

2. CHANGE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Proposal A. Open membership to all who support AAUW's mission.

Current Bylaw

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 3. Basis of Membership.

a. Individual Member.

(1) Eligibility. A graduate holding a baccalaureate or higher degree from a qualified educational institution, a degree from a foreign institution recognized by the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), or a foreign degree acceptable as a basis for admission by graduate schools at regionally accredited universities in the United States shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership; such membership shall be granted upon payment of dues to the AAUW finance vice president or to a branch treasurer.

Proposed Amendment

Insert "or any individual who supports the mission and goals of AAUW" after "United States."

Proposed Amended Bylaw

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 3. Basis of Membership.

a. Individual Member.

(1) Eligibility. A graduate holding a baccalaureate or higher degree from a qualified educational institution, a degree from a foreign institution recognized by the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), or a foreign degree acceptable as a basis for admission by graduate schools at regionally accredited universities in the United States, or any individual who supports the mission and goals of AAUW shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership; such membership shall be granted upon payment of dues to the AAUW finance vice president or to a branch treasurer.

Rationale

This amendment would better reflect AAUW's stated mission to promote equity for all women and girls, lifelong learning, and positive societal change. Opening membership would allow those who support AAUW's goals and principles to actively participate in the organization at all levels. This would offer new avenues to achieving the goal of a more diverse membership, especially to those for whom lack of formal education is indicative of class. A more diverse membership would also broaden—and thus increase—AAUW's voice. Women who start their own businesses, pursue nontraditional careers, or work at other jobs that require no degree are valuable to our communities and bring added strength and a different perspective to obtaining our goals of pay equity, child care, good public education, and affordable health care. The Bylaws Committee is proposing this amendment again because of the continued interest in broadening membership and at the request of three states.

Proposal B. Open membership to holders of an associate degree or its equivalent.

NOTE: Proposal 2-B will be presented only if Proposal 2-A fails.

Current Bylaw

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 3. Basis of Membership.

a. Individual Member.

(1) Eligibility. A graduate holding a baccalaureate or higher degree from a qualified educational institution, a degree from a foreign institution recognized by the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), or a foreign degree acceptable as a basis for admission by graduate schools at regionally accredited universities in the United States shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership; such membership shall be granted upon payment of dues to the AAUW finance vice president or to a branch treasurer.

Proposed Amendment

Insert "associate or equivalent" before "baccalaureate."

Proposed Amended Bylaw

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 3. Basis of Membership.

a. Individual Member.

(1) Eligibility. A graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified educational institution, a degree from a foreign institution recognized by the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), or a foreign degree acceptable as a basis for admission by graduate schools at regionally accredited universities in the United States shall be eligible to receive admission to AAUW membership; such membership shall be granted upon payment of dues to the AAUW finance vice president or to a branch treasurer.

Rationale

This amendment would better reflect AAUW's stated mission. Technical and community colleges are eligible to be

college/university members, but their associate degree graduates are ineligible for individual membership. Also, student affiliates cannot become members if they graduate with an associate degree or do not complete their degree work and stop going to school. If diverse membership is a goal, this change would open new avenues to achieving that goal and not restrict participation based on the amount of formal education. It is not just the degree requirement that makes AAUW different. No other organization is like AAUW because of our mission of equity for women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.