

CONTRIBUTOR LEW TERMAN

Minutes of the Society on Social Implications of Technology (SIT-30)

Board of Governors Meeting

Saturday 26 March, 2011

Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting opened at 10:15 by President Jerry Engel.

The members present and on the phone introduced themselves. A quorum was present in person or by phone.

2. Adoption of the agenda (Engel).

The agenda as mailed to the participants was adopted; the schedule was adjusted to ensure that items requiring a vote were handled first, and to accommodate schedules of participants.

Attachment: SSIT Agenda_March26.docx

3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Terman)

The minutes of the SSIT BoG Meeting of 2 October, 2010 was approved as circulated without change.

4. President's Report (Engel)

Bradley Kjell is SSIT VP and elected Member at Large
Jeff Voas is the new Division VI director

The following appoints have been made:

Laura Jacob - WIE Chair

Luis Kuhn - Division 8 representative

Ken Foster- SSIT recognition and Fellows Committee Chair

Mengchu Zhou - Division 10 representative

President Engel reported that TAB has become "kinder and gentler". The Watch List is no longer made public. TAB finances are very good, reflecting the rising stock market.

At the February TAB meeting, there was a focus on new ideas and projects, and more risk was acceptable. However, the SSIT finance situation is operational, not involving new ideas and projects, and thus will not be affected.

MGA dissolved the Shenzhen/Beijing chapter due to a publications quality problem. The IEEE Board is very concerned about publication quality - e.g., a conference is scheduled, papers are put in Xplore, and then the conference is cancelled at the last minute, but the

papers remain in Xplore. IEEE is working on new rules for approval of technically co-sponsored conferences. The chapter will be taken off the SSIT web page.

Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility (CPSR) is on the verge of disbanding. It is more associated with ACM than IEEE. President Engel is trying to contact them, to suggest a possible relationship with them.

The new ABET criteria is very exciting for possible products. President Engel is frequently contacted about material for classes, etc., and feels that this offers SSIT a good opportunity for new products and hopefully additional revenue. Bob Wheelchel was asked to follow up.

Publications Committee has been asked to find a new editor for SSIT eNewsletter; Karl Perusich has requested to be reassigned.

Emily Anesta has reported that Region 1 is taking steps to establish an Ethics Hot-Line. The proposal has gone to MGA for review.

The IEEE-USA Public Policy committees are looking for volunteers: Energy Policy, Communications Policy, Transportation and Aerospace Policy, Medical Technology Policy, Research and Develop Policy, Critical Infrastructure Protection Policy, Career and Workforce Policy, Intellectual Property Policy. Anyone who has interest and want to be involved or continue to be involved are welcome, as are suggestions for others who might be interested. These are good committees which have done good things, and a number of current BoG members are currently involved.

Sections Congress (August 18 - 21): This is important to SSIT. TAB wants volunteers for to work on the program, make presentations on humanitarian activities, membership values, engagement with industry, etc., as well as highlighting what SSIT is doing. President Engel will attend. The SSIT flyer should be available at the meeting. Other possibilities for SSIT presence at SC were discussed, and President Engel welcomes suggestions.

New TAB project: looking for volunteers on ways to raise the visibility of technologies; looking for volunteers to bring ideas for component technologies to the table, identify technologies within the components that are being used, and assist the team to raise the visibility of the component technologies so as to not miss opportunities. President Engel will pass any name he receives.

Similarly, the IEEE Systems Council has a committee on Security and Privacy in Computer Information Systems, and they are looking for representation from other groups, including SSIT. Anyone interested should contact President Engel.

SSIT Anniversary in 2012: The IEEE History Center has pointed out that next year is SSIT's 40th anniversary - 30 years for the Society, and 10 years for the preceding Committee. President Engel requests input on possible activities. Jim Isaak suggested a

student competition with results posted on the web. Sheldon Hochheiser of the IEEE History Center sent a pointer to an article on the history of SSIT:
http://www.ieeessit.org/technology_and_society/free_sample_article.asp?ArticleID=12

5. Past President's Report (Perusich): No report, but attendees were reminded that nominees are needed for the 3 BoG positions for the next election. Suggestions are welcome; please send email.
6. IEEE Region VI Director's Report (Voas)
No report
7. Treasurer's Report (Tongia)
Current SSIT dues are \$28; over the last 9 years, dues have increased ~25%. It does not seem to be appropriate to increase dues in light of the current economic situation
Membership has stabilized at ~1,500 (including about 275 Life Members who do not pay). Currently, net loss is projected to be about \$20K, with the following breakdown:
Income: Periodicals about +\$37K, Newsletter net about - \$1.3K, Meetings/Conferences +\$50K, Expenses: Administration \$85K, Committees \$20K.

The loss is approaching \$20/full dues paying member; increasing dues to cover the loss is not feasible. Increasing membership results in a net increase of revenue to SSIT of about \$1.2/new member at the current membership level; however, some expenses from IEEE are independent of membership, and using the current year spread sheet, the break-even membership would be about 3.5K members. Increasing membership enough to cover the deficit does not seem likely. A problem is that some of the IEEE expense formulas are the same per society, whether the society is large or small. These formula are not likely to be changed. Other mechanisms to increase revenue are conferences and special events, but the best approach would be to enhance ISTAS, rather than start a new conference. Pursuing workshops is a possibility.

The projected losses for this year do not take into account two significant potential changes for next year: a \$34K reduction in publication cost due to going to electronic publishing, which will be discussed in the Publications report, and about \$50K loss in Book Broker income next year.

President Engel indicated a need for further discussion.

Discussion of dues for 2012 was postponed to the Publications Report (Section 8).

MOTION: To accept the recommendation from IEEE marketing for non-member (institutional) subscriptions (currently perhaps <5 at \$340 per). **The motion passed.**

MOTION: Retain the same page count of 264 pages/year including covers.
The motion passed.

8. Publications Report (Whelchel)

Attachment: SSITlinkABETver3bMar2011.pdf

ABET: a discussion was held on the proposal for linking SSIT to the ABET criteria covered in the attachment above. Authors would be asked to fill out a form if they think their paper has SSIT content. The proposed form is included in pages 6-7 in the attachment.

The proposal as presented was approved in concept

Action Item for Bob Whelchel: inform EAB of this action and encourage them to include this kind of thinking in other IEEE publications. Jim Isaak will discuss this further with Bob Whelchel. Bob requested any suggestions on wording be sent to him via email.

Attachment: T&SonlineOptionsMar2011Ver3.pdg

On-Line Publications: SSIT had previously voted to go to on-line publication in 2012; however, IEEE will be implementing general on-line publications in 2013, and in a subsequent vote (announced 5/11) the SSIT BoG approved delaying the implementation of SSIT on-line publications until 2013, in order to be aligned with IEEE.

Three possibilities to get the desired \$34K savings for SSIT:

- a) on-line only - increase dues \$2
- b) on-line + on-line archived CD for all issues published at the end of the year - increase dues \$7
- c) on-line only + archive CD to member - increase dues \$10

Motion: Approve moving to a basic electronic-only membership with a \$2 dues increase.

The motion passed.

Related Action Items for Bob Whelchel: explore two possible options:

- 1) electronic media distribution of as much of SSIT publications at the end of the year "that makes sense";
- 2) option for members to receive hard copies of SSIT publications.

9. Conferences Report (Hoffnagle): The Conferences Committee met on the 24th. On ISTAS, the program will go up next week; about 20 have signed up and 60 is the break-even attendance.

The Committee is looking at possible technical or financial co-sponsorship with other organizations. Adding Workshops could be a possible revenue source.

A suggestion is to have SSIT members act as "SSIT Ambassadors" to other conferences, serving to spread the visibility of SSIT. These people could be on a panel, give invited talks, or be attendees. Past T&S authors and previous conference attendees are possible candidates.

Future ISTAS conferences: Historic rotation would result in Europe or Africa in 2012; locations are being investigated. 2013 would be in Asia Pacific. Japan has been suggested.

Another suggestion for increasing SSIT visibility: Have SSIT members become involved in conferences by other IEEE entities in SSIT-related sessions, invited papers, panels, etc. Previous attendee lists can be used to identify people who would be appropriate.

It was noted that this year ISTAS conflicts with several large IEEE organization meetings. Hope was expressed that this could be avoided in the future. It was noted that the 2011 ISTAS dates had been changed from the original dates.

Australia is trying to organize an additional Region 10 SSIT conference by the end of 2012. Progress will be monitored.

The IFIP Committee 9 on Social Implications of Technology is looking to establish an event on Information Technology Impact on Arab women. The region is currently unsettled, but SSIT should be a player if/when it happens. President Engel will send Gene Hoffnagle contact information.

10. Committee Reports

Nominations (Perusich): See the Past President's Report for comment on nominations for the BoG election.

Fellows (Foster): No report

Membership (Open): No report

Student Membership (Gawkowska): No report

Distinguished Lecturers (Herkert): One DL was given by Michael Louis at the University of Hawaii, one is planned in April. The El Salvador Section requested a DL, but the request was subsequently withdrawn.

Jim Isaak suggested a "Member Visitor Program", wherein if an SSIT member makes a visit anywhere, he/she can also give an SSIT talk.

Virtual Community (Andrews): No report

Chapters/Gold (Anesta): New Chapters: Vancouver (joint with the Education Society),

Sweden (either has been or is in the final stages of being established). There may be activity in Israel for a new chapter.

The Australian Chapter grew from 72 to 132 members last year, a significant growth. A special award for the Australian Chapter was discussed. It was suggested that an MGA Outstanding Chapter might be appropriate. Emily will put together a proposal for an SSIT Chapter of the Year Award.

The Swiss Chapter did not have activity last year, but hopes to revitalize next year.

Region 8 has established a committee for encourage chapter coordination, exchange of best practices, etc., at their spring meeting. SSIT has two Region 8 chapters (Switzerland which has been inactive and UKRI which is fairly new). President Engel will consider who should be involved.

Emily Anesta will be a member of Bob Whelchel's T&S editor evaluation committee.

Awards (Foster): No report

Ethics (Unger): A discussion of a possible Barus Award was held in Executive Session. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting. Joe Herkert abstained from the vote.

PACE (Ruhoy): No report

Society Development Committee (Open): No report

Educational Activities Committee (Open): No report

ByLaws and Constitution Committee (Open): No report

11. Old Business

There will be a possibly informal SSIT BoG session at ISTAS, details to be distributed. Brad Kjell will organize the meeting.

Location for the next full BoG meeting was discussed, and Washington DC was suggested. Dates of the 9th to 16th July was suggested (subsequently, 7/16 in Stamford, CT was selected).

12. New Business

Steve Unger brought up the possibility of SSIT seceding from IEEE. He discussed advantages including elimination of IEEE expenses, and lifting of restrictions on taking a stand on various social issues. This will be on a future agenda.

Jim Isaak discussed a new proposal in TAB for a low cost (possibly \$15) society

membership (the proposal is still in TAB; it has not gone to the BoD yet). Basic concepts:

- 1) Membership for a single Society built into the IEEE membership fee.
- 2) Societies would have a fixed fee for basic membership at perhaps \$15-\$20, and could offer a "platinum" membership with additional services and products.

If adopted, this could hit about the time that IEEE goes to electronic only membership. It was agreed these were significant issues for SSIT, but no conclusions were reached.

Lew Terman volunteered to review the Constitution and ByLaws for typos and inconsistencies.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 PM

Attendee	Position	Contact
Jerry Engel	President	gengel64@aol.com
Bradley Kjell	VP/Elected BoG Member	kjell@ccsu.edu
Lew Terman	Secretary/Elected BoG Member	terman@us.ibm.com
Rahul Tongia	Treasurer/Elected BoG Member	tongia@cmu.edu
Karl Perusich	Past-President	Perusich@sbcglobal.net
Emily Anesta	Elected BoG Member	eanesta@gmail.com
Jim Isaak	Elected BoG Member	jiminnh@gmail.com
Stephen Unger	Elected BoG Member	unger@cs.columbia.edu
Greg Adamson	Elected BoG Member	adamsog@anz.com
Joe Herkert	Elected BoG Member	j.herkert@ieee.org
Clint Andrews	Division M Representative	cja1@rci.rutgers.edu
Mengchu Zhou	Division X Representative	zhou@njit.edu
Bob Whelchel	Publications Chair	whelchelr@tristate.edu
Keith Miller	T&S Editor	miller.keith@uis.edu
Terri Bookman	T&S Managing Editor	tbookman@patmedia.net
Gene Hoffnagle	Conferences Chair	genehoffnagle@gmail.com