Revision

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Board Composition. Increase the directors-at-large from nine to twelve.

Board recommendation: SSWR's new [Strategic Directions 2024-2028](#), Building Capacity to Advancing Social Work Science that Informs Solutions to Complex Societal Challenges, is a very ambitious plan, and the work of the Board of Directors has increased significantly. To accomplish the Goals, Objectives, and OKRs in the plan, additional directors-at-large are needed to chair the committees and task forces to implement the new initiatives in the plan.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS (page 4 - 6)

1. Board Composition. The Board of Directors shall consist of (a) the officers of the Society, serving *ex officio*, and (b) nine [change to twelve] directors-at-large. For purposes of the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, the "entire Board" shall mean the number of directors that were elected or appointed as of the most recently held election of directors, as well as any directors whose terms have not yet expired. One director-at-large shall be a [add: doctoral] student member of the Society and is elected to the Board for a two-year term. One director-at-large shall be a full member of the Society and an "early career member," meaning that such person has completed their PhD no longer than four years prior to the start of their term as director. The term of such director shall be three years. The remaining directors-at-large shall be elected from among the full members of the Society. All directors-at-large except for the [add: doctoral] student director shall be elected for staggered three-year terms, with the year running from February 1 to January 31, and until such Director's successor has been elected and qualified. All directors shall have voting privileges.

Second Revision

Section 8. Quorum. Increase the quorum from nine to eleven.

Board recommendation: With the increase of the number of directors-at-large from nine to twelve, the quorum must be increased.

8. Quorum. **Nine [change to Eleven]** members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Third Revision

Section 1. Board Composition: Add the word “doctoral” in these three sentences.

- “One director-at-large shall be a **[add: doctoral]** student member of the Society and is elected to the Board for a two-year term.”
- All directors-at-large except for the **[add: doctoral]** student director shall be elected for staggered three-year terms, with the year running from February 1 to January 31, and until such Director’s successor has been elected and qualified. All directors shall have voting privileges.

Section 15. Doctoral Student Committee: The Doctoral Student Committee shall be a committee of the corporation and consist of at least six members of the Society who are SSWR doctoral students. It shall be chaired by the **[add: Doctoral]** Student Director of the Board of Directors and shall include no other members of the Board. The Committee membership shall be selected by the Committee chair and approved by the Board.

Board recommendation: Add the word “doctoral” to correct an inadvertent word omission when the SSWR Bylaws were revised in 2019.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS (page 4 - 6)

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ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES (page 10)

15. **Doctoral Student Committee:** The Doctoral Student Committee shall be a committee of the corporation and consist of at least six members of the Society who are SSWR doctoral students. It shall be chaired by the **[add: Doctoral]** Student Director of the Board of Directors and shall include no other members of the Board. The Committee membership shall be selected by the Committee chair and approved by the Board.

As per the SSWR Bylaws, a special meeting of the members of the Society for Social Work and Research, Inc. (SSWR) will be held to announce the proxy results on **August 2, 2024, at 12:00 PM EDT.**

There are two ways to vote:

1. **ONLINE:** Members may vote for the bylaw amendments online by July 31, 2024. You should have received an email from announcement@associationvoting.com with instructions on how to cast your proxy. If you need access to [the online voting system](#), please contact Kristen Reamy at kristen@sswr.org. As required by the bylaws, this is a "proxy" voting system. When you vote online, you give SSWR president Ramona Denby-Brinson authorization to finalize the amendments based on your proxy vote. During the August 2, 2024, Special Meeting of the Members, Dr. Denby-Brinson will report the number of proxy votes received as of the July 31, 2024 deadline.
2. **VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING:** Members may attend the virtual Special Meeting of the Members via ZOOM and cast their live vote on August 2, 2024, at 12:00 PM EDT. Please register for the meeting here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrc-6srT4tE9XwUm-BjZwkh383uf_ub-fK.

If you have questions or problems while casting your proxy, please use the help form on the login page or send a support request directly to SSWR (kristen@sswr.org).

Thank you for your participation!
SSWR Board of Directors