

IEEE SOCIETY ON SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF TECHNOLOGY
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1

NAME AND OBJECTIVES

Approved by the BOG October, 2009

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT).

Section 2. The Society's purposes shall be scientific, technical, literary and educational in character. The Society shall strive for the application of science for the beneficial use of people and for the maintenance of high professional and ethical standards among its members, all in consonance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the IEEE and with special attention to such aims within the field of interest of the Society, as hereinafter defined.

Section 3. The Society shall promote close cooperation and exchange of information pertinent to its field of interest among its members and others, and to this end shall hold meetings for the presentation of papers and their discussion, and shall study and provide for the needs of its members and affiliates.

Section 4. All provisions of the Society shall be in consonance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the IEEE.

ARTICLE II

FIELD OF INTEREST

The field of interest of the Society shall be the impact of technology (as embodied by the fields of interest of IEEE) on society, including both positive and negative effects, the impact of society on the engineering and related professions, the history of the societal aspects of electrotechnology, and professional social and economic responsibility in the practice of engineering and its related technology.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. IEEE members in any grade may become members of the Society upon application and payment of fees as prescribed in the Society Bylaws.

Section 2. The Society may have Affiliates and Honorary Members as prescribed in the Society Bylaws.

Section 3. There may be special categories of membership with appropriate fees, as specified in the IEEE Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV

FINANCES

Section 1. The Society shall establish fees for its members as prescribed in the Society Bylaws.

Section 2. The Society may make registration charges at its Society meetings, symposia, conferences and conventions. The registration fee for IEEE Members or Affiliates shall be no higher than for nonmembers of the IEEE.

Section 3. The Society may raise revenues by other means, such as advertising, shows and requests for contributions, provided such means are consistent with applicable IEEE Policies, and do not encroach on revenue fields previously established by other Groups, Societies, or Sections. Any new revenue sources must follow IEEE Policy.

ARTICLE V

ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The Society shall be managed by a Board of Governors with the following composition:

- 1.1 Divisional Members: Each IEEE Division Director shall have the option to appoint a representative to serve a two year term on the Society's Board. Such appointment shall be made effective coincident with the start of that Director's term of service on the IEEE Board of Directors. Preferably, such appointments should be made from among the members of the Society, but, in any event, all Board members must be members of the Society while in office.
- 1.2 Elected Members: 9 Society members, elected at large by the members of the Society for 3 year terms, no more than 2 of which may be consecutive. (Eligibility is restored after a lapse of one year.) Terms of 3 elected members shall elapse every year.
- 1.3 The Society Officers, if they are not members by provision 1.1, 1.2, or 1.4.
- 1.4 The immediate past SSIT President shall serve on the Board.
- 1.5 The Chair of the Publications Board, as defined in the Bylaws.

Section 2. The Officers of the Society shall be the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Section 3. All categories of Board members defined in Section 1 shall have full voting privileges.

Section 4. Each Officer and Board member must be a member of the Society during that individual's term of office.

Section 5. Organizational entities subordinate to the Board may be formed as prescribed in the Society Bylaws.

Section 6. The President and Vice President of the Society shall each be elected by the Board for a one year term. Each may be re-elected, but no more than two terms, in each office may be consecutive

Section 7. To qualify for the positions of President or Vice President, a person must have served at least one year on the Board during the past 6 years.

Section 8. The newly elected Board members, President and Vice President shall assume office on the first day of January following their election.

Section 9. The Secretary shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Board for a term of one year and may be reappointed.

Section 10. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Board for a term of one year and may be reappointed without limit. This Officer need not have current or prior tenure as a Board member.

Section 11. The following, if not members of the Board in other capacities, shall be Associate Members of the Board having no vote:

11.1. Liaison members appointed by other organizational units of the IEEE.

11.2. Chairs of Society committees

11.3. Individuals designated by the President with the advice and consent of the Board.

Section 12. Duties and responsibilities of the Officers shall be as defined hereinunder and in the Society Bylaws and as delineated by the Board.

Section 13. The President, under the direction of the Board, shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Society. He or she shall preside at meetings of the Board, at general meetings of the Society, and have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be provided in the Society Bylaws, or as may be delegated by the Board

Section 14. The President shall be an ex-officio, without vote, member of all committees of the Society except he or she will not be a member of the Nomination and Appointments Committee. He or she is a member of the IEEE Technical Activities Board and when notified of a meeting of said Board, shall ensure representation of the Society. If the President is unable to attend, the Society will be represented by the Immediate Past President of the Society.

Section 15. The Board may establish standing or ad hoc committees as prescribed in the Society Bylaws, including both functional committees (e.g. Awards, Chapters, Membership, Nominations) and technical committees. Technical committees within the Society may be established as needed to develop specific areas of interest. All appointments to committee and similar posts will be for a term not to exceed one year. Committee reappointments can be made without limit. In the event that reappointments are not made, and the affected committees /or similar posts are not formally dissolved, past appointments shall continue until successors are appointed and take office or until the committees and/or similar posts are dissolved.

Section 16. The Board may establish Chapters where appropriate, in conformance with TAB Policies.

Section 17. The Board may utilize the services of the IEEE as bursar for all or part of the Society funds. If any part of the Society funds is received and deposited separately, the terms and conditions shall be in accordance with IEEE Policies and subject to the provisions of the Society Bylaws and to any special limitations imposed by the Board.

Section 18. Neither the Society nor any Officer or representative thereof shall have any authority to contract debts for, pledge the credit of, or in any way bind the IEEE except within prior approved budgets.

ARTICLE VI

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE BOARD

Section 1. The nominating procedure for Elected Members of the Board shall include provision for petition by Society Members to place a name on the ballot. The election procedure shall be prescribed in the Society Bylaws.

Section 2. Vacancies on the Board shall be filled as prescribed in the Society Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

MEETINGS

Section 1. The Society may hold meetings, conferences, symposia or conventions, either alone or in cooperation with organizational units of the IEEE, or other technical or scholarly organizations, subject to IEEE Policies.

Section 2. Meetings and conferences of the Society shall be open on an equal basis to all members, and affiliates, of the IEEE as specified in IEEE Policy.

Section 3. The Board shall hold at least 2 meetings each year, one of which shall be designated the Annual Meeting, at a time specified in the Society Bylaws. Other meetings of the Board shall be held at such times as are found necessary and/or convenient. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President of the Society at his or her own discretion or upon request of at least 6 members of the Board. At least thirty days notice shall be given to the Board prior to the meeting.

Section 4. A quorum of the Board shall be a majority of those members having voting rights provided that at least five are those elected by the membership (V.1.2).

Section 5. A majority of the valid votes cast (not including abstentions) by those members of the Board attending a meeting provided a quorum is present shall be necessary for the conduct of its business except as otherwise specified in this Constitution. Normal voting procedures apply when a teleconference format is used whereby all participants hear the discussion. Individuals holding more than one position on the Board or any committee thereof shall be limited to one vote on each matter being considered by the Board or committee. Proxy voting is not allowed. The presiding officer of the Board shall have no vote on the Board except if the vote is by secret ballot or unless the Chair's vote can change the outcome of the vote.

Section 6. The Board or any committee thereof may take action without a meeting if applicable (e.g., e-mail voting). An affirmative vote of a majority of all the voting members of the Board or any committee thereof shall be required to approve the action. The results of the vote shall be confirmed promptly in writing or by electronic transmission. The writings and/or electronic transmissions shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board or any committee thereof. "Electronic transmission" means any form of electronic communication, such as e-mail, not directly involving the physical transmission of paper, that creates a record that may be retained, retrieved and reviewed by a recipient thereof, and that may be directly reproduced in paper form by such a recipient.

ARTICLE VIII

PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. Publications undertaken by the Society shall be subject to IEEE Policies and to any further guidance or controls prescribed by the Board or its duly appointed committees. The Society shall be responsible for the financial aspects of its publication program.

Section 2. The President, with the advice and consent of the Board shall appoint such editors as may be required to implement the publication program. The duties and benefits of an editor shall be prescribed in the Society Bylaws.

Section 3. The Publications Committee of SSIT shall have liaison representation with appropriate IEEE Boards and Committees.

ARTICLE IX

BYLAWS

Section 1. Bylaws governing the conduct of the affairs of the Society shall be in consonance with the IEEE Constitution, Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. They may be adopted and amended at a Board meeting by a majority of the valid votes cast (not including abstentions).

Section 2. A complete statement of a proposed Bylaw or amendment and the reasons for its proposal shall be given to all the Board and Society members at least 30 days before the voted is to be tallied. Inclusion in a Society publication circulated to all Society members shall be considered adequate notice to Society members.

Section 3. A new Bylaw or amendment shall become effective only after a copy has been deposited with the Chair and Secretary of the IEEE Technical Activities Board.

Section 4. A vote on adoption or amendment of the Bylaws may be taken at a Board meeting or by letter or email ballot of the Board members at the option of the Society President.

Section 5. If a letter or email ballot is selected, at least 30 days shall be allowed for response.

ARTICLE X

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be initialed by petition submitted to the President by a minimum of 40 members of the Society or by two-thirds majority vote of Board votes cast (not counting abstentions). Each proposed amendment shall be

transmitted for administrative approval to the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB). If approved by TAB, the proposed amendment shall be published in a Society publication distributed to all Society members with notice that it goes into effect unless 40 or more Society members object in writing within 30 days. If such objections are received, a copy of the proposed amendment shall be mailed with a ballot to all members of the Society at least 30 days before the date appointed for return of the ballots, and the ballots shall carry a statement of the time limit for their return to the IEEE office. Approval of the amendment by at least two-thirds of the valid ballots (not counting abstentions) shall be necessary for its enactment. For each petition submitted, the Board shall prepare summary statements for and against the proposed amendment and a recommendation in the form of a vote of the Board concerning its adoption. The summary statements and recommendations shall be transmitted along with the proposed amendment when the latter is published for Society consideration.

Section 2. All amendments to the Constitution shall become effective 30 days after all necessary approvals and notifications, unless a later date has been specified at the time the vote is taken.

March 2001

Modified June 2008

Further Modified May 2009

Further Modified August 2009

Approved by BOG October 2009