

Governance in Technical Activities

Jayne F. Cerone
Staff Director –
Governance,
Communications and
Volunteer Relations

Why am I here?

- Key TA staff attending (over about 5 years) all AdComs
- Provide a interface (and point of contact) with IEEE
- Learn about the individual S/Cs
- Modify processes to enhance collaboration

Governance

- Support for S/C Governance Documents
- Assistance with governance and process issues
- Society Membership
- Volunteer issues
- Web content and tools
- Society Review process

On-line Links to all S/C Constitutions and Bylaws

http://www.ieee.org/about/volunteers/tab/tab_gov_docs.htm

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the IEEE website page titled "Society and Technical Council Governing Documents". The page includes a navigation menu on the left and a table of documents in the main content area. The table lists various IEEE societies and technical councils, along with links to their constitutions, bylaws, strategic plans, and other materials. The table is as follows:

Society / Technical Council	Constitution	Bylaws	Strategic Plan	Other	Archived Materials
IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society	PDF (2009.09.22)	PDF (2009.09.22)			
IEEE Antennas and Propagation Society	view (2009.12.09)	view (2009.12.09)			
IEEE Biometrics Council	pdf (2009.12.15)	pdf (2009.12.15)			
IEEE Broadcast Technology Society	view (2009.05.01)	view (2009.05.01)	PDF (2009.05.04)		
IEEE Circuits and Systems Society	view (2009.12.04)	view (2009.12.04)			
IEEE Communications Society	view (2009.06.29)	view (2009.06.29)	view (2009.05.08)		
IEEE Components Packaging, and Manufacturing Technology Society	PDF (2009.09.02)	PDF (2009.09.02)			
IEEE Computational Intelligence Society	view (2009.04.30)	view (2009.04.30)			
IEEE Computer Society	view (2009.05.01)	view (2009.05.01)	PDF (2009.05.01)		
IEEE Consumer Electronics Society	PDF (2009.11.10)				
IEEE Control Systems Society	view (2009.06.25)	view (2009.06.25)	PDF (2009.06.25)		
IEEE Council on Electronic Design Automation	PDF (2009.05.05)	PDF (2009.05.05)			

Limitations of Governance Documents

- There are not enough rules to address every possible issue that comes to you
- When you try to write a rule for every circumstance, you end up with
 - Too many rules
 - Feeling that some rules are “not important”
 - Confusion and mistrust
- Sometimes you need to make a decision that is unpopular or makes some of the group unhappy.

Governance: Conducting the Meeting “What are the Rules?”

- New York State
- IEEE Constitution
- IEEE Bylaws
- IEEE Policies
- OU Governing Documents
 - Technical Activities Operations Manual
 - Society Constitution and Bylaws
- Roberts’ Rules of Order
 - Primarily for Issues **NOT CODIFIED** in other Governing Documents



Examples of things codified in other documents (1)

- Bylaw I-300.4(1): “..the majority of the votes of the members **present and entitled to vote**, at the time of the vote, provided a quorum is present, shall be the act...”. Not present and voting.
 - The number of those entitled to vote is the denominator

Implications

- All those who may vote are considered in the total number of voters
- Therefore, calculation of a majority is based on this total number of voters ($1/2 + 1 = \text{majority}$)
- If a number of people abstain or do not cast a vote, the number needed to pass a motion is still the **majority**

Examples of things codified in other documents (2)

- ▣ TAB Operations Manual: Allowed to postpone or lay-on-the-table" until the next meeting, even though TAB meets only three times a year

Some recent governance issues

- Affiliates
 - Societies may determine the rights of affiliates; may they hold office?
- Number of candidates for elections
 - Elections should allow for the voters to have an impact
- Use of email voting
 - Majority of those eligible to vote

Terms of Office (1)

- At the Board of Directors and TAB level, Bylaw I-304.5 Terms of Appointment, states that “acceptance of appointment will carry with it the understanding that a member would normally be re-appointed annually to serve for no more than three consecutive terms”.

Terms of Office (2)

- ▣ Policy 13.2(c): .."Members of Standing Committees and Boards and any subcommittees of the Standing Committees and Boards shall generally be appointed for no longer than three consecutive years" ...
- ▣ TAB Operations Manual (regarding TAB Standing Committees: "Reappointment is permissible, for a maximum of three (3) terms."

Communications

- Web sites
- Information on S/C activities
 - Board of Director reports
 - IEEE Annual Report
 - The Institute
 - Conference highlights
 - Marketing-like summary of S/C
- Highlighting new technology areas
 - Smart Grid
 - Cloud Computing

Volunteer Training

- Workshops
- Presentation Library
- Center for Leadership Excellence
 - General leadership skills
 - Operations
 - Strategy

Society Membership

- 2011 renewal eMembership
- Alignment with Society membership promotion
- 2012-2013 society membership
 - Drive to standard pricing
 - Bundling, etc.
- Overall Society membership promotions

Thank You

Jayne F. Cerone

Email: j.cerone@ieee.org

+1 732 562 3908