

## PROPOSED AMENDMENT: MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

### Recommended Changes:

#### ARTICLE III

##### Membership

The Board of Directors establishes the membership classifications and criteria as deemed necessary to carry out the mission of ONS.

##### ~~Section 1. Classifications~~

~~There shall be nine classifications of membership: Regular, Retired, Early-Career Professional, Physically Challenged, International Tiered, Student, Associate, Sustaining, and Honorary.~~

##### ~~Section 2. Qualifications and Privileges~~

- ~~A.—Regular members shall be U.S. or international registered nurses or equivalent, engaged or interested in oncology nursing, and shall be eligible to vote, hold elected office, and serve on committees.~~
- ~~B.—Retired members shall be individuals who qualify for regular membership and have reached an age specified in policies by the Board of Directors to merit retired status. Retired members shall have all the privileges of regular membership.~~
- ~~C.—Early-career professional members shall be individuals who qualify for regular membership and have held their RN degree for five years or less. Early-career professionals shall have all the privileges of regular membership.~~
- ~~D.—Physically challenged members shall be individuals who qualify for regular membership and who are receiving long-term disability benefits, and shall have all the privileges of regular membership.~~
- ~~E.—Student members shall be individuals enrolled full-time in a nursing education program leading to eligibility for registered nurse licensure. Student members shall be excluded from voting, holding elected office, and serving as committee members.~~
- ~~F.—Sustaining members shall be organizations, corporations or individuals interested in financially supporting ONS. Sustaining members shall be excluded from voting, holding elected office, and serving as committee members.~~
- ~~G.—Honorary members shall be individuals who have received unanimous approval by the Board of Directors in recognition for their outstanding contributions to oncology nursing. Honorary members shall be excluded from voting, holding elected office, and serving as committee members.~~
- ~~H.—Associate members shall be healthcare professionals who do not qualify for regular, retired, early-career professional, physically challenged, student, sustaining, or honorary membership. Associate members shall be excluded from voting and holding elected office.~~
- ~~I.—International tiered members shall be registered nurses or equivalent engaged or interested in oncology nursing and residing in a country deemed as having a low-income to upper middle-income economy, as designated by the World Bank. International tiered members may not vote~~

~~or hold elected office. This membership class shall receive reduced membership benefits for a reduced member fee, as defined by the Board of Directors.~~

### **Rationale**

Organizational membership classifications and criteria are continually evolving, and a recent benchmarking initiative revealed that ONS member classifications and criteria are not aligned with those of other nursing organizations. Some existing ONS membership classifications may be too limiting and others are not offered. Because the membership classifications and categories appear in the ONS bylaws, they require the membership to vote on any changes. This process is limited to one time per year, during the ONS annual elections. As a result, ONS is unable to respond nimbly to emerging trends and member needs. By amending the ONS bylaws to charge the ONS Board of Directors with revising the membership classifications and criteria as needed, ONS can be more responsive. Membership categories will continue to appear on the ONS website and on the form for joining or renewing membership.

### **Pro Statement**

By removing Membership Sections 1 and 2, the ONS Board of Directors will be able to more nimbly amend membership classifications and criteria as necessary to carry out the mission of ONS. Categories may be added, revised, or removed as needed and without approval of the ONS membership during the annual election process. ONS will also be able to more quickly change its membership structure to meet the changing needs of its members and avoid any confusion related to potentially regular revision requests to the Membership bylaws during the annual election process.

### **Con Statement**

If the ONS membership classifications and categories are removed from the ONS bylaws and the ONS Board of Directors is tasked with making revisions, ONS members will no longer be required to vote on changes to the membership structure. The ONS Board of Directors could make changes at any time that would affect various member categories. These changes could result in the unavailability of some membership categories and the inclusion of new categories that members may not value.

**Board Recommendation: Adopt**