

**CONSTITUTION OF THE IEEE STUDENT BRANCH AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
(as dated in 1947 and updated April 2011)**

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Article I - Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name. This organization shall be known as the IEEE Student Branch at The University of Texas at Austin ("the Branch").

Section 2: Purpose. The purpose shall be the dissemination of knowledge of the theory and practice of all aspects of electrical engineering, electronics, radio, allied branches of engineering or the related arts and sciences, as well as the furtherance of the professional development of the Students.

Section 3: Rules of Operation. The organization and operation of the Branch shall be in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the IEEE and the Branch, as well as the rules and regulations of The University of Texas at Austin ("the University"), the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University, and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University ("Governing Bodies").

Article II - Membership

Section 1: Eligibility. Each student member of the Branch ("Branch Members") must meet all of the following requirements:

- Hold a paid IEEE membership in good standing.
- Register their IEEE membership number and name with the Branch.
- Have no violations indicated on his or her University discipline record.
- Complete and abide by all requirements that may be imposed on Branch Members by the University.
- Classified as an undergraduate or graduate student at the University.
- Enrolled in at least 50% of a normal, full-time course of study in electrical, electronics, computer engineering or computer sciences, an allied branch of engineering technology, or the related arts and sciences.

Section 2: Nondiscrimination Clause. Membership shall be open to all people who meet the requirements listed in Section 1, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or veteran status.

Section 3: Loss of Membership. Any Branch Member who fails to comply with any of the requirements listed in Section 1 will immediately forfeit his or her membership in the Branch.

Section 4: Branch Counselor. A member of the University faculty will serve as the Branch Counselor ("Advisor" or "Counselor") and will perform the duties described in the Branch Bylaws and regulations of the Governing Bodies.

Article III - Branch Leadership

Section 1: Branch Leadership. The Branch Leadership shall consist of the Officers and any other positions defined in the Branch Bylaws.

Section 2: Officers. The affairs of the Branch will be managed by the Executive Officers, Officers, and Assistant Officers, with offices enumerated and duties listed in the Branch Bylaws. The Branch Counselor is an ex-officio Officer, without voting rights, with the privileges and responsibilities listed in the Branch Bylaws.

Section 3: Eligibility. Any Branch Member is eligible to hold a single Branch Leadership position, contingent upon his or her agreement to fulfill the duties enumerated in the Branch Bylaws. In addition to the requirements listed in Article II, Section 1, Candidates for Branch leadership must be registered to attend classes on the University of Texas at Austin main campus for the term in which they intend to hold office. Candidates for the Chair officer position must have previously been a member of the Branch Leadership within the two (2) school years prior to the election. The Branch Counselor must be an IEEE member in good standing and a Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering faculty member at the University. Previous removal from office or loss of another position does not disqualify a Branch Member from running for a position.

Section 4: Term Length. All Branch Leadership positions, excluding the Branch Counselor, shall be elected at the end of the Spring semester for a term of one (1) school year. For Branch purposes, a school year begins on the first class day of the Summer semester and ends on the last class day of the subsequent Spring semester. The Branch Counselor shall be selected by the Branch Leadership for a two-year term as discussed in the Branch Bylaws.

Section 5: Removal of a Branch Leader. Branch Leaders can be removed from their positions through either of the following processes.

Section 5.1: Removal via Vote. The Branch Leadership can remove a Branch Leader if two-thirds of the Branch Leadership, according to a vote taken using a secret ballot, agree that the person in question failed to comply with the rules or regulations of the Branch or the Governing Bodies. A vote can only occur after the person has had the opportunity to defend his/herself and/or resign. The person in question is not included in the vote. The Branch Counselor must be consulted prior to the vote, though consent from the Branch Counselor is not required.

Section 5.2: Removal via Counselor Decision. The Branch Counselor can remove any Branch Leader at any time at his or her discretion.

Section 6: Vacancy. In the event of a vacancy in any Branch Leadership position, the supervising Officer will temporarily assume the duties of that position. The Chair shall temporarily assume the duties of any vacant Vice Chair position. If the Chair position is vacant, the Vice Chair shall be designated Acting Chair and shall temporarily assume the duties of that position as well as the Vice Chair position. The Chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University shall assume the duties of the Branch Counselor in the event of his or her absence. The Officers shall decide an appropriate course of action should multiple vacancies occur. A special election shall be held with at least one week's notice to fill any vacant Executive Officer or Officer positions. Other Vacant positions will be appointed by the Branch Leadership with majority approval of the Branch Leadership. A vacancy in the Branch Counselor position shall be filled promptly using the selection process described in the Bylaws.

Section 7: Elections. The Election Procedures defined in the Bylaws shall be followed for regular elections as defined in Section 4 and special elections as defined in Section 6. The Branch Counselor shall be selected according to the selection process described in the Bylaws.

Article IV - Activities

Section 1: Planning. The Branch Leadership shall create a tentative plan and schedule for all Branch activities within a given long semester prior to the start of that semester. Such plans will be reviewed with the Branch Counselor prior to the start of the semester. Significant changes which occur during the semester must be discussed with the Branch Counselor.

Section 2: General Meetings. The Branch shall hold General Meetings every two weeks, excluding University holidays and breaks, for a minimum of five meetings during each long semester. General Meetings shall primarily be used for relevant presentations and Branch business. General Meetings are open to the public.

Section 3: Branch Leadership Meetings. The Branch Leadership shall hold Branch Leadership Meetings every two weeks in opposition to the General Meetings. One Officer shall plan and preside over each Branch Leadership Meeting, with input from other members of the Branch Leadership. Branch Leadership Meetings shall primarily be used to coordinate upcoming Branch activities. Branch Leadership Meetings are only open to the Branch Leadership.

Section 4: Other Activities. The Branch Leadership shall coordinate and conduct other Branch activities as necessary. Such activities shall be in compliance with all rules and regulations of the Governing Bodies.

Article V - Amendments

Section 1: Amendment Process. Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be brought to the attention of the Branch Leadership. The Branch Leadership will then vote on whether to accept the amendment proposal. If supported by two-thirds of the Branch Leadership, the amendment proposal will be voted on by the Branch membership at the next General Meeting. If the amendment is supported by two-thirds of the voting attendees, it will become part of this Constitution.

Article VI - Dissolution

Section 1: Terms of Dissolution. The Branch shall dissolve upon request from the Governing Bodies or if there are fewer than twelve (12) Branch Members for two (2) long semesters, according to National Bylaw 402.7.

Section 2: Disbursement of Funds. In the event of dissolution of the Branch, any bank accounts held by the Branch shall be dissolved. Any debts owed shall be paid and the remaining funds shall be donated to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University.

Article VII - Bylaws

Section 1: Definition. Bylaws encompass rules and regulations adopted by the Branch falling outside the scope of this Constitution. Bylaws may neither amend nor contradict this Constitution.

Section 2: Bylaw Addition. All new Bylaws must be approved by a majority of the Branch Leadership. The Branch Leadership shall also designate the date on which new Bylaws become effective. All changes must be reported to the Branch Membership promptly.

Section 3: Bylaw Removal. Bylaws can be removed with a two-thirds vote of the Branch Leadership. Any such vote shall take place at an Officer Meeting and any action taken must be reported to the Branch Membership promptly.