### A PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE IEEE CONSTITUTION

#### Discussion of the Galindo Petition

At its regular meeting on 21 May in Atlantic City, the Governing Board of the IEEE Computer Society voted to go on record as being opposed to the aims of the petition sponsored by Dr. Victor Galindo to amend the constitution of the IEEE. There were no negative votes.

The amendment would, among other things, make the primary purpose of the IEEE to promote and improve the economic well-being of the membership of IEEE, instead of the current primary scientific, literary, and educational purposes. In discussing this petition, I and various other members of the Governing Board of the Computer Society felt that such an amendment would produce an enormous impact, without much publicity and time for discussion. It was also felt that the passage of such an amendment would represent a sudden pre-emption of a long-standing professional society, possibly by a minority faction, to try to serve a new and unfamiliar purpose for some of its members. It was felt by some that the IEEE is already making adequate adjustment for the present situation in its arrangements with the National Society of Professional Engineers and in its other activities.

It was further stated, however, that the opinions of a large majority of the Board do not constitute adequate reason for members of the Computer Society to vote against the proposed amendment. Misgivings were expressed about the limited forum available for discussion. It was suggested that COMPUTER magazine could help to serve this need. For this reason, we are presenting statements by a sponsor of the amendment (Dr. Victor Galindo) and a supporter of the amendment (Dr. Curt Fey).

The IEEE Executive Committee was unable to prepare a statement of its views by the June 7 deadline of this issue. I have been told, however, that J. H. Mulligan, President of the IEEE, will communicate to IEEE members on this subject in the near future.

We hope that all members of the Society will recognize the extent of the impact this amendment would, if adopted, have upon the Society and its relation to its members. We hope that they will give serious consideration to this issue and exercise their votes to make the response as representative as possible.

**Albert L. Hopkins, Jr.\nChairman, Publications Committee and member of the Governing Board of the IEEE Computer Society**

#### Text of the Proposed Amendment

**PETITION FOR AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERS**

In accordance with Article XIV, Section 1, of the Constitution of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc. (The IEEE), the undersigned voting members of the IEEE do hereby petition the IEEE to promptly place the following proposed amendments of the Constitution before the voting members of the IEEE for their approval by ballot. We request that a date be designated for the counting of the ballots that is no later than thirty days before the end of Calendar Year 1971.

We propose that Article I, Section 2, be changed to read as follows:

"The primary purpose of the IEEE is to promote and improve the economic well-being of the membership of the IEEE. In order to meet this purpose, the IEEE shall define and adopt standards for the qualifications of electrical engineers, the IEEE shall promptly enact suitable bylaws, and the IEEE shall vigorously and judiciously pursue all other activities necessary or desirable for the attainment of this objective.

"Secondary purposes of the IEEE are scientific, literary and educational, directed toward the advancement of the theory and practice of electrical engineering, electronics, radio, allied branches of engineering or the related arts and sciences. Means to these ends are the holding of meetings for the reading and discussion of professional papers, the publication and circulation of works of literature, science and art pertaining thereto and any other activities necessary, suitable and proper for the fulfillment of these objectives and not inconsistent with the primary purpose."

We propose that Article I, Section 3, be changed to read as follows:

"All activities pertaining to the primary purpose of the IEEE shall have as their geographical scope the territories of the United States and those areas wherein the United States has territorial jurisdiction.

"All activities pertaining to the secondary purposes of the IEEE shall have as their geographical scope the entire world.

"The IEEE shall have its principal offices in the State of New York from which it shall carry out its general administrative functions in accordance with the New York Membership Corporations Law. Its publications activities are to be principally in the United States, as well as its largest membership meetings."

**Continued**
We propose that Article III, Section 3, be changed to read as follows:

"The term 'voting member' as used in this Constitution means those members of Member grade or above as defined in the Bylaws.

"Only the voting members who reside in and practice engineering primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States are permitted to hold any IEEE office or vote upon any issue that deals with matters pertaining to the primary purpose of the IEEE."

An Economic Role for the IEEE

The need for an organization of electrical engineers with at least the partial purpose of seeking the engineers' economic well-being is patently clear. All other professional groups devote themselves to their membership's welfare. The American Association of University Professors' constitution is typical in that its "purpose is to advance standards, ideals, and the welfare of the academic profession through associations, organizations, skilled and unskilled, look after the economic interests of their membership. Church groups do the same. This is how our democracy works. Electrical Engineers, however, are not functioning as other professions and special interest groups do, with the result that our economic destiny is not even influenced, much less controlled, by ourselves.

The present IEEE constitution has in fact limited economic action by the IEEE since its purpose is defined as being purely scientific and educational. The few actions taken by the IEEE this year have been deliberately designed, for example, to avoid altering our tax exempt status despite the fact that such an alteration would cost each member no more than $2 per year in dues. The IEEE constitution which never has recognized the majority of Electrical Engineers as practicing Engineers and still offers only a second class non-voting membership to non-registered Engineers. The engineering profession is sufficiently heterogeneous to warrant Electrical Engineers as being separately represented in lobbying activities, pension plans, portable fringe benefits, and hiring on an individual professional contractual basis. These and many other economic activities do support and need the support of the good scientific reputation of the IEEE. The IEEE has often lent its good scientific reputation, earned by all members, to industrial commercial interests. It is time it lent that reputation to the coadvancement of each individual member's scientific and economic interests. Although our present President, Dr. Mulligan, has worked hard and sincerely in this direction, he has by his own admission, been limited by our constitution, and, more important, may very well ultimately be succeeded by a negative minded President (as a result of our rather undemocratic nominating procedures).

These amendments will offer the Electrical Engineer an opportunity to construct a profession which has the dignity, respect, and security that accompanies a group that controls scientific achievements, qualifications, and economic interests. I hope that the Electrical Engineers do not lose this opportunity through petty semantic bickering.

Dr. Victor Galindo

Do Fellow Members and Senior Members Know Best?
The Galindo petition arose out of a conviction that the IEEE should pursue the interests of all its members and should not confine itself to further the interests of one group of selected few. Currently, the IEEE concentrates on promoting the interests of the small percentage of members of Senior Member and Fellow grades who are the only ones who can be elected under the current constitution and bylaws to any one of the top 27 IEEE positions (Directors, Officers) and who are the only ones who can be delegates to the annual assembly whose function it is to elect some directors and vice presidents. In other words, not only can Members under the current constitution not be elected to the top IEEE positions, they cannot even vote for the most important ones.

The current bylaws prevent young members for ten years from voting for eight top IEEE positions. To ameliorate this inequity, the constitution and bylaws must be changed.

A vote for the Galindo petition is a vote against the current constitution and against current practices of collecting equal dues from all members but applying them primarily to the interests of a selected few.

A vote against the Galindo petition is a vote for the current constitution and for the current practices of concentrating solely on the interests of a small percentage of members that have achieved peak status in their profession by becoming Senior Members and Fellows. These members have few economic worries because of their management or university positions or because of their professional stature.

May 25, 1971

Dr. Curt F. Fey
Member Governing Board and Executive Committee
IEEE Computer Society

IEEE "Voting Members" — A Clarification

1. The IEEE Constitution Article III, Section 3, provides that "voting members" means those members of Member grade and above, as defined in the bylaws.

2. IEEE bylaw 101.1 defines 7 grades of IEEE membership, of which Honorary Member, Fellow, Senior Member, and Member grades are those designated by the Constitution as "voting members." Conversely, "non-voting members" are in the grades of Associate, Student, Exchange.

3. IEEE bylaw 104.4 specifies that the privileges of Member grade do not include the right to hold IEEE Corporate office, the office of Director, or membership on the Admissions and Advancement Committee, the Awards Board, or the Fellow Committee.

4. The IEEE Constitution Article VI, defines the Delegates to the Annual Assembly as being those Directors elected by "voting members." There are 19 such elected Directors (bylaw 201.1).

5. The IEEE Constitution, Article VII, identifies the IEEE Board of Directors as being those Directors elected by "voting members," plus additional Directors elected by the Annual Assembly.

6. IEEE bylaw 301.1 describes the 27 members of the IEEE Board of Directors, including the 19 elected by the "voting members," and 8 elected by the Annual Assembly.

7. IEEE legal counsel advises that the Galindo petition addresses itself to voting qualification based on geography (residence in the U.S.A.) and occupation (practicing engineering) and does not deal with voting qualification based on grade of membership.

Dr. Richard Emberson
Director, IEEE Technical Services