

IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology and is hereinafter referred to as SSIT or the Society.

Section 2. The Society's purposes shall be scientific, technical, literary and educational in character with special attention to the aims within the Field of Interest defined in Article II. The Society shall strive for the application of science and technology in socially, ethically, and environmentally responsible ways that will benefit both humanity and the planet as a whole. The Society encourages the maintenance of high professional and ethical standards among the profession.

Section 3. The Society shall promote close cooperation and exchange of information pertinent to its field of interest among its members and others, and to this end shall: hold meetings for the presentation of papers and discussions; provide forums and publications for the presentation and discussions of topics in the field; and help develop standards.

Section 4. All provisions of the Society shall be consistent with the governing documents of the IEEE.

ARTICLE II

FIELD OF INTEREST

Section 1. The Field of Interest of the Society shall be: To facilitate understanding of the complex interaction between technology, science and society, including impact on individuals and society in general, ethics, professional and social responsibility in the practice of engineering, science, and technology, and open discussion of the resulting issues.

Section 2. Changes to the Field of Interest shall be in accordance with the process outlined in the Technical Activities Board (TAB) Operations Manual.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. IEEE members in any grade may become members of the Society upon application and payment of fees as established by the Board of Governors (BoG).

Section 2. The Society may have Affiliates and Honorary Members as prescribed in the Society Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV

FINANCES

Section 1. The Society shall establish dues for its members as prescribed in the Society Bylaws.

Section 2. The Society may make registration charges at its Society meetings, symposia, conferences and conventions. The registration fee for non-IEEE Members shall be higher than for IEEE Members and SSIT Affiliates.

Section 3. The Society may raise revenues by other means, such as advertising, shows and requests for contributions, provided such means are consistent with applicable IEEE Policies. Any new revenue sources must be consistent with IEEE Policy.

ARTICLE V

ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The Society shall be managed by a Board of Governors (BoG). The BoG shall have the following composition:

- 1.1 Elected Members-at-Large: Nine Society members or Society Affiliates, elected at large by the members of the Society. The term limits and the election process for the Members-at-Large shall be as provided in the Society Bylaws.
- 1.2 The Society Officers as specified in Article V Section 2, if they are not members by provisions of Article V, Sections 1.1 or 1.3.
- 1.3 The Chairs of the SSIT Major Standing Committees, as defined in the Society Bylaws, who shall be Vice Presidents of the Society.

Section 2. The Officers of the Society shall be the President, the Immediate Past President, the President-Elect, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Section 3. All categories of BoG members defined in Section 1 shall have full voting privileges.

Section 4. Each Officer and BoG member must be a member or Affiliate of the Society as prescribed in the Society Bylaws by their position, during that individual's term of office.

Section 5. Organizational entities subordinate to the BoG may be formed as prescribed in the Society Bylaws.

Section 6. The President-Elect of the Society shall be elected by the BoG for a two-year term. Following completion of that term, the individual automatically becomes President of the Society for a single two-year term.

Section 7. Upon completion of the two year term as President, the individual shall serve a two

year term as Immediate Past President of the Society.

Section 8. The newly elected BoG members and President-Elect shall assume office on the first day of January following their election. The President takes office on the first day of January of the year following the two-year term as President-Elect.

Section 9. The Secretary shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the BoG for a term of two years and may be reappointed without limit.

Section 10. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the BoG for a term of two years and may be reappointed without limit.

Section 11. The following, if not members of the BoG in other capacities, shall be Associate Members of the BoG without vote. The Secretary shall keep a list of Associate Members.

11.1 IEEE Society and Technical Council liaison appointments.

11.2 Individuals appointed by IEEE Division Directors.

11.3 Liaison members appointed by other organizational units of the IEEE.

11.4 Individuals designated by the President with the advice and consent of the Board.

Section 12. Duties and responsibilities of the Officers shall be as defined hereinunder and in the Society Bylaws, and as delineated by the BoG.

Section 13. The President, under the direction of the Board, shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Society. The President shall preside at meetings of the BoG, at general meetings of the Society, and have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be provided in the Society Bylaws, or as may be delegated by the Board.

Section 14. The President shall be an ex-officio member without vote of all committees of the Society except the Nomination and Appointments Committee. The President is a member of the Technical Activities Board (TAB) and when notified of a meeting of said Board, shall ensure representation of the Society.

Section 15. The BoG may establish standing or ad hoc committees as prescribed in the Society Bylaws. All appointments to committees and similar posts shall be for the duration of the President's term. Committee reappointments can be made without limit. In the event that reappointments are not made, and the affected committees and/or similar posts are not formally dissolved, past appointments shall continue until successors are appointed and take office or until the committees and/or similar posts are dissolved.

Section 16. The BoG may establish Chapters where appropriate, in conformance with TAB Policies and MGA Policies. Chapters may be sponsored by SSIT, or co-sponsored with other IEEE Societies/Councils. Similarly, the BoG may establish Student Branch Chapters.

Section 17. The BoG may utilize the services of the IEEE as bursar for all or part of the Society funds. If any part of the Society funds is received and deposited separately, the terms and conditions shall be in accordance with IEEE Policies and subject to the provisions of the Society Bylaws and to any special limitations imposed by the BoG.

Section 18. Neither the Society nor any Officer or representative thereof shall have any authority to contract debts for, pledge the credit of, or in any way bind the IEEE except within prior approved budgets.

ARTICLE VI

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ELECTED BY THE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The nominating procedure for the Members-at-Large of the BoG elected by the Society membership shall include provision for petitioning by Society members to place a name on the ballot. The election procedure shall be prescribed in the Society Bylaws.

Section 2. Vacancies on the BoG shall be filled as prescribed in the Society Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

TECHNICAL MEETINGS

Section 1. The Society may hold meetings, conferences, symposia or conventions, either alone or in cooperation with other organizational units of the IEEE, or other technical, professional or scholarly organizations, subject to IEEE Policies.

Section 2. Meetings and conferences of the Society shall be open on an equal basis to all members, and affiliates, of the IEEE as specified in IEEE Policy.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD of GOVERNORS

Section 1. The BoG shall hold at least three meetings each year, one of which shall be designated the Annual Meeting, at a time specified in the Society Bylaws. Other meetings of the BoG shall be held at such times as are found necessary and/or convenient. Special meetings of the BoG may be called at the discretion of the President of the Society or upon the request of at least six voting members of the BoG. At least 30 days notice shall normally be given to the BoG prior to a special meeting with exceptions as approved by the BoG.

Section 2. A majority of the voting members of the BoG or any committee thereof shall constitute a quorum of the respective SSIT unit.

Section 3. A majority of the votes cast of the members present and entitled to vote at the time of the vote, provided a quorum is present, shall be necessary to approve the action of the BoG or any committee thereof. Voting must be consistent with IEEE governance rules and regulations. Normal voting procedures apply when a teleconference format is used wherein all participants must be able to hear the discussion. Individuals holding more than one voting position on the BoG or any committee thereof shall be limited to one vote on each matter being considered by the Board or committee. Proxy voting is not allowed. The presiding officer of the BoG shall not have a vote on the BoG except when the vote is by secret ballot or when the vote can change the outcome.

Section 4. The BoG or any committee thereof may take action without a meeting if applicable (e.g., e-mail voting). An affirmative vote of a majority of all the voting members of the BoG

or any committee thereof shall be required to approve the action. The results of the vote shall be confirmed promptly in writing or by electronic transmission. The writings and/or electronic transmissions shall be filed with the minutes of the BoG or any committee thereof. "Electronic transmission" means any form of electronic communication, such as e-mail, not directly involving the physical transmission of paper, that creates a record that may be retained, retrieved and reviewed by a recipient thereof, and that may be directly reproduced in paper form by such a recipient.

ARTICLE IX

PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. Publications undertaken by the Society shall be subject to IEEE Policies and to any further guidance or controls prescribed by the BoG or its duly appointed committees. The Society shall be responsible for the financial aspects of its publication program.

Section 2. The President, with the advice of the Vice President (Publications) and consent of the BoG, shall appoint such editors as may be required to implement the publication program.

Section 3. The Publications Committee of SSIT shall have liaison representation with appropriate IEEE Boards and Committees.

ARTICLE X

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Bylaws may be adopted or changed by a two-thirds vote legally cast by the BoG members present at a regular or special meeting, provided that notice of the proposed Bylaw or Bylaw Amendment has been mailed (via first-class, express delivery service, or electronic means in accordance with IEEE policy) to each Officer and each BoG member at least three weeks prior to such a meeting. A Bylaw or Amendments thereto may also be adopted by a two-thirds vote (conducted by first-class mail, express delivery service, or electronic means in accordance with IEEE policy) of the members of the BoG provided a 30-day period is provided for such responses. Proposed amendments are then submitted to the Vice President, Technical Activities for approval. After such approval, the proposed amendment(s) shall be published in at least one of the Society's publications or otherwise publicized by direct mailing (print or electronic) to the membership. Bylaws Amendments shall become effective 30 days after publication.

ARTICLE XI

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be initiated by petition submitted to the

President by a minimum of 40 members of the Society or by a two-thirds majority vote of Board votes cast as specified in Article VIII Section 3. Each proposed amendment shall be transmitted for administrative approval to the IEEE Vice President, Technical Activities. After such approval, the proposed amendment shall be published in a Society publication or transmitted by electronic communication distributed to all Society members with notice that it goes into effect unless 40 or more Society members object in writing within 30 days. If such objections are received, a copy of the proposed amendment and any arguments for and against shall be sent by suitable electronic or print media with a ballot to all members of the Society at least 30 days before the date appointed for return the ballots, and the ballots shall carry a statement of the time limit for their return to the IEEE office. Approval of the amendment by at least two-thirds of the valid ballots received (not counting abstentions) shall be necessary for its enactment. For each petition submitted, the BoG shall prepare summary statements for and against the proposed amendment and a recommendation in the form of a vote of the BoG concerning its adoption. The summary statements and recommendations shall be transmitted along with the proposed amendment when the latter is distributed to Society members for consideration.

Section 2. All amendments to the Constitution shall become effective 30 days after all necessary approvals and notifications, unless a later date has been specified at the time the vote is taken.