

MINUTES

IEEE Society on the Social Implications of Technology
Board of Governors Meeting
October 15, 2011
University of Pennsylvania
508 Skirkanich Hall
Philadelphia, PA

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was opened at 10:16 AM by President Jerry Engel. The members present and on the phone introduced themselves.

A quorum was not present; the items marked with an asterisk (*) were subsequently approved by a vote of the SSIT BoG on 10/23/11.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Related Attachment: SSITBOG_Oct15Agenda.docx

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

3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Terman)

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as distributed.

4. Publications Report (Whelchel - presented by Engel)

No new items to report. Work with ABET to tie some articles in SSIT T&S into ABET continues.

Keith Miller will take over as Pubs Chair, starting on January 1.

5. Conference Report (Hoffnagle - presented by Engel)

The 2011 ISTAS meeting had a surplus of \$2K - \$3K.

2012 Singapore/ISTAS meeting: This is a separate meeting that has been proposed to also be ISTAS for 2012. Greg Adamson reported on the status of the meeting, scheduled for October 28-29, 2012 in Singapore. They are working on the MOU, and sponsorship will be by the IEEE Victoria Section, IEEE Singapore and the IEEE India Council. Pres. Engel proposed that SSIT also be a financial sponsor (at a percentage TBD). A specific proposal will be sent out.

Also discussed was the previously proposed 2013 meeting on ethics, possibly in Israel, which could be the 50th anniversary SSIT meeting. 2012 ISCAS would normally be in Region 8; however, since the proposed 2013 meeting would be in Region 8, holding the 2012 meeting in Region 8 is not necessary.

6. Elections

a) The results of the election for the SSIT Board Of Governors will be announced mid to end of October.

b) Election of 2012 SSIT Officers (Perusich - handled by Terman)

*Jerry Engel was elected president

*Brad Kjell was elected vice-president

7. Fellows Committee (Foster)

- One candidate was evaluated for IEEE Fellow.

- Suggestion: have someone act as a mentor for Fellow nominations. Lew Terman volunteered.

- Luis Kun volunteered to be on the SSIT Fellow evaluation committee.

- Pres. Engel donated the President's Letter space in the December T&S for an article on Fellow nominations to Ken Foster and Lew Terman.

- A discussion on mentoring will be held off-line.

8. Membership (Adamson)

Related attachments:

[Reporting Membership Committee activities Oct 11 v0.2.ppt](#)

[SSIT-30 Current Members by Region by Grade \(Oct 2011\).xls](#)

[SIT-1988.xls](#)

SSIT Membership History: Since 1998, SSIT membership has dropped from 2700 to 1900. Lack of visibility of SSIT in IEEE is probably a major problem. A committee on Membership has been formed by Greg Adamson with members from Australia and Region 8. Proposed goal for membership is for SSIT to have membership of 1% of IEEE members (it was over 1% in 1988). This implies 3K higher grade, 1K student members. This is a long way to go. Student members have dropped from 316 in 1988 to only 41 now, which is very low.

The Membership Committee is developing ideas for increasing membership. The are listed in the "Reporting Membership....." attachment. They include:

- a) Increasing Visibility - encourage existing members to recruit new members, articles in Regional NLS and the SSIT NL;

- b) Future - identify and remove IEEE barriers to SSIT student membership (if any), consider appointing student reps to BoG and to each chapter committee;

- c) Reach - increase the number of chapters by inviting non-chapter areas with 8 or more SSIT members to establish a chapter, with the goal of creating 4 new chapters per year. "Buddy" new chapters with existing chapters and initiate this through an "SSIT Chapters Congress" via teleconference or Skype. Also consider joint chapters;

- d) Value - expand the suite of products and services to provide value and engagement, with a goal of 2 new products/services per year.

Discussion and suggestions:

- have partnerships w. GOLD, WIE at the Section level - local programs, have articles in WIE and GOLD newsletters

- take advantage of the big shifts in the world on Science & Tech policy - food, water, education, etc. - to attract interested people

- develop a talk on SSIT and its topics. Establish joint chapters with other S/Cs - have talks on ethics, public policy, humanitarian application of technology, life sciences at joint meetings.

- do not worry about the net cost of adding new members for 2 years - work it out with the treasurer.

- note that more chapters will require more support /service/assistants; new chapter Buddy system could help this.

- Develop ethics related UTube videos. Should be 5-10 minutes maximum, not more. Become part of technology blogs.

- Hold panel sessions on SSIT topics (e.g., ethics) at big conferences of other S/Cs.

- Need to get smoother paperwork for activities in foreign countries; this has been a problem.

- Video tape and post DLs.

- Develop list of career benefits from SSIT membership, work with ABET, exploit the NST and NIH strong interest in responsible conduct of research as driver for possible membership.

Pres. Engel expressed a vote of confidence on the membership proposal, and said to move ahead. Greg will write the President's column for Spring SSIT on membership.

9. Distinguished Lectures (Herkert)
 Nothing new from last BoG meeting. Luis will give lecture next months at George Mason. Luis gave lecture in Uruguay that was not an official DL. The web site is being updated.
- Looking for volunteers to be DLs.
 - MOTION: *Ron Arkin was approved as SSIT DL in Robotics and Emerging Technologies.
 - Suggestion: when members go in business trips, arrange to give an SSIT talk to a chapter.
10. Virtual Community (Andrews - presented by Isaak)
 Not much activity since last meeting.
11. Ethics (Unger)
- No new activity to report. The committee is open for new nominations for the Barus Award. A previous nomination for the Barus Award was tabled, and will need a quorum to take off the table. It will be put on the March Agenda; relevant papers will be distributed before the meeting. Also, will have a discussion of the details of the Award itself - honorarium, goals, etc.
12. No reports from Chapters and GOLD, WIE, Awards, PACE, Society Development Committee, Educational Activities Committee, ByLaws and Constitution Committee.
13. New Business
- Publications (Bookman)
- Deepak is doing a great job as Newsletter Editor. The BoG expressed its gratitude for his excellent work.
 - The BoG thanked Keith Miller for his excellent past service as Newsletter Editor.
 - Terry's Contract: has been sent to Pres. Engel. It is the same as last couple of years, with the dates updated. Bob Whelchel requested to add back in that Terry will do interviews and produce content this coming year.
 - MOTION: *The contract was approved.
 - For Information: IEEE publications (and thus T&S) will still be paper in 2012. IEEE expects to move away from print in 2013; however, this will not affect Terry's work, since it occurs before the IEEE publication process.
14. Closing Actions, Discussions, Comments:
- (Engel/Unger) There is an excellent IEEE video on the impact of technology on humanity, presumably produced by the Public Visibility Committee. Terry will put it on the web site if she is sent a link.
 - (Engel) Will move forward (with TAB) on the Ethics Workshop, proposed by Elya Joffe, likely be in 2013, most likely in Israel (see Meetings above).
- 2012 Officers (Engel):
- Lew Terman agreed to continue as secretary in 2012
 - Ken Foster agreed to be Treasurer for 2012
- (Engel) Section Congress experience was very positive for SSIT. SSIT received rave notices and had significant attention.
 - (Engel) IEEE Proceedings is having a special issue on "100 years of Technology". Joe Herkert, Bob Whelchel, and Keith Miller were requested to look at writing a paper for the issue, focusing on the past/present/future of social implications of technology; the paper is not to be a history of SSIT itself. Joe Herkert will chair the committee, with Keith/Bob to write paper.
 - (Engel) No action has been taken on the possible reorganization of SSIT, or the position of SSIT in IEEE. While IEEE membership discussion is up in the air at the BoD, the SSIT discussion will be on hold. There is a proposal for change of S/Cs to cost centers, rather than P&L centers, which would change the SSIT finances.
 - (Adamson): The conference on 'Norbert Weiner in the 21st Century' for 2014 is moving ahead well, with high

profile supporters. Organization: have been in contact with Austin Section and Region 1. Will start working on the MOU, and will have a specific proposal at next BoG meeting.

15.

15. PRESIDENT ENGEL REQUESTED THAT BoG MEETING ITEMS BE SENT OUT WELL BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING - THE MATERIAL HAS BEEN COMING IN TOO LATE FOR EFFECTIVE REVIEW BY THE BoG PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

16. The date of the Spring Meeting was left TBD, but was expected to be in mid to late March, 2012, probably at Rutgers in New Brunswick. (Subsequently, it has been set for Saturday, March 24, at Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ, 10 AM - 3 PM)

17. The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 PM

ATTENDEES

Attendee	Position	Contact
Jerry Engel	President	gengel64@aol.com
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Attachments:

#2 - Agenda:

#8 - Membership:

Lew T.