

From the President

By Bruce Terris, President of the Magnetics Society

ACTION REQUESTED: This column is a little different from my previous columns, as there are two very important matters I want to bring to your attention. I will briefly summarize the topics here, and encourage you to read about them in more detail in articles in this newsletter.



The Society is soliciting nominations for three awards: the Achievement Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and our newest award, the Early Career Award. I encourage you to consider nominating your deserving colleagues for these awards; do not assume someone else will do it. The prestige of these awards depends on receiving excellent nominations, and those nominations come

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Call For Nominations: Society Awards

By Burkard Hillebrands, Honors & Awards Committee Chair

The IEEE Magnetics Society seeks nominations for its three most prestigious awards: the Achievement Award, the Distinguished Service Award, and the newly established Early Career Award. The awards will be presented at the next 2017 INTERMAG conference in Dublin during the Plenary Session.

The Achievement Award is given to honor one of its outstanding members for his or her lifetime professional achievement. This is the highest award of the Society and is given for scientific and technical achievements. The award consists of a diploma with citation and a cash award of \$3,000.

Nominations are due by August 31, 2016.

The Distinguished Service Award is given to recognize outstanding service to the Magnetics Society and magnetics community. It can be awarded to a single recipient or split equally among up to three recipients. The award consists of a

diploma with citation and a cash award of \$2,000.

Nominations are due by September 30, 2016.

The Early Career Award will be given to an individual, nominated not more than 5 years after completion of his or her PhD, and who has already shown outstanding scientific or technical achievements which has been significantly beyond the average performance of a person at that career level. The award consists of a diploma with citation and a cash award of \$1,500. **Nominations are due by September 30, 2016.**

In addition, all three awards include lifetime membership in the Magnetics Society and a travel allowance of up to \$500 for travel to the award ceremony. Eligible for all three awards are members of the IEEE Magnetics Society. The nomination forms and more information are available from the website of the Magnetics Society at: <http://www.ieeemagnetics.org>.

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from you, our members. Help your colleagues, your society, and ultimately yourselves by being active in the awards process.

I have written previously about the upcoming vote on the proposed IEEE Constitution changes to alter the composition of the board of directors, but now want to emphasize the importance of this issue. As explained in the two articles in this newsletter, this is a hotly debated issue and will be put to a vote of the entire IEEE membership in August.

The first article, "Why Have Several Society/Council and Geographical Section Governing Bodies Voted to Oppose the Proposed 2016 IEEE Constitutional Amendment?", is written by several society presidents and is just what the title says. Links

are included so that you can read the amendment and both pro and con views.

The second article, "Executive Summary: TAB Executive Sessions on TABin2030 of 17-June-2016", is the summary from the June TAB discussion, as prepared by the TAB chair. Most importantly, it includes motions passed by TAB for presentation to the Board of Directors. Please read the articles and use the web links and become educated voters. This issue was the topic of heated discussion at the June TAB meeting, and almost all technical societies are expressing opposition to the amendment. I encourage all IEEE members to vote, as this will greatly impact the future operation of IEEE.

Bruce Terris can be reached via: bruce.terris@ieee.org

Why Have Several Society / Council and Geographical Section Governing Bodies Voted to Oppose the Proposed 2016 IEEE Constitutional Amendment?

Submitted by Bruce Terris, President of the Magnetics Society

You may have read claims about the proposed amendment facilitating a more flexible, responsive, and strategic IEEE.

Opponents claim that the problem the proposed amendment is attempting to solve is obscure, the proposed solution adds unnecessary complexity and risks, and the nature of IEEE as a bottom-up organization run by volunteers is threatened to change, drastically. The existing IEEE constitution offers alternative, less complex ways of accomplishing the promised improvements, while maintaining members at the core of the decision making process.

It is no wonder that some geographic units and the governing bodies of several IEEE societies (including the largest societies such as Computer, Communications, Power and Energy, and Signal Processing) have voted against endorsing the amendment. At least four past IEEE Presidents and other past IEEE leaders have also spoken against the amendment. Unfortunately, the current IEEE leadership has interpreted electioneering rules in a manner that restricts opponents. For this reason, we are reaching out to you (Society presidents), and asking for your help with propagating this message.

The risks associated with the proposed amendment and restructuring include the following:

- a) Too much power will be shifted from IEEE members to a small group of volunteers and staff. IEEE is a bottom-up, member-run organization. The amendment enables turning IEEE into a top-down organization, run by a small, less diverse Board of Directors (BoD) with limited input from members. Membership can be bypassed, and the BoD alone will be able to make changes to the structure of IEEE.
- b) Technical and geographic representation will be removed from the BoD. Today, members are represented by their technical Societies and their geographic Sections, which have a strong voice in the decision-making process within IEEE. Society members elect Technical Directors, and Section members elect Regional Directors for the IEEE BoD. The new structure will dilute this greatly and move Societies and Sections far from the decision-making process.
- c) The BoD could be controlled by special-interest groups. If the amendment is ratified, each Director will be elected by the entire IEEE membership. This raises some serious issues. Societies and Sections with a smaller number of members

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Opposition to the Proposed 2016 IEEE Constitutional Amendment

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will see their level of representation diluted or eliminated. Many members may not be familiar with the candidates, nor the candidates familiar with them and their needs. The “diversity” conditions that the BoD will be using to approve candidates are not yet defined. Candidates’ qualifications may be set by the BoD each time there is an election. It is not difficult to envision situations where these qualifications can be manipulated to promote or discourage candidacies at the pleasure of the Board.

d) The visibility and control by IEEE Societies and Sections of key strategic decisions made by the BoD will be reduced. Technical Societies and the Sections will no longer have a formal role in strategy. Currently, Society Presidents are part of a body called the Technical Activities Board (TAB), and the Chair of TAB sits on the Board of Directors. Hence, Societies are represented rather directly on the BoD through the Chair of TAB and through their elected Directors. Today, representatives of the revenue producing activities, primarily the technical activities and geographic activities, form a majority of the BoD, and thereby, can control strategy. Under the proposed new structure, the revenue producing activities will have no representation on the BoD, hence have no formal role in forming strategy.

In contrast, the role of the staff executive director (ED) will be significantly strengthened. The ED will sit on the BoD and will also be a voting member of a new Board that will oversee the budgets of technical and regional activities. Only volunteers should vote in a volunteer organization.

e) The possible benefits of the amendment do not outweigh its risks. The amendment gives the BoD the power to re-organize and restructure IEEE without the need to seek member approval. The big unknown is how the BoD would restructure IEEE if the amendment is approved. It is

premature to vote for something whose underlying details are still uncertain.

In summary, IEEE today is a highly successful \$450M non-profit corporation that provides unparalleled technical leadership. The efforts of our VOLUNTEER leaders in the technical societies, regions, sections, and chapters are responsible for that success. Most of IEEE’s revenues are generated by the volunteers’ collective intellectual property, especially, publications and conferences. If we diminish the voices of volunteers in managing IEEE, we risk discouraging them and losing their support.

We urge you to do your own research and reach your own conclusion about the proposed amendment. It is very important that you vote in this critically important juncture for IEEE.

Additional reasons for opposing the constitutional amendment and proposed restructuring may be found here: <https://iee2016blog.wordpress.com>

For background, the IEEE governing documents, including the Constitution and Bylaws, can be found here: <http://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/governance/index.html>

The proposed changes to the Constitution can be found here: https://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/election/2016_constitutional_amendment.html

In addition, the IEEEin2030 Ad Hoc Committee is proposing changes to the IEEE's organizational structure stemming from the amendment. The details may be seen here: https://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/ieein2030_archive_m.html

Back Issues Wanted

The Magnetics Society would like to post back issues of the Magnetics Society Newsletter on its Web site.

We have a number of documents ready for scanning but are still missing a significant number

of back issues. If you have old print copies of the Newsletter that you could scan or loan to us for scanning, please contact Newsletter Editor Gareth Hatch via g.p.hatch@ieee.org.

Thanks!

Executive Summary: TAB Executive Sessions on TABin2030 of 17 June, 2016

Submitted by Bruce Terris, President of the Society

Purpose

The Technical Activities Board (TAB) VP is directed by a TAB motion (motion 5 below), approved by TAB at one of the two executive sessions held on Friday, June 18, 2016, to appoint a committee to prepare a report of the executive session and provide [it] to TAB for circulation. The committee referred to by the motion is constituted by James W. Moore, José M F Moura, and John Verboncoeur and this is the report prepared by the committee. Drafts of this report were circulated among members of TAB for input and edits to make sure it reflects a balanced view of the discussions held.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the presentation, discussion, and motions from these two executive sessions. These sessions related to the TABin2030 Ad Hoc Committee report to the TAB. These sessions were IEEE members-only executive sessions called to allow for frank discussion. Both sessions were well attended by TAB members and additional interested IEEE members, including a member of the Election Oversight Committee who took the opportunity to clarify some of the rationale behind edits and deletions from opposition statements. The executive sessions comprised two separate sessions. The first was a presentation by the TABin2030 Ad Hoc Committee, and subsequent discussion. Following this, motions were crafted to capture the sense of the body, and discussed and moved at the end of the TAB meeting. This report and any attachments can be distributed beyond TAB.

Presentation and Discussion

The presentation by TABin2030 Chair John Verboncoeur (posted at the TABin2030 webpage) described the key findings of TABin2030 related to the proposed Constitutional Amendment, the present state of the IEEEin2030 structural governance proposals, and concerns arising from the process. Note that the presentation has been revised for open distribution by redacting personal information such as IEEE employee salaries from the attached opposition statements., and removing a slide on which use permission is pending since broader distribution may exceed fair-use rights. The presentation covered the proposed Constitutional Amendment including a webinar presented by a member of IEEEin2030, the 21-22-Apr-2016 IEEEin2030 meeting attended by one TABin2030 committee member, and a subsequent webinar on the current status of the shared governance model by an

IEEEin2030 member. The TABin2030 webinars and question and answer sessions are available at http://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/ieeein2030_archive_m.html.

The presentation input from each of those events included discussion of what TABin2030 viewed as positive and negative aspects of each, including potential risks. TABin2030 included diverse views on the Amendment and the current state of the proposed shared governance model of IEEEin2030. It was noted that proponent presentations of the Amendment and IEEEin2030 structural governance Bylaws almost uniformly address potential positive outcomes and minimize or neglect negative possibilities and risks, hence the need for additional voices.

The final component of the presentation focused on process concerns, including not allowing mention of Society/Council Boards' resolutions, striking co-authors' names, striking authors' titles, and modification of statement content resulting in alleged significant changes of meaning of member statements for the ballot. While TABin2030 agreed that personal attacks and private information was unacceptable on a ballot, the broad application of this power to the statements in ways which reduced their information content and credibility has the appearance, if not the reality, of bias, and is contrary to the open democratic philosophy of the IEEE.

TABin2030 indicated that such power should be used sparingly, and only to protect the fairness and integrity elections, and to protect the privacy of individuals as covered by the IEEE Ethics policy. The decision process in this case included individuals with a stake in the outcome, and this has the appearance of conflict of interest, if not the actual fact, and should be avoided pursuant to the IEEE Conflict of interest policy (Policy 9.8) by recusal of conflicted individuals.

The TABin2030 presentation was followed by discussion and debate where a diversity of points of view were presented.

Motions

After a hiatus to draft prospective motions, in the afternoon session, a number of motions were brought to the floor by the TABin2030 Ad Hoc based on the earlier discussion. TABin2030 held diverse views on the motions. The Chair of

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TAB Executive Sessions on TABin2030 *continued from page 4*

the TABin2030 Ad Hoc moved five motions, as attached, and withdrew two motions discussed in the morning discussion that the committee did not view as viable. TAB resumed executive session to discuss the motions, and passed all but the withdrawn motions after modifications of text of some motions and significant modifications of one motion. It was emphasized that remedies sought are aimed at improving the fairness of the process and ensuring well-informed members, and were not intended to be punitive, under the assumption that all concerned are acting in good faith on behalf of the IEEE.

The motions passed are as follows:

Motion 1:

Whereas the Constitutional Amendment is incomplete without the accompanying IEEEin2030 structural Bylaw changes,

TAB respectfully requests the BoD withdraw the Constitutional Amendment until it can be coupled with the structural Bylaw changes from IEEEin2030.

TAB respectfully requests that any Bylaw change to implement a new governance structure be given to OUs for impact and risk assessment at least 60 days prior to a BoD vote on the respective Bylaws.

Motion 2:

Whereas the process has been tainted by bias (real or perceived) and by censorship of opposition, and

Whereas Policy 13.7.1.B can place individuals in a position of conflict of interest, and

Whereas these circumstances clearly violate IEEE Policy 13.3.A.2,

TAB respectfully requests BoD withdraw the Constitutional Amendment on the basis of process.

Motion 3:

Whereas member information on the ballot will be limited if ballot statements are censored, and

Whereas presentations of the Constitutional Amendment also include IEEEin2030 material,

In case the Constitutional Amendment is not withdrawn, TAB respectfully requests [that] BoD overrule the censorship of

opposition statements on the ballot and invite opposition speakers at meetings discussing the Constitutional Amendment and Bylaws.

Motion 4:

Whereas election policies and procedures can constrain open discussion, and

Whereas current policy can be interpreted to allow participants to serve in conflicted roles in election and policy oversight,

TAB respectfully requests BoD improve the election policy to better conform to the IEEE Code of Ethics and the open democratic spirit of the IEEE as embodied in Policy 13.3.A.2.

Motion 5:

TAB directs the VP TAB to appoint a committee to prepare a report of the executive session and provide to TAB for circulation and direct the TAB VP to disseminate.

Errata and Updates

The TABin2030 Ad Hoc intends to reach out to discussants who raised some factual points in order to improve the accuracy of the presentation. Thus far, the following corrections are noted:

- Slide 4: Per discussion, we clarify: Fully relegates the definition of Director to the Bylaws. Also clarified on slide 10.
- Slide 6: several society/council governing body votes on the Amendment were finalized and submitted throughout the day as updated.
- Slide 9: Modified during the presentation to add a second path of communication from TA to the Assembly in the proposed governance structure (modification remains as drawn during presentation.)
- Slide 10: Contrary to information contained in slide decks presented in various venues in recent months (for example, slide 11 of the 20-March-2016 IEEEin2030 slide deck presented by the 3Ps at the Region 8 meeting), which indicated the Bylaws would be brought to the BoD at the June Board meeting, a knowledgeable speaker at the meeting indicated that this does not appear on the BoD agenda. Also see clarification for Slide 4.
- Slide 11: it was mentioned that OU communication with BoD and other decision making components may be enhanced in some ways. This is an arguable but subjective point, but is included here for completeness.

2017 IEEE Magnetics Society Summer School

By Chih-Huang Lai, Education Committee Chair

The Education Committee is soliciting proposals for hosting the 2017 IEEE Magnetics Society Summer School, to be held in Europe. The proposal should address and describe the following:

- Research activities in magnetics of the hosting institution.
- Historical and cultural attractiveness of the site.
- Previous experience of hosting international events.
- Accessibility (airport, local transportation).
- Facilities, housing, and meals.

- Budget.
- School dates. (The school will be one-week long, starting on Sunday evening and ending on Friday evening.)
- Local Organizing Committee.

The Summer School will be financially supported by the Society. The proposal should be 8 pages maximum and should be submitted to chlai@mx.nthu.edu.tw before July 29, 2016. More details on the Summer School can be found on the Society web page at: <http://www.ieeemagnetics.org>.

IEEE Magnetics Society Italy Chapter Annual Meeting

By Bruno Azzerboni, Italy Chapter Chair

The Annual Meeting of the Society's Italy Chapter was held in Messina, Italy, on June 10, 2016 (<http://ww2.unime.it/mrg/IEEE2>). The title of the meeting was "Frontiers in Magnetism II", following a previous workshop organized in Messina in 2010.

The co-chairs of the meeting, Prof. Giovanni Finocchio and Dr. Anna Giordano, introduced 10 invited talks, in the fields of applied magnetism, spintronics, and numerical methods, given by Italian researchers. Strategic approaches for modeling hybrid CMOS/spintronic devices were presented by two colleagues of the electronics community, Profs. Felice Crupi and Marco Lanuzza from the University of Calabria. Advanced tools for time-frequency study including the Huang-Hilbert Transform, multi-GPU strategies for the efficient computation of the

demagnetizing field, spin-Hall oscillators, and skyrmion-based devices were other topics of the reunion.

The winner of the 2016 IEEE Magnetics Society Italy Chapter Young Researcher Award was Dr. Vito Puliafito. The award was adjudicated by an international evaluation committee composed of Prof. Zhongming Zeng (Suzhou Institute of Nanotech and Nanobionics, China), Prof. Eduardo Martinez (University of Salamanca, Spain) and Prof. Ozhan Ozatay (Bogazici University, Turkey). Dr. Puliafito was presented with the award during the welcome ceremony of the meeting, by Prof. Bruno Azzerboni, Chair of the Italy Chapter, and Prof. Ermanno Cardelli, Chair of IEEE Italy Section, and gave a talk about soliton dynamics in spintronic oscillators.



Prof. Bruno Azzerboni (l), Dr. Vito Puliafito (c) and Prof. Ermanno Cardelli (r).



Group photo during the Annual Meeting of the IEEE Magnetics Society Italy Chapter

Conference Calendar

August 17-19, 2016 The Magnetic Recording Conference TMRC 2016
Stanford, CA, USA
<http://nanomag.stanford.edu/tmrc-2016>

August 21-26, 2016 8th Joint European Magnetics Symposium (JEMS 2016)
Glasgow, UK
<http://jems2016.iopconfs.org>

August 28 - Sep 1, 2016 24th Int. Workshop on Rare-Earth & Future Permanent Magnets (REPM 2016)
Darmstadt, Germany
<http://www.repm2016.org>

October 31 - Nov 4, 2016 61st Annual Conference on Magnetism & Magnetic Materials (MMM 2016)
New Orleans, LA, USA
<http://www.magnetism.org>

January 18-19, 2017 Magnetics 2017
Orlando, FL, USA
<http://www.magneticsmagazine.com/conferences/>

To list your conference in the Newsletter Conference Calendar, please contact the Editor

New Senior Members

The following members of the IEEE Magnetics Society were recently elevated to the grade of Senior Member.

April 2016: Andrii Chumak, David Kirkwood, Tim Mews and N. Venkataramani.

June 2016: Tadashi Kukami.

For further information, visit the IEEE Web site at:

www.ieee.org/membership_services/membership/grade_elevation.html

About the Newsletter

The purpose of the IEEE Magnetics Society Newsletter is to publicize activities, conferences, workshops and other information of interest to the Society's members and other technical people in the general area of applied magnetics.

Contributions are solicited from Magnetics Society members, conference organizers, Society Officers & other volunteers, local chapters, and other individuals with relevant material. The Newsletter is published quarterly on the Magnetics Society webpage at

<http://www.ieeemagnetics.org>.

Please send articles, letters & other contributions via email to the Newsletter Editor, Gareth Hatch, at g.p.hatch@ieee.org.

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