

IEEE Information Theory Society  
Constitution and Bylaws Committee

# Current Status and Planned Activities

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## Bylaws Article V, Section 3

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall consist of the two most recent past Presidents of the Board. The senior past President shall be the chairperson of the Committee. This Committee is charged with preparing suitable revisions to keep the Constitution and Bylaws up to date and with insuring that the Board is made aware of those sections of these documents pertinent to proposed actions.

## Current Status

The constitution and bylaws of the Society that are currently in effect are those posted on the Society's web site: <https://www.itsoc.org/people/organization>. The posted bylaws date back to October, 2016. However:

- 1 The BoG approved a number of updates to the Bylaws in Fall 2017, as presented by Michelle Effros.
- 2 The Bog also approved a number of updates to the Bylaws in Fall 2018, as presented by Alon Orlitsky.
- 3 Some of the 2018 updates were made in response to IEEE feedback (received mid-2018) about the 2017 updates.
- 4 These updates have not (yet) been approved by IEEE Technical Activities governance — but they are (as of last week) under consideration for approval.

Once the 2017 updates, as amended in 2018, have been approved by the IEEE VP TA, they will come into effect and will be posted on the Society's web site.

## Planned Activities

The committee plans to update the bylaws to reflect new initiatives, existing practices, and reorganization of committees. The updated bylaws will need to reflect the following.

- **Membership Committee** re-organization (WITHITS, students, outreach, schools)
- Creation of the **Diversity and Inclusion Committee**.
- Creation of a **Publications Committee** as an umbrella for our (now two) journals, newsletter, possible magazine.
  - Potential ramifications on *ex officio* membership on the BoG: currently both EiC and EE of the *Transactions* are voting members, but we probably only need one, the EiC, together with the EiC of the new journal.
  - May wish to create steering committees, one for each publication, or leave it to each individual publication.

## Planned Activities (cont'd)

- As currently enacted, the bylaws make the [Cover and Massey Awards Committees](#) subcommittees of the Award Committee, but current practice suggests they should be proper standing committees in their own right.
- Various dates (of appointment, deadlines for awards nominations, etc.) will be scrutinized and amended to reflect best practices — e.g., to appoint the BoG secretary and treasurer at the end of the year *before* taking office.

## Feedback from BoG and IEEE

- This will be a significant overhaul. We will take the opportunity to align ourselves with IEEE “must-haves” and best practices for governing documents.
- All proposed changes will be circulated to the BoG for debate and discussion in advance of any voting for formal adoption. Your active participation in this process would be appreciated!
- We will also circulate proposed amendments to IEEE for their feedback in advance of BoG votes.
- Probable approval scenario: one subset of amendments put forward at the ISIT BoG meeting, and another subset put forward at the fall BoG meeting.