

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING, SOCIETY ON SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY ADCOM**  
Sep. 13, 1997

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#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

President Foster opened the meeting at 10:40 A.M., on a sunny day.

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

The minutes of 4/12/97 were accepted, with modifications.

#### 3. AGENDA

The agenda was accepted.

#### 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Foster said we remain in good financial shape, though a drop in membership is a concern. There is some risk we will lose substantial revenue due to a possible change in the APP package Society reimbursement formula. In general, the IEEE leadership has exhibited good will toward SSIT.

He reported that ISTAS '97 was an excellent meeting and is looking forward to ISTAS '98.

Ken presented a plaque to outgoing T & S Editor Ron Kline for his outstanding effort over the last 3 years.

## 5. PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Joe Herkert reported that the AdHoc TAB Committee on industrial ecology related to electronics manufacturing has been moved to the Computer Society.

## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

The 1998 budget, projecting a \$9k surplus, has been completed and submitted to IEEE. Finley reported that 1997 has performed well so far. See attachment.

## 7. PUBLICATIONS REPORT

T & S Editor Ron Kline reported on the current status of T & S. The Winter 1997 issue will be 48 pages, and there is a healthy backlog of good papers. The Spring 1998 issue will be selected papers from ISTAS '97. The AdCom voted appreciation for Ron's excellent work, and that of Terri Schiesser Bookman, Managing Editor.

**A motion was passed to approve the Search Committee's choice of Bob Whelchel as the new T & S editor for 1998 and 1999.** Bob delivered a good pep talk.

The SSIT home page was discussed in the context of the electronic publication of T & S. **It was voted to expend not more than \$2000 for one year to publish one selected T & S article per issue on a trial basis. The mechanism to be used will be chosen by the Publications Committee.**

Two examples of a new age T & S cover design were shown. The SSIT logo will be moved inside the magazine to avoid clutter on the front cover. **A motion to commend progress on the new cover design passed.**

**A motion was passed to commend the efforts of Terri Schiesser Bookman, Managing Editor and to award her a 2-year contract to in the amount of \$25,900 per year.**

## 8. CONFERENCES

**Motion passed to approve ISTAS '98 concept as provided by Karl Perusich.** It will be in Indiana in June, 1998. See current T & S for the call for papers.

ISTAS '97 had about 67 registrants and ran at a surplus which goes to cosponsor, IEE. The student session spearheaded by Mia Levy and John Fielder was very successful.

There is an informal proposal to hold ISTAS '00 in Rome, Italy. **Motion passed to refer the proposal to the Conference Committee for a recommendation.**

There are currently no proposals for ISTAS'99.

## 9. COMMITTEES

Chapters - We have a diskette with SSIT membership data which will be used to attempt to form new Chapters. A Mexican Chapter may form.

Ethics - Steve Unger reported on the IEEE Ethics Committee. It had a good first 32 months. A proposal will be discussed at the November Board of Directors (BoD) meeting to amend the IEEE bylaws to reduce terms for membership of both the Ethics Committee and the MCC to one year (from five) so that IEEE BoD can more easily control them. The IEEE Executive Committee terminated the Ethics hotline in August (after a year of trouble-free operation) purportedly over fear of lawsuits, though there is no pattern of lawsuits at comparable organizations. Bob Brook noted that fear of lawsuits does not prevent IEEE from vigorous activity in the Standards area. The EC plans to ask the BoD to reinstate the hotline at the November meeting.

Mal Benjamin reported on his work to involve industry in promoting ethics. He is in contact with the Ethical Officer's Association, a group of 300. Generally these corporate programs go well beyond mere compliance. **Motion passed to support Mal's efforts to forge IEEE/industry cooperation in the ethics area.**

**Motion passed with one dissenting vote to partially support inter-city travel for SSIT Distinguished Lecturers at a cost not to exceed \$2000 in the next year, with \$500 maximum per trip, authorized in advance by the Committee on Distinguished Lecturers and S-PAC Speakers, which was created as part of this motion.** Janet Rochester graciously accepted chairmanship of this committee.

Awards - The Barus Award for Service in the Public Interest was presented to Rebecca Leaf at the PES Meeting Banquet in front of 800 diners on May 13 in Columbus, Ohio. The PES helped subsidize the arrangements financially, and a video on the Linder/Leaf story is being produced with their help.

Membership - Chair Brook reported that SSIT membership has risen 3.5% since last March, an encouraging sign. See report attached. We have a supply of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary pins for a member gets member program.

Elections - Finley Shapiro, Clint Andrews, Simon Burne, and John Peschon will stand for the 3 elected SSIT AdCom positions.

Constitution and Bylaws - No report.

Strategic Planning - No report.

Technology and Public Policy - Henn and Andrews are working with INCOSE (systems engineers) in New Jersey to promote educational reform via systems thinking. There was a recent workshop on a systems approach to workplace readiness and academic standards. [Note that recent data show that in NJ only 87 schools out of 600 plus had >50% of their students score as competent in all 3 basic subject areas!]

Publicity and Public Relations - No report.

PACE - Bob Plonsey submitted a report, attached. Ed Wong supplied info on the PACE Conference.

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

#### 10. OLD BUSINESS

No report.

#### 11. NEW BUSINESS

Pres. Foster introduced Gene Fricks, of the ASME Div. on Technology and Society. It was formed in 1970 and currently has 1600 members, 450 considered active. Their primary activities are publication of a newsletter and the sponsoring of sessions on T & S at major ASME Meetings. The sessions are available to members not physically present via a real-time telephone network. Joe Carson heads their Ethics Committee, and it interfaces with the ASME Professional Practices Committee. Joe is a DOE whistleblower.

**Next Meeting - Dec. 6, 1997, Columbia University, New York.**

**Next, Next Meeting - April 4, 1998, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.**

Respectfully Submitted,



A.D. Robbi, SSIT Secretary

SSIT Treasurer's Report

9/13/97

The treasury looks fine according to the most recent information I have.

Income and expenditures are both acceptably close to values in the budget.

The 1998 budget is now complete and looks fine. It includes a surplus of \$9.5K, not including additional expenditures approved at the September meeting of the Administrative Committee.

Final 1997 membership statistics should become available in the next month or so. At that point we will be able to determine how membership is doing.

Finley R. Shapiro

**Membership Report for SSIT ADCOM**

**Sept. 13, 1997. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.**

The attached data shows that for the first time in a couple of years, the downward slide in membership has been reversed. It is consistent with the overall membership of Div. IV.

The reason is not clear at this time. Unless we can poll enough of the members, it is not clear why some join SSIT and some leave. The increase in membership in the technical specialty societies is usually tied to an increase in employment in that specialty. An example is the EMC Society which now has over 5000 members, up about 500 members since last year, which includes 300 people who did not renew. The increase corresponds to a worldwide interest and demand for EMC products and services and is a part of the expansion of the electronics industry, which in the US is now \$460+ billion.

Attached is the cover and attendees of a workshop held in San Antonio, TX in February of this year on pre-college education attended by the Education chair of the EMC Society.

I attended the EMC Symposium in Austin, TX in August and gave a brief SSIT liaison report to the Board Of Directors.

The Symposium had about 1200 attendees and over 100 exhibitors. The Society Symposia budgets in the US have been averaging over \$500,000.

The new industry directives for ISO 9000 that reward honest and ethical corporate behavior might be an engineering connection that SSIT can make with the Quality Assurance community.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bob*

Robert H. Brook  
Membership Chair

**MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS OF SSIT(SIT-030) AND OTHER IEEE SOCIETIES**

**AS OF SEPTEMBER 1997**

	1997 - JUNE/SEPT MEMBERS &AFFILIATES	1997 - MARCH MEMBERS &AFFILIATES	% CHANGE
SSIT	1904	1839	+3.5
DIV.IV IEEE	17,043	16,530	+3.1
SOCIETIES	316,875	323,263	-1.9

Note: This data was obtained from the Membership Development Report  
from Maria D'Allesio-IEEE Piscataway

PACE

**Dr. Robert Plonsey, 11:46 AM 9/2/1997, PACE Meeting Report**

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by home.seas.upenn.edu (8.8.5/8.8.4) with SMTP  
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Received: by plonz.egr.duke.edu (NX5.67c/NX3.0M)  
id AA02176; Tue, 2 Sep 97 11:46:34 -0400  
Received: by NeXT.Mailer (1.87.1.RR)  
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Date: Tue, 2 Sep 97 11:46:34 -0400  
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Report from SSIT PACE Chair

Having just been appointed SSIT's PACE chair I attended the PACE annual conference 29 Aug-1 Sept in St. Petersburg, FL (courtesy of PACE). The program included a four-hour orientation program prior to the main conference which I attended. I also attended all sessions specifically directed to Society PACE chairs (in addition to others). This is a report on my impressions of the conference and on PACE in relation to SSIT.

I might mention that I had not heard of PACE prior to my appointment and I may therefore be reporting information that is actually well known. Several active members of SSIT Adcom also occupy leadership positions in PACE and I'm sure will be glad to clarify or amplify any imperfect reporting. These are Ed Wong who is vice chair, PACE Divisional Activities Committee and ~~Ann~~ Rochester who is member of PACE Leaders Training Subcommittee. *Janet*

PACE is the organized membership activity within IEEE-USA devoted to the non-technical, professional concerns of the IEEE ~~Sections~~ *Regions* 1-6. Some specific interests include career development (continuing education, communication skills, pre-college outreach, engineering retraining, etc) public awareness of engineering, portable pensions, ethics, public funding affecting engineering, etc. PACE chairs survey their constituencies to access member professional concerns and, conversely, acquaint members with resources and programs of the IEEE-USA which are designed to respond to these concerns. There are organized workshops (S-PAC, M-PAC) which describe these matters which are available to conferences, sections, and other meetings. The key word heard at this conference was "networking", as a way of addressing specific individual and groups needs. PACE is also interested in assisting PACE chairs themselves in improving communication skills and in their role as described above.

PACE is set up to respond most effectively through sections and chapters which reach directly to the members on a local or regional level. This is emphasized by its position within IEEE-USA. I particularly attended sessions devoted to the functions of Societies/Divisions to clarify our role. Since Societies are transnational there may not be the interest in matters affecting the U.S. engineer alone (eg health care insurance, social security, retirement policies, etc) We wondered whether a Society could properly request IEEE-USA funds to support non-technical projects. On the other hand we also heard that many Societies have large



## Dr. Robert Plonsey, 11:46 AM 9/2/1997, PACE Meeting Report

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memberships outside the US yet such members had a strong interest in all professional questions under discussion - and even had helpful suggestions by contrasting their own situation with ours. While globalization is a PACE interest little of its potential impact emerged in these discussions.

The large majority of attendees and consequently the main thrust at PACE does center on interaction with the Chapters and Sections (i.e. regional) in contrast to Society/Division. And most of the discussion on the role of Societies concerned the typical society organized around a specific discipline. So SSIT is clearly in a distinct category. SSIT and PACE have many parallel interests and goals. I like to think that SSIT may be further along in considering the social forces that affect engineers (among others in society) and can provide resources and leadership on these within PACE. Communication between PACE and SSIT is also highly desirable since it is an opportunity to obtain their support for our activities. It is also a channel for the dissemination of SSIT literature and could be helpful in obtaining new members. And finally, there is an availability of funding for SSIT projects and conferences when that can be identified as a PACE activity.

My apologies for being unable to attend the Sept 13 Adcom (I will be in Nice for the World congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering).

Bob Plonsey

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

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Sept. 13, 1997

Dr. Kenneth R. Foster, President,  
IEEE Society on Social Implications  
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Subject: Other Society Liaison.

1. The Forum on Physics and Society of the American Physical Society: The present Chairman of this Forum is Sigma Xi Center Director John F. Ahearne, Research Triangle Park, NC. He recently addressed a chapter in Denver, CO, on "Nuclear Waste, Nuclear Power, Nuclear Proliferation Problems and Possible Solutions."
2. National Association for Science, Technology and Society (STS). The Thirteenth National Convention (known as STS-13) will be held in March 5-7, 1998 in the Chicago area. It will be hosted by the Illinois Math and Science Academy. The stated objective of the STS "is to act as an umbrella organization for educators, scientists, engineers, public policy analysts, public interest groups, media and individuals interested in the impact of scientific and technological development on society, and their consequence for the training and education of a responsible citizenry."
3. The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics: This organization sponsored a conference on Ethics in the Profession and Practice at the University of Montana on Aug. 3-7, 1997. This conference was designed for lay persons concerned about ethical issues in society, professors eager to incorporate ethics in their courses, professionals outside academia who want to explore and discuss ethical issues they face in their practice, and faculty who teach ethics.
4. Student Pugwash, U.S.A.: The mission of this organization "is to promote the socially responsible application of science and technology in the 21st century. As a student organization (it) encourages young people to examine the ethical, social, and global implications of science and technology, and to make these concerns

(cont.)

a guided focus of their academic and professional endeavors." This organization's "Mini-full" series encourages readers to explore crucial ethical dilemmas associated with the application of science and technology. These series have included:

Access and the Internet.  
The public role in science.  
Renewable energy.

5. Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility:  
The next national meeting is scheduled for Oct. 4-5, 1997 in Berkeley, CA. The Topic will be, "Technology Values for a Digital Age". There is a recent report by this organization entitled, "Internet Naming Systems" now available on the Web.
6. Committee on Social Aspects of Automation of the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC).  
As reported previously the 6th IFAC Symposium on Automatic Systems based on Human Skill will be held in Slovenia on Sept. 17-19, 1997. We are fortunate in having as our contact point an IEEE SM, Satish C. Mohleji, who is one of the four USA members of the Program Committee for this symposium. Future symposia will be held in San Francisco and in Beijing.
7. American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Technology and Society Division. On Aug. 25 I enjoyed a telephone conversation with its representative, Ernest Fricks. It is my understanding that he is expected to attend the SSIT AdCom meeting on Sept. 13. Therefore, you can learn first hand from him about the activities of the Technology and Society Division.
8. American Engineers for Social Responsibility:  
A check up with our contact point reveals not recent significant developments.
9. I have no recent information to report regarding the following:  
American Association for the advancement of Science, Societal Impacts of Science and Engineering.  
Physicians for Social Responsibility.

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Respectfully submitted,

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