

MINUTES OF THE MEETING, SOCIETY ON SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY ADCOM  
DEC. 10, 1995

ATTENDEES [unless marked with \*, changes in boldface]

NAME	AFFILIATION	PHONE-W,H,FAX,EM
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#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

President Herkert opened the meeting at 11:00 A.M., with wet snow swirling about as usual in Dec.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes were accepted with one added phrase.

#### 3. AGENDA

The agenda was accepted with slight modification.

#### 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TAB: The SSIT Review Report led to SSIT citations for exemplary practice in two areas. SSIT remains on financial watch because of low reserves. Our efforts to build reserves were commended.

Correspondence: Norman Balabanian is a Courtesy Professor at U. Florida (see directory above). B. Aaron suggested the topic of electronic cottage industry/telecommuting.

New technology directions committee: A volunteer is needed to update our WWW page on the social impact of virtual reality.

#### 5. PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Christine Nielsen was absent.

## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT (K. Foster filling for the traveling F. Shapiro)

As of Nov. 3 we are in the black and our income is above budget projections. **The report was approved.**

## 7. PUBLICATIONS REPORT

Herkert reported that we average 4 hits daily on our WWW page. A membership application is linked.

ACMSigCAS has purchased 300 copies of our T & S issue on ENIAC.

It is now feasible to sell individual copies of T & S, but they should be preordered so that the print run is expanded. This is most attractive for special issues.

Herkert met with the new IEEE Pub. V.P Ferrara. He is committed to cost control, and magazine page charges are expected to remain flat.

Kline reported on T & S plans for next 5 issues:

Spring 1996- regular issue, material ok..

Summer 1996- focus on papers from Toronto Conf. (summer 1995); they are being reviewed.

Fall 1996- spec. issue on impact of declining resources on health care technology (Foster, ed.).

Winter 1996- regular issue.

Spring 1997- papers from ISTAS'96 Conf. in Princeton (C. Andrews).

Kline requests everyone to update their areas of interest for reviewing T & S papers, by email to [rkline@ee.cornell.edu](mailto:rkline@ee.cornell.edu).

To promote interest and membership, members attending conferences may do some chumming. Contact Terri Schiesser or Joe Herkert about copies for distribution.

## 8. CONFERENCES

Clint Andrews is organizing ISTAS '96 at Princeton University scheduled for June 21,22,1996. He has received 20 abstracts so far. Deadline may be extended to Jan. Please help publicize. Suggestions of possible plenary speakers were made.

Clint reported meeting Simon Burne, an SSIT member and Chair of our counterpart within IEE (UK), at The Hague re: ISTAS'97. A draft MOU between IEE M2 and IEEE SSIT was discussed by the AdCom. The meeting, to be organized by IEE, is proposed for Bath, UK. There would be no financial risk to SSIT. **The AdCom voted to move forward on the MOU pending successful resolution of copyright concerns.**

## 9. COMMITTEES

**Ethics** - Steve Unger reported on the MCC membership status. The IEEE BOD Ethics Committee (Engel) is to meet next in Feb. Last June it agreed to propose IEEE establishment of an ethics information phone line. The transnational implications of ethics were discussed. An ethics code card was to appear in the member renewal package. It did not.

**Awards** - No report, but Mal plans to attend the April SSIT meeting.

**Membership** - Chair Brook submitted a written report, attached. At the meeting it was pointed out again that less than 1% of IEEE members belong to SSIT. A goal of 1.5% was established, requiring an enhanced visibility. Steve Unger suggested using current members to recruit new members, possibly offering some inducement. The effectiveness of SSIT sponsored sessions at other IEEE Conferences was debated. Chumming with T & S was discussed above. Andrew Meyer suggested that a career-related survey on the Internet could raise our visibility. He was asked to further develop this concept.

**Elections** - Joe Herkert and Ken Foster were reelected by acclamation to the posts of President and Vice President respectively. We have been informed that the newly elected AdCom members are David Mindell, Karl Perusich, and Alvin Wald.

**Chapters** - No report.

**Constitution and Bylaws** - No report.

**Strategic Planning** - Due to an illness, Bob Plonsey was unable to attend. He submitted a report via email, attached.

**Technology and Public Policy** - Carl Henn reported that the Engineering Foundation is supporting education in sustainable development. He will invite a guest speaker from there to our Sep. 1966 meeting. Carl attended a conference in New Jersey on K-12 teaching of bioethics. He reported that Brad Ellenby of ATT&T was the principal author of the IEEE Environmental Health & Safety Committee's report on industrial ecology. It is aimed at industry.

**Publicity and Public Relations** - Brief email report attached.

**PACE** - Steve Unger reported on alarming developments on the job front, namely the negative impacts of 1) shrinking defense R/D, 2) the importation of low wage engineers, 3) engineering work being exported overseas, and 4) the general downsizing movement. IEEE does not have solutions, other than immigration reform to ameliorate 2). He would like to see SSIT involved somehow, recognizing that these factors are also affecting engineers in other developed countries. Veg Gardner's written report, attached, discusses item 2).

**Other Society Liaison** - Veg Gardner's report is attached.

**Old Business** - No report.

**New Business** - No report.

**Next Meeting** - April 20, 1996, Princeton, NJ

**Next, next Meeting** - Sep. 14, 1996 at Columbia University, New York City.

**Next, next, next Meeting** - Dec. in Philadelphia, Date TBA.

Respectfully Submitted,

A.D. Robbi, SSIT Secretary, NJIT



**REPORT ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF IEEE-SSIT - CODE SIT-030**

This report is for the year ending 1994. No 1995 membership data will be available until the new IEEE computer system is in operation sometime during 1996.

According to Bill Hunter of the IEEE in Piscataway, the statistics on overall IEEE membership have not appreciably changed in 1995 from 1994.

**TOTAL SSIT MEMBERSHIP**

1994 MEMBERSHIP	1993 MEMBERSHIP
2435	2713
% loss = 10.2	

**TOTAL IEEE MEMBERSHIP**

1994 MEMBERSHIP	1993 MEMBERSHIP
355,264	372,428
% loss = 4.6	

**TOTAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

1994 MEMBERSHIP	1993 MEMBERSHIP
220,479	226,674
% loss = 2.7	

These data include affiliate memberships.

From this information, we may infer that SSIT has lost a higher percentage than the IEEE as a whole; however data for Division VI is as follows:

Society	1994	1993	loss	%loss
All	17,445	18,992	1547	8.1


From the division data, it can be seen that the loss in SSIT is not as bad as it appeared.

Los Angeles Council  
Northern Virginia/Baltimore/Washington D.C.  
Santa Clara Valley/San Francisco/Oakland-East Bay  
Switzerland  
Tokyo  
Toronto

**SOCIETY AND OTHER COSPONSORED CONFERENCES**

Unfortunately, the IEEE did not receive, at least not record, any information on SSIT involvement in any conferences through 1994. This should be corrected. The other 4 societies in DIV. VI all had conference activity recorded.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Robert H. Brook  
SSIT Membership Committee

X-UIDL: 818374993.002  
Date: Thu, 7 Dec 95 14:09:10 -0500  
From: "Dr. Robert Plonsey" <bob@plonz.egr.duke.edu>  
X-Originally-From: "Dr. Robert Plonsey" <bob@plonz.egr.duke.edu>  
To: adcom.ssit@ieee.org  
Subject: Adcom Meeting 9 December  
Organization: IEEE Service Center, Piscataway, NJ  
X-Resent-To: Multiple Recipients <adcom-ssit@mail.ieee.org>  
X-Resent-Date: Thu Dec 7 14:12:17 EST 1995  
Sender: owner-adcom-ssit@rab.ieee.org  
Errors-To: owner-adcom-ssit@rab.ieee.org  
Precedence: bulk  
X-Listname: adcom-ssit  
X-Info: Help requests to adcom-ssit-request@mail.ieee.org  
X-Info: [Un]Subscribe requests to adcom-ssit-request@mail.ieee.org  
X-Moderator-Address: adcom-ssit-approval@mail.ieee.org

Dear Adcom (Sorry couldn't reach Joe by phone):

I only wanted to, hopefully, reach someone to let you'll know that I've had to cancel my trip to New York and attendance at the Adcom Saturday. I managed to bring back a cold from New Zealand this past weekend and that has lingered along with jetlag so that I think all of us will benefit if I stay at home. (How do I introduce my coughs to this text?). I am, however, sending along the report from the Strategic Planning Committee, below. It was distributed to the Committee in its present form last September and while I received no comments it should probably still be considered a draft and I welcome feedback. I hope to get to the next Adcom and will be glad to discuss it at that time - as well as via Email.

Have a good meeting.

best wishes,  
Bob

**Goal 1: REVERSE DECREASE IN SSIT MEMBERSHIP**

1. Publicity campaign for SSIT among IEEE members
  - a. Distribute T&S with other society publications and/or at other society's conferences (HERKERT)
  - b. Place advertisements in IEEE publications (HERKERT/SCHIESSER)
  - c. Prepare articles about SSIT for IEEE publications (FOSTER/LIPPKE)
  - d. Utilize electronic media to publicize SSIT (HERKERT)
  - e. Speakers List ???
2. Promote student membership in SSIT
  - a. Promote student chapters(WUJEK)
  - b. Sponsor student essay contest on social implications of technology (FOSTER, BENJAMIN, UNGER)

**GOAL 2: IDENTIFY AND CHARACTERIZE THE CONSTITUENCY FOR SSIT**

Action items:

1. Identify the present membership of SSIT (BROOK)
2. Identify and characterize peer organizations (HERKERT,GARDNER)
3. Identify and characterize competing journals (HERKERT,KLINE)

GOAL 3: ESTABLISH ONGOING PROGRAM OF YEARLY CONFERENCES

Action items:

1. Develop alternative models to SSIT chapter sponsorship of conferences (FOSTER)
  - a.University model
  - b.IEEE Section/Council Model.
  - c.Other models?
2. Forge alliances with peer organizations within and outside of IEEE (FOSTER, HERKERT, UNGER)

GOAL 4: IDENTIFY TECHNICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES FOR CONTINUING ATTENTION

Action items:

1. Identify 2-3 technical issues/themes that SSIT should focus on this year (PLONSEY)
2. Continue to identify and refine strategic planning goals (PLONSEY).

These are my suggestions for issues/themes for SSIT this coming year.

1. Current political efforts to reduce government regulation. eg (re: clean water, clean air, liability for devices, instruments, etc.) How does this affect responsibility of involved engineers? Responsibility to clarify public issues? Questions of Engineering Ethics/ Public Policy.
2. Health care: Present efforts to reduce cost of health care. What is the impact on engineering? Can engineering assist with reduction of health care cost? Is the development of new devices one of the major contributors to health cost increases? How to evaluate and to establish priorities? How is the quality of health care affected (cost/benefit)?
3. What are the effects of automation, robotics, internationalization as it affects engineering employment.
4. What is the proper role of government in R & D? For 40 years this has been driven (see V. Bush report) by the cold war (eg NASA); what directions are justified/needed for the coming decades? What are the consequences for engineering?

Committee Membership

Foster\_Ken<kfoster@eniac.seas.upennedu>  
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From: Jim Lippke to Joe Herkert

Dec 8, 1995.

First EHS newsletter came out the other day. Rather dull.

I got a phone call for telecommunications info from an AP reporter, Mike Hill, who got my name from the IEEE "press" contact list. I give him your and Christine's name, phone numbers, faxes, E-mail etc. I also gave him lots of stuff from a recent Maine report Blueprint for Action, and some other names.



INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS  
SOCIETY ON SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY  
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE FOR ENGINEERS

6624 Kirby Court,  
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Dec. 9, 1995

Joe Harkert,  
President, SSIT-IEEE,  
North Carolina State University,  
Division of Multidisciplinary Studies,  
Box 7107,  
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Subject: Professional Activities  
Committee for Engineers (PACE).

1. As mentioned in the report on September 9 the subjects of immigration and unemployment as related to engineers were being taken very seriously and were points of considerable discussion at the last Labor Day PACE conference. The discussion continues and it is hoped that eventually corrective legislative action will be taken. Senator Alan K. Simpson (R-WY), Dirksen Building SD-113, 1st and C Sts. NE, Washington, DC, 20510, is a point of contact for immigration legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Vernon E. (Veg) Gardner.*

Vernon E. (Veg) Gardner  
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Copy to:

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INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS  
SOCIETY ON SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY  
OTHER SOCIETY LIAISON

6624 Kirby Court,  
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Dec. 9, 1995

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Subject: Other Society Liaison

1. Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility:  
Thanks to the suggestion by Mrs Robbi at our last AdCom meeting I was able to locate a good contact point:

Lawrence Hunter,  
National Library of Medicine,  
9th Floor, Mail stop 54,  
Bethesda, MD 20894 (301)496-9300

I have received from him a substantial amount of literature including a copy of their latest 24-page quarterly newsletter. On Oct. 7 and 8, 1995 the CPSR held a conference on critical issues in information technology entitled "The Good, the bad, and the Internet", at the University of Ill, Chicago. There were panels on:  
Democratizing the Internet,  
Private and Civil Liberties,  
Technology and jobs,  
Local initiatives in democratizing technology, and  
Towards a technology platform in 1996.

The stated mission of the CPSR is to provide the public and policy makers with realistic assessments of the power, promise, and problems of information technology.

2. American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Technology and Society Division: I have received a telephone call from Theodore A. Scoville, of the Boeing Defense and Space Group, Seattle, WA, inviting me to attend the 1996 meetings of the Executive Committee of the Technology and Society Division in Washington, DC. I plan to attend.
3. American Association for the Advancement of Science, Section X, Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering: The AAAS Annual Meeting and Science Innovation Exposition AMSIE'96) will be held in Baltimore, MD, on Feb. 8-13, 1996. Among the scheduled sessions of

(cont.)

to SSIT are:

Not just mentors; educating for the responsible conduct of science.

Ethical standards for science and engineering.

Social returns to investment in research; new directions, new concerns.

The information superhighway; access and use at the people and policy level.

4. Physicians for Social Responsibility:

I have made contact with Christopher Hallman, Senior Policy Analyst/Disarmament Organizer, Washington, DC, who has provided me with recent copies of their quarterly newsletter, "Health Research Bulletin", and a copy of their periodical, "Physicians for Social Responsibility Reports". This is an organization of 20,000 health care professionals and supporters working in 80 chapters across the country. It was founded in 1961 on two powerful principles. No single profession is so deeply involved in or dedicated to the survival of humankind as physicians, and no sector of the population is more skilled at applying practical solutions to life-threatening problems. Two of the efforts of this organization which appear to be of special interest to the IEEE are the lead poisoning abatement program (where production of electric vehicles could be involved) and the efforts to ban laser weapons.

5. The Progress and Freedom Foundation:

On Sunday, Sept. 17, I watched a TV program entitled, "Technology's Impact on Society" at Aspen, CO, sponsored by the above Foundation of Washington, DC. Representing the Foundation were Michael Vlahos (Moderator), Jeffrey A. Eisenach, and George A. Kewerth.

Representing the U.S. Congress was Vernon J. Ehlers, (R-MI) who requested specifics during the program. Of interest is that page 648 of the 27 Oct. 1995 issue of the AAAS magazine SCIENCE shows Vernon J. Ehlers listed as a new AAAS Fellow in Physics. (Roger E. Boisjoly - remember the Challenger disaster on Jan. 28, 1986 - appears in the same listing as a new Fellow in Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering. The Nov. 27, 1995 issue of TIME carries a note of clarification concerning the Foundation. The clarification states that "Although the Speaker (Newt Gingrich) is associated with this organization (The Progress and Freedom Foundation), he is not a board member

officer or employee of the foundation, nor does he own or control it."

6. National Association for Science, Technology and Society:  
The Eleventh National Science, Technology & Science Meeting and Technological Literacy Conference will be held on Feb. 8-11, 1996 in Arlington, VA. More than one hundred sessions will be provided. Two featured speakers will be Henry Petroski and Robert Yager on "To Engineer is Human". The Oct. 1995 issue of the Society's publication, "STS Today" contains the statement, "The Technology and Society Electronic Mailing List is operated by the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT). To subscribe see - - For further information on SSIT, contact J.HERKERT".

7. Student Pugwash, U.S.A.:  
Periodic contacts are made with the Washington, DC, Headquarters office. This organization puts out a special issue of its quarterly newsletter, "Tough Questions" after the Norwegian Nobel Committee on Oct. 13 awarded the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize to Professor Joseph Rotblat and the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs. They were cited for their efforts to "diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and in the longer run to eliminate arms". (The name Pugwash resulted from the first of this series of conferences which was held in the village of Pugwash, Nova Scotia.). In an article entitled "New Life for Student Pugwash" which appeared in the Nov. 17, 1995 issue of SCIENCE this group is reported to be trying to get a million students and professionals to sign its pledge. Its pledge, according to the literature sent to me, is as follows:

"I promise to work for a better world, where science and technology are used in socially responsible ways. I will not use my education for any purpose intended to harm human beings or the environment. Throughout my career, I will consider the ethical implications of my work before I take action. While the demands placed on me may be great, I sign this declaration because I recognize that individual responsibility is the first step on the path to peace."

8. International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility: The next annual conference for this organization is scheduled for Amsterdam in August 1996.

9. American Engineers for Social Responsibility:

This organization is now on the World Wide Web. Our contact point with this organization is Thomas E. Munsey, 10016 Moore Drive,

(cont.)

Manassas, VA, 22111. (703) 368-1239, who keeps us informed as to the activities of this organization and that of the above International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility.

10. I have trouble in establishing contacts for the following organizations and have no recent information concerning their activities:

Committee on Social Effects of Automation of the International Federation of Automatic Control.  
Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility.  
The Forum on Physics and Society of the American Physical Society.

Respectfully submitted,

*Vernon E. (Veg) Gardner,*  
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*Tom Norton*  
*526-9879*