

SSIT Board of Governors Meeting
April 17, 2004
University of Texas

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions -- O'Connell
2. Adoption of Agenda -- O'Connell
3. Approval of Previous Minutes -- Kjell
4. President's Report -- O'Connell
(February TAB highlights, CPSR Agreement; IEEE PSES Co-Sponsorship)
5. Past President's Report -- Andrews
6. Treasurer's Report -- Stephan
7. Publication Report -- Loui / Herkert / Perusich
(IEEE Press Liaison; Electronic Newsletter)
8. Conference Reports -- O'Connell
(ISTAS '04 and '05; Hydrogen Economy Seminar)
9. Committee Reports
 - Nominations / Elections -- Andrews
 - Fellow Nominations -- Engel
 - Membership -- Brooks / O'Connell
(New IEEE Membership Survey)
 - Virtual Communities -- Andrews
 - Chapters -- Perusich
 - Awards -- Benjamin
 - Technology & Public Policy -- Andrews
 - Ethics -- Unger
 - PACE -- Plonsey
 - Society Development Committee -- Pfatteicher
10. Old Business
11. New Business
12. Next Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 19th at ISTAS '04 in Worcester, MA.
13. Adjournment

Sent: Tue 2/17/2004 4:03 PM
From: Stuart Shapiro [sshapiro@cpsr.org]
To: O'Connell, Brian (ComputerSci)
Cc: Clinton Andrews
Subject: Sister society agreement

Brian,

At its most recent meeting, CPSR's board of directors passed the following resolution:

CPSR recognizes the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology (SSIT) as a "sister society". Contingent on reciprocal recognition from SSIT, each organization shall

1. Announce this arrangement to its membership via any appropriate print or electronic communication channels. This announcement shall include an invitation to join the sister society along with the relevant information. (The offering of a preferred membership rate is at the discretion of the sister society.)
2. Communicate any relevant news or announcements from the sister society to its membership via any appropriate print or electronic communication channels. All communications will be mediated and their relevancy determined by the organization. The sister society will not have direct access to the organization's members or their personal information.
3. Designate a liaison to communicate with the sister society to identify matters of shared interest on an ongoing basis. These may include, among others, joint sponsorship of conferences or awards and joint publications.
4. Grant members of the sister society access at member rates (if applicable) to any organized conferences or other events requiring a registration fee.

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Please excuse the overly formal tone, but we were aiming to produce a standard agreement that could be reused and that could be (hopefully) passed by both boards with only minimal modification. For those reasons we decided to avoid getting into specific requirements regarding preferred membership rates, as well as because our own rate structure already offers several different membership levels. We also included an information/announcement pass-through provision (which wasn't in the original SSIT proposal).

Please let me know what you think.

Cheers,

Stuart

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Stuart S. Shapiro
CPSR Board of Directors

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Dear SDC Members

This is a note of thanks for agreeing to serve on the Society Development Committee. I believe that through your efforts, we'll be able to find new ways to expand both the membership and relevance of the Society within and outside of IEEE.

As for the process, while it is certainly your decision, I'd anticipate that the committee can do the majority of its work via email. However, please feel free to suggest any additional means as well (except those which involve tropical destinations).

My hope is that the committee can actively explore our options, elicit comments and eventually, propose concrete recommendations to the BoG at every meeting. I've asked Sarah to represent the SDC at our meetings. I'm also hoping that our soon-to-be released "virtual community" effort will provide an online forum for your active discussion and outreach.

I'd like to throw out some initial thoughts for your consideration:

Membership:

There is a great deal of information on members' attitudes in the Society Report compiled recently by IEEE. If you do not have a copy, please let me know and I will email it to you. I'm also appending Jerry Engel's initial comments to the report as well. It's an excellent starting point for discussion.

Within IEEE:

We need to attract new members. We also need to keep them. In the area of recruiting, I've noticed and Clint can comment here, that many IEEE "mainstream" members have become interested in our work. Some societies are asking us to consider projects for collaboration. I'm hoping that we can take advantage of this attitude. Our involvement in the April Hydrogen Symposium which Clint has organized is an excellent beginning.

In addition, I'm wondering if we shouldn't attempt to do more with the IEEE GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) group. We've traditionally regarded younger members as being exclusively concerned with their employment status. While this may be valid, an additional point to consider is that this group has also had the recent benefit of increased academic emphasis on social / ethical issues. They may therefore be more receptive to membership in the Society than we have estimated.

Our new regional conference provides a good setting for attracting members. I hope that the committee will consider both venues and strategies to optimize this effort. In addition to holding the meeting at universities, would it also be helpful to host a conference at an appropriately large commercial location such as Boeing, Apple, Pfizer, etc?

In the area of retention, I'd ask the committee to consider new activities which broaden involvement opportunities. The resurgence of our chapters is a good start. The virtual communities initiative, led by Clint Andrews is also extremely important. Hopefully, we can arrange to have some committee meetings held virtually, in order to engage members who cannot travel to our BoG meetings and seminars. Perhaps we could conduct some online "conversations" with people involved in SSIT-related issues. The Chronicle of Higher Education runs these dialogues regularly and publishes the transcripts online. Lastly in this area, it would be good to have your thoughts on our use of listservs to keep in contact with members.

Finally, I'd ask the committee to consider our current awards structure. Right now, the focus seems to be completely upon the Barus Award. While this is an important aspect of our work, we have no awards for achievement within SSIT. The Computer Society has a recognition program (CORE) for its members which seems to be quite successful. Jerry, I'm sure, could provide more information on how this works. One piece of news is that the Toronto chapter will be giving an award to SSIT member, Walter Zessner for his accomplishments. Jerry and I will be attending their meeting and be will presenting him with an SSIT certificate.

Outside of IEEE:

There are a number of organizations out there who have interests similar to ours. Karl Perusich has recently been working with Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility (CPSR). Joe Herkert invited them to collaborate with us at his ISTAS in North Carolina. Similarly, Joe invited members of ACM's SIG on Computers and Society.

I'd suggest that we need to actively identify groups such as these and offer them ideas for joint activities. In addition to organizations such as AAAS, I believe we've not fully explored similar international organizations. I've recently been asked to join the International Federation of Information Processing's (IFIP) interest group on "A Framework for Ethics". This is a predominantly European group and their members are quite enthusiastic about working with us.

Both within and outside of IEEE, we need to upgrade our membership materials. Currently, we rely on copies of Technology and Society to describe the Society to non-members. While this is an excellent start, I'd ask you to consider the usefulness of a brochure or folder which comprehensively details our activities, lists contacts and invites participation.

As to Society structure, I'd ask for your evaluation of our current membership committee format. Do we need additional membership committee positions, with more clearly delineated responsibilities?

Jerry's Comments:

- One of the key items that I was reminded of was something I was told by an Australian delegate when I did the SSIT presentation to the Region 10 meeting in Singapore. The point made was that outside the United States, the National Societies address the professional issues, while the IEEE is seen as a learned society. We may need to think in terms of partnerships for conferences with these national groups in Regions 8, 9 and 10. Perhaps a new association with IFIP could be of some assistance with this.
- We need a member letter or welcome packet, probably coming from the president, or perhaps from the membership chair.
- We would do well to address ties with developing countries.
- We need to hold meetings with other societies and organizations.
- We need better publicity.
- We are lacking sufficient membership materials

ISTAS & Publications

There are, of course, issues outside of membership which merit your consideration. Among them is the state of ISTAS. While Joe's North Carolina ISTAS was a huge success, we seem to be facing an overall decline in attendance and submissions. Specifically, the Amsterdam symposium attracted few SSIT members and the current ISTAS at Worcester, despite considerable efforts on the part of the local arrangements committee, is still threatening to be sparsely attended. We are working with Loyola Marymount on ISTAS 2005 and my hope is that we can find ways, through location, co-sponsorship, publicity, or a combination of these factors, to revitalize this important activity.

Under Joe's leadership, Technology and Society Magazine continues to thrive as our arguably most prominent activity. Thankfully, the substantive aspects of T&S are in excellent hands, but I would ask you to consider ways of increasing the magazine's prominence within the "market". Similarly, I'd ask for your thoughts on how to best employ our Web possibilities in promotional activities. As mentioned previously, the Chronicle has successfully used Web chats with authors as a promotional device.

Also in its early stages of development, is the idea of producing a Transactions on Technology Policy and Assessment. Clint and I have had some initially productive conversations with IEEE. It would be possible to

combine our efforts with other interested societies to reduce our financial and editorial burdens. As with the Hydrogen Economy seminar, this might be an excellent way to increase our presence within the policy community - which, I am told, would be quite receptive to this sort of publication.

I realize that this message goes beyond "brief" and appreciate your patience. Your thoughts and ideas will be the truly important ones and I thank you for your willingness to make this extremely important contribution to the Society.

Brian

IEEE SSIT BOG Meeting 4/17/2004

Treasurer's Report

Membership as of 18 Mar. 2004:

Regular: 1238

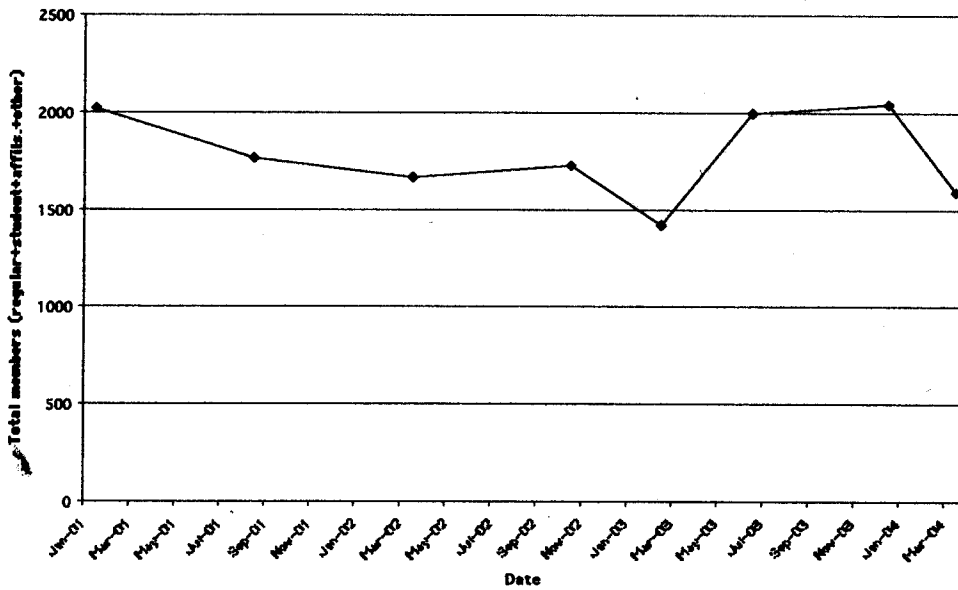
Student: 151

Affiliate: 115

Other: 88

Total: 1592 + 743 arrears = 2335

SSIT Total Membership vs. Time



Currency USD
Business Unit-0300 (Social Implications of Tech)

NAME	INCOME		EXPENSE				NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		
	YEAR TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE		YEAR TO DATE		
	ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
INVESTMENT RETURNS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PERIODICALS	166.6	65.5	68.2	9.0	13.3	41.7	56.6	54.9	-1.6
NEWSLETTERS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NON PERIODICAL SALES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	-0.8	0.0	-0.2	-0.2
MEETINGS/CONFERENCES	32.8	5.5	0.0	5.0	0.0	55.5	0.5	0.0	-0.5
GRANTS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ADMINISTRATION	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.1	8.1	-80.3	-8.1	-8.1	0.0
COMMITTEE/OTHER	0.5	0.1	0.0	2.6	1.7	-16.1	-2.5	-1.7	0.8
TOTAL	200.0	71.1	68.2	24.7	23.3	0.0	46.3	45.0	-1.4

Publications Committee Report
IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology

IEEE SSIT Board of Governors Meeting
April 17, 2004

Michael Loui, committee chair
Joseph Herkert (ex officio), Ronald Kline, Karl Perusich (ex officio),
Janet Rochester, committee members

1. *Technology and Society* magazine

We have implemented our new magazine redesign and have received positive feedback.

So far in 2004, nine papers have been submitted for regular issues. Of these, one was rejected without review and two were given "revise and resubmit" responses; the other six are still under review.

Backlog papers on hand at the beginning of 2004 have been/will be published in the March and forthcoming June issues.

Special issues for 2004 include Nanotechnology (Woodhouse, guest editor) (December) and Technology and Crime Prevention (ISTAS'03) (Andrews, guest editor) (September).

Planned special issues for 2005 include an ISTAS'04 issue and an issue to be guest-edited by Jean Camp (tentative).

2. Electronic newsletter

The newsletter is working smoothly. The next issue is planned for May 2004. Items should be sent to Karl Perusich.

3. Web site

Responding to requests made by the Board of Governors in January 2004, Terri Bookman has updated the Web site with

- more links to IEEE Explore
- indications of which site features are free to the public, and which are features available only to subscribers
- more "how to subscribe" links
- design updates to match the magazine redesign

4. Continuing issues

- A committee to examine the Web site and offer recommendations
- Long-term planning