SOCIETY ON SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY

BYLAWS

1.0 These Bylaws provide for the supervision and management of the affairs of the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology, hereinafter referred to as SSIT or the Society, in accordance with the Society Constitution. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be made as prescribed in the Constitution, Article X. The governing body of the Society on Social Implications of Technology is the Board of Governors, hereinafter referred to as the BoG. The governing documents of the Society are its Constitution and Bylaws and IEEE governing documents.

2.0 **Membership**: The Constitution, Article III, provides for Members, Affiliates, and Honorary Members of the Society. Annual fees are set by the BoG.

2.1 A Member's grade within the Society shall be the same as that member's IEEE grade.

2.2 Honorary Members: Such membership shall be exempt from the payment of the annual fee and shall be based on the recommendation of the Society Awards Committee, the endorsement of the BoG, and any required IEEE approval.

2.3 Affiliates: Individuals who are not IEEE members may join the Society as an IEEE Society Affiliate. Technical Activities Board (TAB) shall establish the qualifications for Society Affiliates, whose associated rights and privileges shall be contained within these Bylaws. Affiliates have all the rights and privileges of Society Members and may serve in capacities that do not require IEEE membership as a prerequisite.

3.0 **Board of Governors (BoG)**: The Constitution, Article V, designates the BoG as the governing and administrative body of the Society. This Bylaw describes the composition and procedures of the BoG, consistent with the Constitution, Article V.

3.1 Members-at-Large: Nine elected Members-at-Large, elected for staggered three year terms, three being elected each year. Elected Members-at-Large may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms for a maximum of six years. After completing their terms, they become eligible to serve again after a one-year break

3.2 Vice Presidents of the Society: The chairs of each of the SSIT Major Standing Committees, as defined in Bylaw 7.0.

3.3 Society Officers: As defined in Article V Section 2 of the Constitution.

3.4 The BoG may vote vacant the position of any elected or appointed BoG member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the BoG.

3.5 Vacancies for Members-at-Large positions of the BoG may be filled by appointments by the President, with the advice and consent of the BOG, until the next election by the SSIT membership. Members-at-Large elected to fill a vacated term shall serve for the remainder of the original term.

3.6 Associate BoG Members: The Constitution Article V Section 11 provides for Associate Members of the BoG (distinct from IEEE Associate Members) without vote.

3.7 The Constitution Article VIII provides for meetings of the BoG. Special meetings of the BoG may be called in accordance with the Constitution Article VIII.

3.8 The President shall call an Annual Meeting of the BoG, normally in the final quarter of the year, after the deadline for election of Members-at-Large has passed. The agenda for the Annual Meeting shall include at a minimum:

3.8.1 Announcement of election results for Members-at-Large of the BoG

3.8.2 Election of the President-Elect (in alternate years).

3.9 Robert's Rules of Order (current Revision) shall govern conduct of BoG meetings on all matters not otherwise specified in these Bylaws or the Constitution, or the IEEE governance documents.

3.10 Proxy voting shall not be permitted at any meeting of the Board of Governors.

4.0 Nominations & Appointments Committee and the Election Process of Members-at-Large and President-Elect

4.1 The Chair of the N&A Committee shall be either the Past Past President or the Immediate Past President of the BOG. In the event of the incapacity or conflict of interest of the Chair, the most recent Past Chair of the N&A Committee available shall be the Chair of the N&A Committee. With extenuating circumstances, a different individual may be appointed Chair of the N&A Committee by the President with the advice and consent of the BoG.

4.1.1 Chair of the N&A Committee shall not be eligible to be elected to the BoG during their term of service.

4.1.2 At least two-thirds of the voting members of the N&A Committee shall be elected or appointed members of the BoG.

4.1.3 A member of an N&A Committee may be nominated only if the member resigns from the N&A Committee prior to its first meeting of the year in which the nomination shall be made.

4.2 The N&A Committee shall prepare a slate of names to fill forthcoming vacancies of the BoG.

4.2.1 Candidates for Members-at-Large of the BoG shall be SSIT members in good standing who have held SSIT membership since January 1 of the year preceding the year of election and who are eligible to hold an elected position in accordance with IEEE governance documents, including Associate Members and SSIT Society Affiliates who have met this membership requirement. Candidates shall have a record of volunteer service in SSIT.

4.2.2 A slate of nominations with a minimum of 1.5 candidates for each vacancy, shall be prepared by the N&A Committee by May 1 of each year and presented for approval of the BoG. Recommendations for such nominees shall be solicited by the Chair of the N&A Committee from the members of the BoG and from the chairs of all other organizational entities of the Society. A call for nominations shall also be published in the Society Newsletter and on the Society website. The Chair of the N&A Committee shall ensure that all candidates meet the eligibility criteria of Section 4.2.1 and are willing to serve if elected.

4.2.3 For each elective office of the Society, individual voting members eligible to vote in such election may nominate candidates either by a written petition or by majority vote at a nomination meeting of the organizational unit, provided such nominations are made at least 28 days before the date of election. The number of signatures required on a petition shall be determined in accordance with IEEE Bylaws as follows. For all positions where the electorate is less than 30,000 voting members, signatures shall be required from 2% of the eligible voters. For all positions where the electorate is more than 30,000 voting members, 600 signatures of eligible voters plus 1% of the difference between the number of eligible voters and 30,000 shall be required. Members shall be notified of all duly made nominations prior to the election. Prior to submission of a nomination petition, the petitioner shall have determined that the nominee named in the petition is willing to serve, if elected; evidence of such willingness to serve shall be submitted with the petition. Only signatures submitted electronically through the IEEE society annual elections website shall be accepted.

4.2.4 The final slate of nominations, including those submitted by the N&A Committee and those petition candidates meeting the threshold per Bylaw Section 4.2.3, shall be reported to the BoG.

4.2.5 Upon receipt of the final slate of nominations by the BoG, the ballot shall be electronically sent or mailed to the Society membership with a voting deadline consistent with IEEE or TAB guidelines. The eligible voters shall be those defined in the applicable IEEE governance documents who have been members as of 1 January of the year of election, including IEEE Associate Members with SSIT membership and SSIT Society Affiliates. The results of the vote shall be transmitted to the N&A Committee Chair, Society President and Secretary prior to the date of the Annual meeting of

the BoG.

4.2.6 SSIT President shall announce those candidates having a plurality of votes to be elected at its Annual Meeting and shall so inform the N&A Committee. Ties shall be broken by the BoG. The Secretary shall expeditiously notify the Secretary of the TAB of the new BoG Membership.

4.3 The N&A Committee shall submit a slate of nominations for President-Elect to the BoG at the Annual Meeting, occurring biennially in years when a President-Elect is to be elected.

4.3.1 Candidates for President-Elect shall be SSIT members in good standing who have held SSIT membership since January 1 of the year preceding the year of election and who are eligible to hold an elected position in accordance with IEEE governance documents, with a record of service on the SSIT Board of Governors. Associate Members and SSIT Affiliates are not eligible.

4.3.2 The Chair of the N&A Committee shall solicit nominations from the members of the BoG and from the Chairs of all other organizational entities of the Society. A call for nominations shall also be published in the Society Newsletter and on the Society website. The Chair of the N&A Committee shall ensure that all candidates meet the eligibility criteria of Section 4.3.1 and are willing to serve if elected.

4.3.3 Candidates for President-Elect, who have been considered and deemed eligible by the N&A Committee but not placed on the slate submitted to the BoG, can be nominated no later than 10 days prior to the Annual BoG Meeting, if the signatures of at least one third of the Voting Members of the BoG (rounded up) accompany the nomination. Biographies and position statements for such candidates provided to the Annual BoG Meeting shall be those considered by the N&A Committee.

4.3.4 The Chair of the N&A Committee shall submit to the BoG the slate of nominations for the President-Elect, along with biographies and position statements, no later than seven days prior to the Annual BoG Meeting.

4.3.5 The candidate receiving the majority of all votes cast of the BoG and providing a quorum is present shall be declared elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a run-off election shall be held by eliminating the candidate with the minimum vote. Ties will be resolved by the Chair.

5.0 **Officers of the Society:** The Constitution, Article V, provides for the President, the Immediate Past President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, and the Treasurer as the Officers of the Society.

5.1 The President shall appoint the Secretary and Treasurer with the advice and

consent of the BoG. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be SSIT Members who are of IEEE Member, Senior Member, or Fellow grade.

5.2 The President shall appoint the respective Chairs of the SSIT Major Standing Committees as defined in Bylaw 7.0 with the advice and consent of the BoG. The Chairs of the Major Standing Committees shall be SSIT Members who are Associate Members, Graduate Student Members, Members, Senior Members, or Fellows of IEEE, or SSIT Society Affiliates.

5.3 The term limits for the Society Officers shall be as specified in Constitution Article V and the Officers shall continue to serve until their successors take office formally.

5.4 The President shall supervise the affairs of the Society, shall designate in writing and have made known to all BoG members the duties of all the Officers and other members of the BoG, and shall speak for the Society on all matters not specifically delegated to others. The President is an ex-officio member of all SSIT committees except for those prohibited in the SSIT governing documents, the TAB Operations Manual, or other IEEE governing documents.

5.5 The order of succession to act for the President shall be: President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Members-at-Large having most recently served in such positions, then followed by a Member-a-Large selected by vote of the BoG at a meeting called in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

5.6 The Secretary and Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping the records of the BoG in the areas commonly ascribable of each of their functions. They shall prepare and distribute reports, notices, or such documents as may be required by the President and the BoG.

6.0 **Society Business:** The President and other Officers shall conduct Society affairs subject to the Constitution, these Bylaws, IEEE governing documents, and the advice and consent of the BoG.

7.0 **SSIT Major Standing Committees:** The Society shall establish Major Standing Committees for the implementation of Society activities. As noted in the Constitution Article V Section 1.3 and Bylaws Section 3.2, the Chairs of the Major Standing Committees are voting members of the BoG and are Vice-Presidents of the Society. The eligibility criteria and the appointment process for the Vice Presidents is specified in Section 5.2 of the Bylaws.

The Major Standing Committees of the SSIT are:

7.1 **Publications Committee:** The Publications Committee shall oversee all aspects of SSIT publications, including print and electronic formats, as well as joint publications with other entities. It is also responsible for reviewing and evaluating proposals for new publications.

7.2 **Conferences Committee**: The Conferences Committee shall oversee all aspects

of SSIT involvement in conferences, including all types of sponsorship – full financial, partial financial, and technical co-sponsorship. The Committee shall submit recommendations to the BoG for its approval of all forms of conference sponsorships. This Committee shall also consider and manage various forms of engagement with conferences organized by other entities, including participation in keynote and invited talks, sponsorship of panel participants and/or sessions, and representation at IEEE and non-IEEE conferences. These activities shall be coordinated with other SSIT stakeholders including the Liaisons, Public Outreach and Visibility Committee, and the Technical Activities Committee.

7.3 **Membership Committee**: The Membership Committee shall oversee all aspects of providing services to and increasing SSIT membership, in all membership segments. The members of this Committee shall include the Chairs of Chapters Committee, Life Members Committee, Student Activities Committee, Women In Engineering Committee, and Young Professionals Committee.

7.4 **Liaisons, Public Outreach and Visibility Committee**: This Committee shall explore and develop opportunities for advantageous outreach to, and liaise with, other IEEE and non-IEEE organizations. It shall also oversee the content and maintenance of all SSIT web sites as well as social media/discussion sites. This Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that the SSIT brand is well-protected.

7.5 **Technical Activities Committee**: This Committee shall oversee SSIT activities in specific technical areas of interest across IEEE and other related fields, including public policy development. It shall explore possible new areas of involvement and discontinue areas no longer of sufficient interest. The Vice-President (Technical Activities) shall establish such committees as are necessary to address the field of interest and technical activities of the Society. This Committee is responsible for oversight and governance of SSIT Technical Committees.

7.6 **Standards Committee:** The Standards Committee shall lead the Society's efforts in generating new IEEE standards and developing updates to existing IEEE standards in the Field of Interest of the Society. The Vice-President (Standards) shall establish such subcommittees (or working groups) as are necessary to advance these goals.

7.7 **Ethics and Social Responsibility Committee:** The Ethics and Social Responsibility Committee shall promote responsible innovation and foster engagement with ethical issues relevant to IEEE, the broader engineering community and the public. This committee has oversight of the IEEE TechEthics activities and the TechEthics community.

7.8 **Education Committee:** The Education Committee shall develop educational programs and educational activities within the SSIT fields of interest.

8.0 **Standing and Ad Hoc Committees** of the Society may be formed as provided in the Society Constitution, Article V Section 15. Each Committee shall be headed by a Chair appointed by the President with advice and consent of the BoG unless otherwise specified below. Each Committee reports directly to the BoG unless otherwise specified below. The respective chairs are non-voting members of the BoG unless they already have voting privilege in another capacity. The Chairs and members of the Standing and Ad Hoc Committees shall be SSIT Members who are Associate Members, Graduate Student Members, Members, Senior Members, or Fellows of IEEE, or SSIT Society Affiliates.

The Standing Committees of the Society are:

8.1 **Awards and Recognition**: This Committee shall administer the nomination, evaluation, and selections process for all SSIT awards, including the IEEE SSIT Carl Barus Award for Outstanding Service in the Public Interest, SSIT Norbert Wiener Award for Social and Professional Responsibility, the Brian M. O'Connell SSIT Distinguished Service Award, and any other awards which SSIT may establish. It shall also explore possible new awards. The BoG shall approve all award recipients.

8.2 **Chapters Committee:** This Committee shall promote SSIT activities at local Chapter level and encourage formation of new Chapters. This Committee shall report to the Vice President (Membership).

8.3 **Constitution and Bylaws:** This Committee shall assess changes that may be needed to the SSIT governing documents and make recommendations to the BoG. It shall ensure the consistency of SSIT governance documents with TAB and IEEE governance documents. The Secretary of the Society shall be the Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

8.4 **Broadening Participation** The mission of the IEEE SSIT Broadening Participation (BP) Committee is to bring awareness of the importance of broadening participation to all operating units, conferences, nominations, awards, and recognitions within IEEE SSIT activities.

8.5 **Finance**: This Committee shall be responsible for financial management of the SSIT and exploring and developing new sources of revenue. It shall ensure timely development of the annual SSIT budget for submission to TAB after approval by the SSIT BoG. The Treasurer of the Society shall be the Chair of this Committee.

8.6 **History:** The History Committee shall be responsible for promoting, documenting, and preserving the history and heritage of SSIT. This Committee shall also promote and support recognition of historically significant events, milestones, and individuals within SSIT's field of interest.

8.7 **Life Members:** This Committee shall promote activities for IEEE Life Members within SSIT. It shall establish liaisons with the IEEE Life Members Committee. The Chair of this Committee shall be an IEEE Life Member. This Committee shall report to the Vice President (Membership).

8.8 **Nominations and Appointments**: This Committee shall be responsible for the development of slates of candidates for SSIT elections, as required in the SSIT Constitution and Bylaws, and administering the election process. The Chair of this Committee shall be as specified in Section 4.1 of the Bylaws.

8.9 **Public Policy:** This Committee shall serve as a primary bridge between technical expertise and legislative action by addressing the societal and environmental impacts of current and emerging technologies. In consultation with the IEEE Global Policy Caucus and in accordance with the IEEE policies, it shall foster engagement of SSIT members in contributing to the creation of evidence-based, objective policy documents such as position statements and white papers that address regional and global technological challenges.

8.10 **Strategic Planning**: This Committee shall develop the long term strategy, oversee the strategic planning process for SSIT, and lead the development of the SSIT Society Review, typically every five years. The President-Elect shall chair this Committee.

8.11 **Student Activities:** This Committee shall promote involvement of students at all levels of SSIT activities including Conferences. This Committee shall report to the Vice President (Membership). The Chair of this Committee may be an SSIT Student Member.

8.12 **Women In Engineering:** This Committee shall lead the efforts to connect, support and inspire the broad participation of members of SSIT. It shall establish liaisons with the IEEE Women In Engineering Committee. This Committee shall report to the Vice President (Membership).

8.13 **Young Professionals:** This Committee shall promote activities for Young Professionals in SSIT. It shall establish liaisons with the IEEE Young Professionals Committee. This Committee shall report to the Vice President (Membership).

Amendment Date: 09 June 2026 (Approved by SSIT Board of Governors)