

## **Amendments to the IT Constitution and Bylaws**

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As you may be aware, the Information Theory Society has a Constitution and a set of Bylaws governing various aspects of its operation. From time to time, the Board of Governors (BoG) amends these. The purpose of this article is to publicize amendments approved by the BoG at its meetings in Sept. 2006, March 2007 and Sept. 2007. The amendments to the Bylaws have already taken effect, and according to our rules, the amendments to the Constitution will take effect 60 days after this notice of amendments, unless at least 1% of the voting members of the Society object, in writing, within 60 days, to the IEEE Office of Society General Activities. If such objections are received, there will be a mail ballot of IT Society members on the amendment(s), requiring two-thirds majority for approval.

The Constitution and Bylaws, and the recent amendments can be found on the IT Society website at <http://www.itsoc.org/society/archive.html>. A brief summary of the amendments follows.

Most of the changes have come in response to a request by the IEEE that all Societies update their constitutions and bylaws to conform to certain standards. These include amendments to Article VII (Meetings) of the IT Constitution approved March 2007 to

- (a) increase the specification of a BoG quorum from one-third to one-half (Sec. 4),
- (b) reword the statement that a majority is required for an item to be approved by the BoG (Sec. 5),
- (c) specify that the BoG may meet by teleconference and the like (Sec. 6),
- (d) reword the statement that the BoG may vote by email and the like (Sec. 7),
- (e) specify that BoG members holding multiple positions are limited to one vote (Sec. 8), and
- (f) specify that proxy voting is not permitted (Sec. 9).

Another amendment to the Constitution, initiated by the IT Constitution and Bylaws Committee and approved by the Bog in Sept. 2007,

- (g) clarifies the statement that the BoG consists of elected members and statutory members prescribed by the Constitution, as well as those prescribed by the Bylaws, and that such statutory members may be designated to have voting rights. (Art. V (Governance), Sec. 1)

Amendments to the IT Bylaws include those stimulated by the IEEE to

- (h) change the name of the Nominations Committee to Nominations and Appointments Committee, and expands its membership to include three elected by the BoG, in addition to the two past Presidents (Art. V, Sec. 2, Mar. 2007), and
- (i) modify the rules regarding nominations to the BoG by petition from IT Society members (Art. IV, Sec. 1, Sept. 2007),

as well as additional amendments, initiated by the IT Constitution and Bylaws Committee, to

- (j) add the Chapter Award to the Bylaws (Art. X, Sept. 2006),
- (k) incorporate the name change of the Distinguished Service Award to the Aaron D. Wyner Distinguished Service Award (Art. V, Sec. 9, and Art. IX, Sept. 2006),
- (l) add the newly formed Conference Committee as a standing committee (Art. V, Sec. 10, Mar. 2007),
- (m) change “subcommittee” to “committee” throughout (Mar. 2007),
- (n) clarify the wording that the President may vote only if the vote would affect the outcome (Art. III, Sec. 3, Sept. 2007),
- (o) eliminate references to IEEE awards that no longer exist (Art. V., Sec. 7, Sept. 2007), and
- (p) designate the Editor-in-Chief of the *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory* as a voting member of BoG (Art. V, Sec. 7, Sept. 2007).

The IT Constitution and Bylaws Committee, which for 2008 consists of past presidents B. Rimoldi and D. Neuhoff (chair), welcomes comments and suggestions. If you wish to object to any of the amendments to the Constitution, send your objections in writing to Society General Activities, IEEE Technical Activities, 445 Hoes Lane, PO Box 1331, Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331.