

Comments from membership regarding 2010 bylaws revision

Current Bylaw	Proposed Bylaw Amendment	Comment	Committee Response
General		Both sound reasonable to me.	Thank you.
		I commend the Bylaws committee for continuing to do great work. I think both revisions are excellent.	Thank you.
Article II. Section 3. MEMBERSHIP, VOTING RIGHTS AND DUES	New member category: Affiliate Membership. Affiliate Members shall be individuals whose business, organization or association provides products and services, including consulting and marketing services, to the fields of histocompatibility and/or immunogenetics. An application for Affiliate Membership shall be supported by at least one sponsor who shall be a current Full Member of the Society. An Affiliate Member shall be eligible to apply for Full Membership at any time he/she satisfies the qualifications for Full Membership.	One question I have regarding affiliate membership for vendors is whether this means the vendor is allowed to use the ASHI membership directory in their marketing? It is unclear what contractual arrangements ASHI has with regards to sharing of membership information (contact information, and current accredited technologies and types of transplantation, etc) with vendors, and what impact affiliate membership would mean to such arrangements.	The Affiliate Membership will include access to the ASHI Membership Directory for personal & professional use only. The Membership Directory may not be used for commercial purposes. A statement has been placed on the ASHI website to reinforce this.
Article II. Section 3. MEMBERSHIP, VOTING RIGHTS AND DUES	Technologist Members. Technologists Members shall be non-doctoral and non-supervisory individuals in the fields of histocompatibility and/or immunogenetics. Applications for Technologist membership shall be supported by at least two sponsors who shall be Full Members of the Society. Individuals are eligible to maintain this membership for a maximum of five (5) years. A Technologist Member shall be eligible to apply for Full membership at any time s/he satisfies the qualifications for Full membership.	As the former Board Liaison for the Membership committee, I'd like to ask that the revision to the Technologist Membership be modified so that there is no time limit. This request is based on discussions with Technologists and other committee members in the early time frame after this Membership level was created. Many Technologists pay for ASHI membership on their own. \$100 is perceived to be too high by many, and with little extra return for the money. Techs who are more involved in the society will join at the full Non Doctoral rate, but many will just drop after 3 (or 5) years if they are less involved. I did not hear that being induced to join at the higher rate would result in more involvement. Many Techs have joined in the last few years because of this lower rate.	The Membership Committee agrees that this category of membership shall be extended from three to five years.

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		<p>I think the benefits of having them as members, getting more information to them on a regular basis and possibly having them become more involved is a benefit in and of itself.</p> <p>From a financial standpoint, there is some gain by converting at 3 (or 5 years), but I think the loss from the number who just drop membership will offset the gain.</p>	
		<p>I think 5 years is too long to wait for someone to become a full member as a technologist. Three years is more than sufficient to know if you are intending to stay in the HLA field. Many people change jobs frequently, and if they haven't decided to become a member in 3 years, then they won't be in HLA. As someone who has been doing this for over 25 years, as well as being a member early on when there was no technologist category, I think full membership needs to be encouraged.</p> <p>Full membership has few privileges, unless your institution recognizes the benefit of the employee being a member. The discount for education purchases and that's about it. Voting has few choices, so if you want participation, in my opinion, keep it to 3 years.</p>	<p>The Membership Committee feels strongly that this category of membership shall be extended from three to five years in order to retain these members.</p>