

# IEEE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY

## CONSTITUTION

(IEEE Approval: July 2015)

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## **Article 1 - Name, Purposes, and Scope**

- 1.1 Name – The name of this organization is the IEEE Communications Society, hereinafter referred to as “the Society.” It is organized within the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. hereinafter called "the IEEE."
- 1.2 Purposes – The purposes of the Society are: (a) scientific and educational - directed toward the advancement of the theory, practice and application of communications engineering and related arts and sciences; (b) professional - directed toward promotion of high professional standards, development of competency and advancement of the standing of members of the profession it serves.

The Society promotes cooperation and exchange of information among its members and those of other organized bodies within and outside the IEEE. Means to these ends may include, but are not limited to, the holding of meetings for the presentation and discussion of papers, the publication of journals, sponsorship of tutorial seminars and workshops, stimulation of research, the education of members, establishment of standards, and providing for the technical and professional needs of its members via organized efforts.

- 1.3 Scope – The IEEE Communications Society embraces the science, technology, applications and standards for information organization, collection and transfer using electronic, optical and wireless channels and networks, including but not limited to:
  - Systems and network architecture, control and management;
  - Protocols, software and middleware;
  - Quality of service, reliability and security;
  - Modulation, detection, coding, and signaling;
  - Switching and routing;
  - Mobile and portable communications;
  - Terminals and other end devices;
  - Networks for content distribution and distributed computing; and
  - Communications-based distributed resources control.
- 1.4 Authority – Society organization and operations are in accordance with the IEEE Constitution and Bylaws, IEEE Policies, and IEEE Operations Manuals of Major Boards reporting to the IEEE Board of Directors.

## **Article 2 - Bylaws**

- 2.1 Bylaws are rules and regulations adopted by the Society for governing its members and for the overall management of its affairs. They provide guidance to govern all phases of the organization, management and activities, as outlined in the Constitution. Bylaws may not be in conflict with the Constitution. Bylaws are approved and amended by the Board of Governors and may be changed as Society interests evolve.

## **Article 3 - Policies and Procedures**

- 3.1 Policies and Procedures provide more detailed statements about specific policies, objectives, and procedures than are contained in the Constitution or Bylaws.

## **Article 4 - Membership**

- 4.1 IEEE members of any grade shall become Society members upon application and payment of the Society membership fee. The membership fee and the cost of publications and other considerations members receive for the membership fee, are to be set as part of the Society's annual budget.
- 4.2 Grades of membership for the Society are the same as those of IEEE plus Affiliates. When used in the Bylaws, the term "member" includes all grades of membership.
- 4.3 Individuals who are not members of the IEEE may become Affiliate members of the Society upon (a) meeting the requirements established in the IEEE Bylaws for Affiliate membership; (b) by making proper application for Affiliate membership; and, (c) by making appropriate payment for Affiliate membership. Any other requirements for Affiliate membership shall be as established in the IEEE Bylaws. Affiliate members have the rights and privileges of a Society member. An Affiliate member may serve in an appointed capacity that does not require IEEE membership as a prerequisite.

## **Article 5 - Organization**

- 5.1 Board of Governors – The Society is governed by an administrative body called the Board of Governors (BoG).
  - 5.1.1 Elected officers – The BoG includes officers elected by the Society membership, such as, but not restricted to:
    - President, immediate Past President, and President-elect – The President is the chief executive officer of the Society.
    - Vice Presidents – Each chairs a Council responsible for a key area of interest to the Society and reports to the BoG and OpCom.
    - Members-at-Large – They are elected for staggered multiyear terms. The operations of the Society are assessed periodically, and the number of Members-at-Large is adjusted in accordance with membership needs and growth.
    - Society membership representative(s) to IEEE Board of Directors
    - All elected officers have full voting privileges in handling Society affairs.
  - 5.1.2 Appointed officers – The BoG includes a group of officers appointed by the President. As specified in the bylaws, such appointments may be made upon recommendation of the appropriate Vice President or not, and may require BoG approval or not. These officers assist in managing Society activities and are supervised by the President and appropriate Vice President. Appointed officers serve concurrently with the nominal terms of President and Vice Presidents, and include:
    - Treasurer responsible for Society financial affairs.
    - Directors, each of whom chairs a major Board responsible for an area important to the Society.
    - Other officers with special titles and duties.
    - Appointed officers may propose resolutions but do not have voting privileges in the BoG. If appointed Officers are serving concurrently as elected Officers, then they have voting privileges in the BoG.
- 5.2 Operating Committee – Management of Society affairs between regular and special meetings of the BoG is delegated to an Operating Committee (OpCom). Actions of the OpCom shall be ratified at the next BoG meeting, except those actions taken in areas already delegated.

- 5.3 Councils – Councils are responsible for the policies of their Boards and Standing Committees and they oversee the operations of their Boards and Committees, address issues common to all their Boards/Committees, address issues that could not be resolved at the Board/Committee level, and escalate such issues to the BoG if they cannot be resolved at the Council level.
- 5.4 Boards – Boards are the major operational entities of the Society and are organized under Councils. Boards have scopes aligned with the scope of their Councils and, within their scope, they can decide policies and make operational decisions as allowed by their Councils. Major Boards are established and dissolved through resolutions approved by the BoG.
- 5.5 Committees – The Standing Committees are established and dissolved through resolutions approved by the BoG. Ad Hoc Committees may be established by the President or by the BoG and dissolved through resolutions approved by the BoG.
- 5.6 Professional Staff – The staff consists of paid professional employees of IEEE who support the activities of the Society. The staff is managed by a Society Executive Director (hereafter referred to as Executive Director) who also serves as BoG Secretary.

#### **Article 6 - Finances**

- 6.1 Assets – All funds and property held by or for the Society are vested in the IEEE.
- 6.2 Revenues – Basic revenues consist of fees or assessments that are levied on members of the Society for membership dues, covering publications supplied and services rendered to all members. Other revenues may be raised from the sale of Society publications, advertising, expositions, contributions, and from other sources consistent with IEEE regulations. Proposed new income sources require the approval of IEEE.
- 6.3 Conference Registrations – Suitable registration charges may be collected by the Society from members and non-members attending Society meetings, symposia, conferences and conventions, consistent with IEEE policy and regulations.
- 6.4 Budget – An annual budget shall be prepared and approved by the BoG and IEEE in advance of each fiscal year. Any changes to the budget, or expenditures in excess of budgeted amounts or for unbudgeted items, require advance approval by the BoG before commitment and/or payment.
- 6.5 Debts – Neither the Society nor any officer or representative thereof has any authorization to contract debts for, pledge the credit of, or in any way bind the IEEE without prior approval by IEEE.

#### **Article 7 - Member Services**

- 7.1 Meetings and Conferences – Principal Society meetings are conferences, workshops, symposia and conventions, held either alone or in cooperation with other IEEE units and/or other professional or technical organizations.
  - 7.1.1 Organization – Meetings are organized according to IEEE regulations. All meetings are open on an equal basis to all IEEE and Society members. Registration fees at Society meetings may differ for the various grades of IEEE and Society members and be higher for non-members.
  - 7.1.2 Papers Selection – At meetings sponsored by the Society or in which it participates, the methods of selection of papers for presentation, and the publications procedures are consistent with IEEE regulations. The Society, through the Committees within the Technical Activities Council, offers guidance in the solicitation and review of papers and in organizing and moderating sessions at meetings.

- 7.2 Publications – The Society, subject to the editorial and fiscal policies of the IEEE, publishes magazines, transactions, journals and other technical materials, such as leading-edge technical articles, tutorials, conference papers, etc. Fees charged for such publications may be higher for non-member subscribers and purchasers than for Society members.
- 7.3 Education – Principal educational activities include basic and continuing education programs.
- 7.4 Standards – The Society sponsors standards development in accordance with the process defined and approved by IEEE Standards Associations. It also organizes standards-related activities that comply with applicable IEEE/ComSoc and/or IEEE-SA policies.

## **Article 8 - Amendments**

### **8.1 Constitution**

8.1.1 Origin – Amendments to this Constitution may be initiated by:

- Proposal approved by the BoG.
- Petition submitted to the President by a minimum of 100 Members.

8.1.2 Procedure on Proposals – Proposed amendments to the Constitution require two-thirds majority vote of all the voting members of the BoG. Amendments are subject to the approval of the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB). After approval by TAB, the proposed amendment shall be published in the Society magazine, or directly mailed to the membership. The amendment becomes effective unless one percent (or more) of the membership objects in writing to the designated IEEE office within 60 days.

8.1.3 Procedure on Petitions – When a petition for a proposed amendment is submitted, the BoG shall prepare a summary statement and a recommendation for or against adopting the amendment. Summary statement and recommendation require a two-thirds majority vote of all the voting members of the BoG. The petition, summary statement, and recommendation shall be subject to approval by the IEEE TAB. After approval by TAB, the proposed amendment shall be published in the Society magazine, or directly mailed to the membership. The amendment becomes effective unless one percent (or more) of the membership objects in writing to the designated IEEE office within 60 days.

8.1.4 Objections – If one percent objects, a ballot with the proposed amendment shall be mailed to all voting members of the Society. A return date of at least 60 days shall be allowed. Proposed amendments require a two-thirds majority of the returned ballots for approval.

8.1.5 Amendments – Changes shall become effective 60 days after all necessary approvals and notifications.

8.2 Bylaws – Revisions and proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of BoG members in attendance, with a quorum present. After approval, the amendment shall be published in the Society magazine or directly mailed to the membership.