Eligibility of “Special Individuals”

Per the Order of the Engineer Code of Regulations, ARTICLE III Section 1 (f), special individuals – who by reason of education, eminence, or experience – are eligible for membership in the Order. The National Board of Governors grants links the autonomy to evaluate an individual’s credentials to determine his/her eligibility. This document provides guidance to links for making that determination.

Oftentimes, links have chosen to induct special individuals because of a desire to help perpetuate the Order. For example, engineering deans may wish to be inducted so that they can conduct or be involved in future ceremonies at their institution. However, a link should not grant eligibility to an individual for the purpose of financial gain or distinction to a link – or to the link’s associated institution, society, or organization.

These guidelines are not intended to be overly restrictive or exclusive, but rather inclusive to individuals who are viewed by others as significantly connected to and influential on the engineering profession.

Guidance for Links

Individuals who do not have degrees from EAC/ABET-accredited programs or who are otherwise not eligible for membership as specified in the Order of the Engineer Code of Regulations, ARTICLE III Section 1 (a)-(e), may still be eligible for membership. A link may deem a special individual with an appropriate education to be eligible for the Order by reason of education, eminence, or experience. The individual must have earned a degree at least at the baccalaureate level, as described below. An EAC/ABET-accredited engineering degree is the preeminent educational qualifier for membership in the Order. However, an individual who has not earned an EAC/ABET-accredited degree may still be deemed eligible for membership if they meet the criteria below. Although the conjunction “or” is used, the individual would typically be expected to meet 2 of the 3 qualifications. For example, if an individual has an earned degree as described below, the individual must also demonstrate eminence or substantial experience in engineering.

EDUCATION:

An EAC/ABET-accredited engineering degree is the preeminent educational qualifier for membership in the Order. However, an individual who has not earned an EAC/ABET-accredited degree may still be deemed eligible for membership. The individual must have earned a degree at least at the baccalaureate level. The degree may be in engineering from a program that is not EAC/ABET-accredited or in a field that is closely allied with or foundational to engineering. This includes degrees in engineering technology or in science or mathematics, either of which may be pure or applied. An advanced degree in one of these fields would weigh heavily towards eligibility.

EMINENCE:

Eminence may be attained by an individual through contributions of unusual importance in engineering practice or academia. Eminence may be deserved because of technical accomplishments, exemplary scholarship activities, intellectual achievements, or exceptional service. It may be deserved because of technical accomplishments, exemplary scholarship activities, intellectual achievements, or exceptional service. Such activities must be related to engineering education, the engineering profession, or the practice of engineering. Eminence is earned over the long-term