

IEEE Society on the Social Implications of Technology
Board of Governors Meeting
Saturday July 16, 2011
University of Connecticut Stamford
Room 107

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 10:20 by President Jerry Engel. The members present and on the phone introduced themselves. A quorum was present in person or on the telephone.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Related Attachment: SSITAgenda July16.docx

The agenda as mailed to the to the participants was adopted; the schedule was to be adjusted in real time to ensure that items requiring a vote would be handled first, and to accommodate schedules of individual participants; the schedule below reflects the changes. As a result, the item numbers given below do not necessarily match the item numbers on the original Agenda. Two new business items were added.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes were previously circulated. Bob Whelchel indicated that he has a slight revision of his Publications Report, and misspellings of two names will be corrected. A corrected version will be sent separately.

The minutes were approved, subject to the above changes.

4. President's Report (Engel)

Related Attachment: July2011 President'sReport.docx

Related Attachment: SSITBackgroundReading July16Meeting.docx

President Engel distributed the President's Report before the meeting - see the *Presidents Report* attachment. He reported the following appointments:

Greg Adamson - SSIT Membership Committee

Deepak Mathur - Editor of SSIT Newsletter

Tom Harris will continue as SSIT Web Coordinator

Tab has initiated several new actions that have potential impact on SSIT. These include: 1) one society "basic" membership ("basic" to be defined by each Society) included in all IEEE dues for perhaps ~\$10-15, and 2) the way Society budgetary problems, as well as programmatic problems, will be addressed. These are discussed in an unedited copy of the President's message in the next T&S report, which is included in the *attachment*. These actions are subject to further discussion in TAB.

Other TAB actions:

- the publication price recommendations were all approved, along with the fees for periodicals.
- Elections now must have candidates at least 1.5 the number of positions (e.g., a minimum of 5 candidates for 3 BoG slots). However, elections by BoGs are considered appointments, and thus are not affected.

TAB is developing a plan for helping Societies/Councils in financial trouble. Proposals will be

presented at the November Board Series.

President Engel will attend the Sections Congress in August and will be part of the TAB presence and activities.

A proposal for an ieee.tv video on "Innovation & Social Good", to be funded by Microsoft, was discussed. This is a PR opportunity for SSIT, but a number of concerns were raised. Ron Arkin will talk with ieee.tv further. The original email is in the *Background Reading* attachment, page 8.

There was an extensive discussion on interviews through the IEEE Public Visibility Committee on "Hot Topics" - to identify experts who can speak on "Hot Topics". Some reservations were raised in the discussion, and President Engel asked that if anyone is interested, please contact him.

A proposal was received from Elya Jaffe for an International Workshop on Ethics in Science and Engineering in Israel next year. The proposal could serve as a focus for the SSIT 50th anniversary in 2012. The relationship to ISTAS was discussed. The proposal was generally well received, and will be pursued further. The original email of the proposal is in the *BackgroundReading* attachment, page 17.

TAB Future Directions Committee is developing a suggestion for "Custom Industry Seminars" to be marketed by IEEE, as noted in the *Presidents Report* attachment. SSIT should consider coming up with one or more such seminars on ethics. Concerns were raised about ensuring that speakers are effectively trained for the talks, but there is opportunity for SSIT. President Engel will pursue this.

Several other items were discussed later in the meeting.

5. Past President's Report (Karl Perusich; given by President Engel)
A request was made for additional suggestions for the BoG election, as to meet the current rule, 5 candidates will be needed. It was suggested that solicitation for nominations be made through the newsletter. As noted previously, an election by a BoG for officers (president, vice president, etc.) is in fact an appointment, and does not need to meet the 1.5 X slots requirement.
6. Region Director's Report - no report
7. Treasurer's Report - no report (on travel)
8. Publications Report (Bob Whelchel)

Related Attachment: T&Son-linePubOptionsJuly2011Ber1c.pdf

Candidates for the T&S editor were discussed in executive session. The selection committee had performed due diligence on the nominees. Katina Michaels of the University of Woolongong, NSW Australia, was elected unanimously.

NOTE: The information on the nominees that was distributed by email to the BoG is CONFIDENTIAL, and should not be discussed or distributed further.

Additional items:

1) ABET Criteria:

Continuation of discussion on ABET Criteria. The problem is that ABET can change how they state the criteria; the goal is an "ABET Neutral" language to discuss ABET content. The acronym for an ABET neutral terminology is the result is PSI -> Professionalism, Societal effects,

Interdisciplinary Efforts. Professionalism includes ethics. It was requested that the BoG think about it.

2) T&SA Online Publications Options.

The discussion focused around the two items under the Executive Summary included in the T&SA Online Publications Options attachment:

a) There is no need for SSIT to be involved in the publication of aphysical product....after T&S goes online in 2013.

b) For T&S online publication (2013 on)..... need at least two versions of the virtual T&S product: a browser version (probably the Qmags "browser" version) and a PDF version (probably the Qmags "download" version). Details are included in the attachment. Going online instead of print will save about \$31K per year. Rational: difficult to get an accurate estimate of the various formats, and an inaccurate estimate will cost us money. Individual articles can be printed from Xplore, and an article can be printed from Qmags. However, the IEEE plans are continually shifting.

Considerable discussion -> since a decision did not need to be made at the meeting, action was postponed until the next meeting, and a recommendation for action will be made at then.

9. Conference Report_(Gene Hoffnagle - given by Jerry Engel in person and Greg Adamson by phone)

ISTAS 2011: No financial results from ISTAS 2011 were available.

ISTAS Steering Committee ("Conference Ambassador Proposal"): The proposal is to have an Ad Hoc Committee which exists from year to year to provide advice and corporate memory for successive ISTAS conferences, keeping the past leadership involved. This will be considered further.

ISTAS 2012: Whether there will be an ISTAS 2012, and if so where it will be held, is still open, and it might be combined with the possible international ethics workshop mentioned earlier.

Singapore 2012 Conference: Australia has proposed to hold a conference on SSIT themes in Singapore with various Region 10 SSIT groups. It is to be self funding through SSIT Australia Victoria and region co-sponsors. There is a lot of interest. The proposal is to hold it under the SSIT banner with SSIT receiving 10% of the surplus, with no financial liability. A goal would be to establish coordination on Region 10 SSIT activities. Success factors: successful conference, and establishing SSIT groups or chapters in China, India, Singapore. SSIT would be involved in the organizing and programming committee. Proposed dates in mid-September to October. The proceedings would be in Xplore. The proposal is described on Page 1 of the SSITBackgroundReading attachment. The BoG had no objections to moving forward on the proposal.

Norbert Weiner Conference: (Greg Adamson by phone) SSIT Australia has initiated a discussion on holding a commemorative conference in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of Norbert Weiner, the founder of the concept of cybernetics. There is a broad level of interest, and support has been voiced by a number of prominent people in cybernetics and related fields. The proposal is for SSIT to support of such a conference, with a review of the detailed proposal before further commitment. It was felt to be a very good proposal, and it will be pursued further. Greg will touch base with Gene Hoffnagle.

10. Membership Committee: (Greg Adamson by phone)

A proposal was presented to establish a membership committee of people who have been involved in successful SSIT membership activities, to include Adamson (Chair), and one member from Australia, up to two from North America, one from a European SSIT chapter, and a

representative from China or India once an SSIT chapter has been formed there. The first activity will be to have discussion among the committee, develop ideas and roadmaps. President Engel requested names be submitted, and the BoG strongly endorsed the proposal.

11. Ethics Proposal: Barus Award Proposal (Steve Unger)

This discussion involved discussion of an individual for the Barus Award, and was held in Executive Session. The material sent previously to the BoG is CONFIDENTIAL should not be discussed or distributed further.

There was discussion of the funding amount for the Barus Award. There was general agreement that the stipend of the Award should not be adjusted to financial considerations of the recipient. It is currently at \$5K, but the SSIT finances make this amount difficult.

The proposal was tabled to the next meeting. The scope of the Barus Award will be investigated.

12. New Business: IEEE Press Book (Joe Herkert)

Recently, Joe Herkert has been asked to do a 2nd edition of an IEEE Press book of articles taken from T&S magazine which he authored a over decade ago. Joe is not interested, but there is a person who is willing to do a 2nd edition. There does not seem to be a formal proposal. Jerry Engel will ask IEEE Press about what is being requested, and get a formal proposal.

13. Fellow Committee (Ken Foster)

SSIT received a very strong candidate for IEEE Fellow. An evaluation committee was formed and the nominee evaluated.

14. Distinguished Lecturers (Herkert)

There have not been any official Distinguished Lectures since the last meeting, but there have been four informal lectures - Michael Loui has given two, Keith Miller gave one in the Netherlands, and Luis Kun gave one in Paraguay. It was noted that the DL website is badly out of date. Joe Herkert will handle.

15. Chapters/GOLD (Emily Anesta) - no report

16. Women in Engineering (Laura Jacob)

There was a WIE Conference in Phoenix in April. WIE is trying to decide on how to organize and go forward. WIE is now a standing committee of the IEEE Board, and they are investigating moving to be under TAB or EAB; this is in flux. MGA is not being considered.

17. Awards (Joe Herkert)

The Brian O'Connell Distinguished Service Award has not been given recently. President Engel and Ken Foster will look into reviving it.

18. New Business: Discussion of Pulling Out of IEEE (Lew Terman)

Lew Terman presented his views for SSIT remaining in IEEE. Steve Ungar responded that IEEE membership involves significant financial overhead, and IEEE imposes major restrictions on what SSIT can do and positions it can take. It was noted that independent advocacy organizations currently exist. In general, the BoG felt it must see how the new membership model plays out before doing anything. No action was taken.

19. The Fall Meeting is tentatively set for October 15th, at the University of Pennsylvania

20. The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 PM

Attendees (in person or by phone):

Attendee	Position	Contact
Jerry Engel	President	gengel64@aol.com
Bradley Kjell	VP/Elected BoG Member	kjell@ccsu.edu
Lew Terman	Secretary/Elected BoG Member	terman@us.ibm.com
Greg Adamson	Elected BoG Member	adamso.g@anz.com
Emily Anesta	Elected BoG Member	eanesta@gmail.com
Ron Arkin	Elected BoG Member	arkin@cc.gatech.edu
Joe Herkert	Elected BoG Member	j.herkert@ieee.org
Stephen Unger	Elected BoG Member	unger@cs.columbia.edu
Bob Whelchel	Publications Chair	whelchelr@tristate.edu
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