

SOCIETY ON SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY

ADCOM MEETING DECEMBER 8, 1990

NAME	AFFILIATION	PHONE
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Ron Kline	Cornell Univ.	607/257-3189
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Terri Schiesser	IEEE	908/562-2052
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Christine Specter	Fla.Intl.Univ.	305/255-2041
Toni Robbi	N.J.I.T.	201/596-3503 w 609/466-0119 h
Stephen Unger	Columbia U.	212/854-8187 2736
Al Wald	Columbia U.	212/305-2164
Pat Walker	IEEE	908/562-3953

Approval of Minutes-

The minutes of the previous meeting were not available because Mal Benjamin could not attend the meeting. They will be examined at the next meeting. Bob Brooks, at the request of Mal will take the minutes of this meeting. These minutes, kindly taken by Bob are herewith submitted with minor editing by Benjamin.

President's Report-

Balabanian reported that the actions of the Educational Activities Board (EAB) were challenged at the last TAB meeting by Rich Dillon. Dillon stated that EAB was not promoting its "products" well, and proposed sending them to the appropriate Societies for distribution and promotion. The items of concern comprise educational materials (e.g. - videos and teleconferences.)

Past President's Report-

Robbi commented that electronic publication would substantially reduce present publication costs of the 8 - 10 IEEE magazines now being published.

The Toronto Section Congress held in October included a special session on The Future of the IEEE.

**Membership Report -**

Jack Jatlow gave his usual thorough report which is appended.

Robbi proposed a motion for a voluntary dues restructure for a US IEEE to occur for a well defined phase-in period if the IEEE reorganizes so that the USAB is replaced by an "AIEE" as proposed by Harold Goldberg. The motion was tabled.

**Treasurer's Report -**

Mark Apter was not present to give a report. However, it is recognized that SSIT is stable and slowly growing; so there seems no present cause for fiscal concern.

**Activities -**

Med Cassidy volunteered to work on the Energy Committee.

Robbi suggested that the EMB Society study biohazard limitations. Balabanian will write a letter on this subject. There was discussion re the establishment of objective guidelines for RF hazard risk assessment. Ron Kline and Alex Brown will each contact people with this expertise.

T. & S. Meg. will publish Brook's summary of the 1990 EMB Symposium session on the Socio-economic aspects of EMB. (Interesting Note: The Wall Street Journal reported that the most ethical people are engineers, while the least ethical are investment bankers!)

**Awards Committee -**

It was sadly reported that Carl Barus died. He was a tireless worker who fought for those outcasts and underdogs who have had the courage to defy powerful government and corporate institutions in the public interest. His quiet presence at our meetings was usually only punctuated by a thoughtful remark that would inform the discussion. His presence cannot be replaced. Steve Unger suggested that the SSIT Award be renamed The Carl Barus Award of the SSIT-IEEE. All agreed. The upcoming Award to Basdekas will be handled by Marc Apter. Mal Benjamin will determine where Barus has left the details.

Unger recommended Jerry Smith as a new candidate for consideration. Smith has worked for the TVA on safety. TVA management disapproved one of his reports, after which he left the TVA. He has received the Cavallo Award (a private foundation). For some unknown reason neither SSIT or any other entity in the IEEE became involved in the Smith case. He is currently working for a consulting firm that is developing plans for the dismantling of the Shoreham nuclear power plant.

Unger attended a meeting of the Member Conduct Committee. They are considering some revisions in their activities. An ethics paper will be given at the Student's Professional Activity Conference. PACE reported that ethics is at or near the top of interest to the students.

#### IEEE Publications Report -

Pat Walker reported that the total annual cost for T&S was \$49,900. The subscription cost, which includes \$2.00 for printing, is \$12. She expects a 25% postal increase in '91. She predicts that \$5,000 in advertising revenues can be obtained in '91 (Fee is \$2,000). Since the current low circulation is an impediment to advertising, she suggests we sell T&S to non-members. (Spectrum is now sold on Newstands!) The publication cost of an IEEE Transaction is \$40/page; while a Magazine comes in at \$5.00/page. A new set of IEEE Rules is to be adopted next year. We should consider an effort to Newstand T&S for \$10/copy.

The next issue was scheduled for Dec.1. It contains 7 articles. Due to the illness of Special Editor Derek Paul, Zelby has taken over. Specter will explore the possibility that those papers which could not be included in this special issue might be included in the special issue she is editing called "Mission to the Planet Earth - Int'l. Space Year". She has contacted many people in many countries for contributions to this issue.

The next special issue subject has not yet been selected, but might be, among other possibilities, Computer Security, CD Technology, Software Copyrights, Privacy, ELF Hazards, History of Technology, Waste Management, Recycling, or Risk Assessment. Al Wald and Ron Kline will contact potential special editors. These efforts will be coordinated by a new Publication Chan.

#### Conference Report -

Balabanian and Specter reported that SSIT will provide some financial support for the Toronto conference in June at the Ryerson Polytechnic Inst.. The Conference will address "Preparing for a Sustaining Society". So far, costs are about \$100 for mailing labels. Balabanian will write a letter spelling out the limits of our support.

SSIT and IEEE/LA are co-sponsors of an upcoming L.A. Conference. Current costs include \$5,000 given by the L.A. Council and requirements for \$5,000 more.

Robbi moved that we discover the Book Broker Fee and obtain at least one half of it. He also proposed that we provide the needed \$5,000. The motion was approved.

Specter announced that she would no longer be able to continue as the Conference Chair. She reiterated her request for a defined SSIT conference policy and agreed to develop it.

#### Elections -

The following new officers were elected:

President	- Ron Kline
Vice Pres.	- Bob Brook
Publications Chan.	- Joe Merkert

#### New Business -

Unger and Robbi asked that SSIT send a letter of appreciation to Esme Bistro of the IEEE office staff who is retiring.

Balebanian said that the next Fellow who is a member of SSIT would be announced in T&S.

Alex Brown suggested using the IEEE E-Mail to contact SSIT Chapters. He volunteered a terminal for limited bulletin board use.

Next Meetings - March 9, and May 18, 1991.

The meeting was then adjourned.



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PLEASE REPLY TO:

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Membership report to SSIT Adcom Dec. 8, 1990

SSIT membership continues to rise on a monthly basis compared to the month of the previous year. This is shown on the following chart for the period Aug. thru Oct. and on the charts previously reported for the periods from Jan. 1990. It is interesting to note that the growth each month from the previous year is about 5% and from other data the Society growth compared to all the other Societies is about 6th in standing.

Based on IEEE Membership monthly reports

MONTH	ACTIVE		ELECTIONS		RESIGNED		ARREARS		INACTIVE	
	90	89	90	89	90	89	90	89	90	89
AUG.	2582	2431	439	356	81	86	613	631	6487	5981
SEPT.	2588	2463	454	376	79	86	628	619	6477	5981
OCT	2637	2516	492	415	81	86	622	617	6470	5976

NOTE- The membership elections each month compared to the previous year increased about 20%, the resignations reduced by about 6%, the arrears though changing slightly from month to month remain in the 600 category, the inactive increased by about 100 members over 1989. (sign of the time).

How about distributing membership brochures at your various meeting!

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