

9.0 GEOGRAPHIC ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS

The MGA Operations Manual is a living document and the Regional Director may approve an exception to any of the guidelines stated in Section 9, provided the exception does not conflict with IEEE Bylaws/Policies. Each exception approved by the Regional Director will be reported to the Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Board.

A. Interpretation.

To the extent delegated by the IEEE Board of Directors, the Member & Geographic Activities Board shall interpret relevant policies and shall develop policies relating to the IEEE program of geographic organizational units. Guidelines for the operations, functions and administration of geographic organizational units shall be contained in the MGA Operations Manual.

B. Operational Procedures.

To the extent delegated by the IEEE Board of Directors, the MGA Board shall recommend policies affecting the management and operation of its geographic organizational units. The MGA Board shall be responsible for developing its plans, schedules, and procedures. The geographic organizational units shall operate in support of their assigned geographic area, as provided in their respective Bylaws. The MGA Board shall apprise IEEE geographic units of MGA policies. The Member and Geographic Activities Board through the VP-Member and Geographic Activities/MGA Chair may bring reports, recommendations, or other actions by the Geographic Organizational Units to the IEEE Board of Directors.

C. Monitoring IEEE Geographic Organizational Units.

To the extent delegated by the IEEE Board of Directors, the Member and Geographic Activities Board shall be responsible for monitoring the operations of the IEEE Geographic Organizational Units for adherence to the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York, the IEEE Certificate of Incorporation, IEEE Constitution, IEEE Bylaws, IEEE Policies Manual and the guidelines contained in the MGA Operations Manual.

D. Write-in Votes.

MGA and all of its organizational units may allow write in candidates for elections decided by members.

E. Geographic Unit Rebate Schedule.

1. Section rebate

Sections are required to submit their annual financial reports by the last day of February, and their annual officer and meeting reports by 15 March, of each year in order to be eligible for the dues rebates. The section Secretary and Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer should verify that all required reports have been submitted on time, including all subsection, chapter, and affinity group reporting. Exceptions for payment of the dues rebate to those units submitting the required reports after these deadlines shall be at the discretion of the Region Director, and a 10% penalty shall be applied to all such exceptions.

- a. Allowance: All sections in existence for the entire year and that meet the minimum requirements shall receive a US\$2,000 annual allowance. For sections formed during the year, these funds will be pro-rated from the date of establishment until 31 December.
- b. Membership rebate: Based on the member statistics on 31 December of the previous year, the membership rebate shall be as follows
 - US\$3 for each member of Member, Graduate Student Member, Student Member, or Associate grade.
 - US\$1.50 for each Affiliate
 - US\$4 for each Senior or Fellow grade member

2. Subsection rebate

US\$500 for each subsection meeting minimum requirements.

- a. Financial activity: data should be consolidated into the section's annual financial report form.
- b. Meeting activity: Subsections shall submit annually a report on the meetings held within the past year in a timely manner using electronic reporting tools provided by MGA. A subsection shall hold at least five meetings per year and maintain a membership of no fewer than fifteen (15) members other than Student Members.
- c. Current officers: Any changes to the roster of officers shall be submitted in a timely manner using electronic reporting tools provided by MGA.
- d. In accordance with the MGA Operations Manual Section 9.5.D.1, a Section shall be responsible for distributing funds to its Subsections.

3. Chapter and affinity group rebate

US\$200 for each chapter and affinity group meeting minimum requirements in accordance with the following sections of the MGA Operations Manual:

- Section 9.6.J - Chapter Requirements for Membership and Meeting Activity
- Section 9.9.J - Affinity Group Requirements for Membership and Meeting Activity

In accordance with the MGA Operations Manual Sections 9.6.G and 9.9.G, "Chapters and Affinity Groups are entitled to receive the funds generated by their own activities, including dues rebates (earned during the preceding year as computed by the Dues Rebate formula)." In accordance with the MGA Operations Manual Section 9.4.I.8, "Chapter and Affinity Group funds provided to the Section through the annual rebate are intended for the support of those subunits. Chapters and Affinity Groups shall be funded at a minimum at the level of the annual Rebate."

4. Bonus for timeliness

All sections whose reporting (financial, meeting, and officer) is submitted by the third Friday in February, will receive a 10% bonus of the total rebate not including activity bonuses.

If the information submitted is not complete or contains errors, and if corrections are not submitted within 60 days of a written request, the 10% bonus will be forfeited. The written request provided by IEEE will clearly state what action is expected, the date by which it must be submitted, and the consequence if not submitted.

5. Activity bonus

In an effort to encourage activities at the local level, activity bonuses may be awarded as follows:

- a. All sections reporting ten meetings or more, at least five of which must be of a technical nature, shall receive an additional US\$200.
- b. All subsections reporting ten meetings or more, at least five of which must be of a technical nature, shall receive an additional US\$100.
- c. A meeting jointly sponsored by more than one IEEE Geographical Organization Unit (chapter, affinity group, subsection, or section) may qualify as a meeting for each, but will count toward the activity bonus of only one of the units.
- d. All chapters or affinity groups reporting six or more meetings shall receive an additional US\$75; in the case of a chapter, at least six of the reported meetings shall be in the technical category.
- e. Activity bonus funds are excluded from the 10% bonus for timely reporting.
- f. All units must qualify for the timely reporting bonus (see #4 above) in order to be eligible

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for an activity bonus.

6. Notification of rebates

The Section's subunits (Subsections, Chapters, and Affinity Groups) will be notified about the amount to which their activities contribute to the rebate following the distribution of the rebate by 31 August.

7. Geographic Councils

Geographic unit councils, comprised of sections, are not eligible for a rebate. Geographic councils can receive only chapter/affinity group rebates (US\$200/unit) for active chapters and/or affinity groups. If the council is the parent organization of a chapter or affinity group the Council will receive the rebate for the subunit(s) only, including the 10% bonus for timely reporting and activity bonus, if applicable. Councils receive no other rebate allowance; there is no additional allowance or payment per membership.

- a. Financial activity: If a geographic council has no bank accounts and no financial activity, the "General Information and Certification Schedule" forms should be completed and submitted along with a statement indicating there were no bank accounts and no financial activity for the year. If a council has a bank account, with or without additional financial activity, a financial report must be submitted.
- b. Meeting activity: If a council has no chapters or affinity groups, meeting reports are not required.
- c. Officer reporting: A roster of current officers shall be submitted annually.

8. Members and geographic units outside Sections

For those members and geographic units that do not belong to an actual Section, the Region to which they belong acts as their parent. In its role as parent, the Region shall receive:

- a. The Allowance as defined in the Geographic Unit Rebate Schedule, as long as the number of members is not fewer than 50.
- b. The Membership rebate as defined in the Geographic Unit Rebate Schedule.
- c. The rebates appropriated for each geographic unit outside of Sections, based on meeting activity and compliance with financial and officer reporting requirements, shall be distributed to the respective geographic units.

9. Activity and reporting requirements

To be eligible for a rebate, sections must provide current officer, financial, and meeting/activity reports based on the following requirements. Units are advised that utilizing online reporting options will result in faster processing and release of the Section rebate.

- a. Current officer report: Reports of current section, subsection, chapter, and affinity group officers must be submitted within 20 days following the election and/or appointment of such officers using the electronic reporting tools provided by MGA. These reports must be updated during the year whenever officers change, including those who have been re-elected or re-appointed to another term.
- b. Financial report: A financial report summarizing the previous year's financial activities must be submitted annually using the designated online financial reporting accounting software. If the section is unable to obtain financial records from a subsection, chapter, or affinity group, it may opt to submit a statement that the subunit has failed to submit a timely financial report and waive its right to a rebate for that particular subunit. Delinquent subunits may be subject to probation or even dissolution.
 - i. Bank signature card: The bank signature card(s) must be returned to the IEEE Operations Center for the signature of the IEEE Staff Director-Financial Services before the section rebate will be released. This is required for all bank accounts for sections and their subunits within the US, and those Units outside of the US where banking and legal restrictions will allow. The Section rebate will not be released

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until all signature cards for the section and, if applicable, its subsection(s), chapter(s), and affinity group(s) have been received at the IEEE Operations Center. Councils are also required to comply with this policy for the council's bank account and that of any subunits.

An exemption from the signature card requirement may be requested from the Region Director. Exemptions may only be granted due to local, state, or federal banking laws, and regulations prohibiting the signature of the IEEE Staff Director or where the requirements would be prohibitive, To obtain the exemption form an email should be sent to Finance-Solutions@ieee.org.

If a section or subunit has not changed officers and the Staff Director's signature is already on the signature card, a new signature card is not required.

- c. Meeting Activity Report(s) Meeting activity reports are key to unit maintenance and viability. Eligibility requirements shall be met in accordance with the MGA Operations Manual, Section 9.4.L Section Reporting Requirements. To facilitate accurate reporting, a meeting reporting form should be submitted, via the electronic communication tool provided by MGA for each meeting and include the information requested in the form fields.

10. Procedures

Member and Geographic Activities cannot make additional subsection, chapter, or affinity group subsidy payments for meeting activity reported at a later time; as such, the section secretary should certify when submitting section, subsection, chapter, and affinity group meeting activity that all activity has been reported. Rebates for council subunits will be sent directly to the council treasurer unless the council chair otherwise instructs staff.

The rebate is paid to the section (and Regions with members and geographic units outside Sections) by the end of the second quarter. The funds provided are intended for the support of not only the section's activities, but also the activities of its subunits, including subsections, chapters, affinity groups, and IEEE student organizations.

11. Upgrading subsection to section

For sections formed from subsections after 31 December, the current year's rebate for the new section shall be based upon the terms of a written agreement between the officers of the parent section and the new section. The agreement will be developed in consultation with the regional director. Such agreement will be based on the number of members in the new section and shall be concluded prior to establishment of the new section.

9.1 REGIONS

A. Definition

In accordance to the IEEE Constitution, the territory of IEEE shall be divided, at the discretion of the Board of Directors into geographic areas known as Regions, which shall be specified in the Bylaws. A Region is a geographic unit consisting of a part of one, or of one or more countries, established by the MGA Board as a basic operating organizational unit of IEEE for management and administrative purposes to represent and fulfill the needs of the IEEE members and the missions of the IEEE within the territory prescribed.

B. Region Formation

In accordance with IEEE Bylaw I-402.1 and the IEEE Constitution, the Member and Geographic Activities Board shall approve the formation, dissolution, transfer, merger or change of boundaries of any Region including the distribution of all funds and assets in the custody of that Region at the date of termination.

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C. Region Operations

Region operations shall include the following functions:

1. Formulate goals and objectives for the Region.
2. Plan Region operations, including budget preparation and approval.
3. Report officer, financial operation and meeting reports to the Member and Geographic Activities Department.
4. Plan and implement programs in consonance with the IEEE mission, in support of the local organizational units in meeting the needs of the IEEE members of the Region.
5. Plan and implement programs in consonance with IEEE goals and objectives for the volunteer structure of the Region, for example, develop and implement leadership training programs for volunteers and members to enhance their interpersonal skills, group skills and leadership abilities.
6. Provide leadership opportunities for interested IEEE members to take an active role within the operations of the Region.

D. Naming of Geographical Units

Names for Sections, Geographic Councils and Subsections shall be descriptive of the geographical area they encompass without reference to political designations.

Any revision to this section 9.1.D. Naming of Geographical Units, require approval by the IEEE Board of Directors using the process in accordance with IEEE Bylaw I-300.4(5).

E. Region Bylaws

Each Region shall adopt Bylaws that are responsive to the particular needs of the Region for the purpose of governing the operations and administration of the Region. The Region Bylaws shall be reviewed periodically with any revisions being presented to the Member & Geographic Activities Board for approval.

F. Region Committee

Each Region shall have a Region Committee (or Board of Governors), organized and operated in accordance with its Region Bylaws that are responsive to the particular needs of the Region. The Region Committee shall participate generally in the development of the IEEE through recommendations to the IEEE Board of Directors to the Sections within the Region.

1. Membership representation and participation shall be optimized within financial, organizational and/or other restraints.
2. The Regional Director shall serve as the Region Committee Chair.
 - a. The Regional Director shall be selected in accordance with the MGA Nominations and Appointments process and the IEEE election process. (See IEEE Bylaw I-307.4 – Delegate-Elect/Director-Elect.)
3. The Region Committee shall consist of members as follows:
 - a. Voting
 1. Officers: Region Chair, Region Vice Chair (Director-Elect), Region Secretary, Region Treasurer, and Immediate Past Region Chair.
 2. Ex-Officio: Each Section Chair, the Region Coordinator of Professional Activities, where applicable, and the Chair of the Region Student Activities Committee.
 3. Selected Appointments: The Region Chair may appoint additional voting members. These may include Area Chairs, and the Chairs of Region standing committees such as Membership Development, Educational Activities, and

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Region Awards and Recognition, Region Chapters Coordinator, Young Professionals, Women in Engineering (WIE), etc. The number of additional voting members appointed shall not be more than one-fourth the number of Officers and Ex-Officio members, rounded up to the next whole number. Such additional members shall be appointed on a year-to-year basis by the Region Chair, subject to the approval of the Region Committee members designated in (9.1. D.3.a.1) and (9.1.D.3.a.2).

b. Voting or Nonvoting

1. Other Appointments: Additional Committee members and Liaison Representatives necessary to ensure the effective functioning of the Region Committee may be appointed on a year-to-year basis by the Region Chair subject to the approval of the Region Committee members designated in (9.1.D.3.a.1) and (9.1.D.3.a.2). These positions may be voting or nonvoting as designated in the Region Bylaws or appointment, subject to the limitation on voting members as stated in (9.1.D.3.a.3)
4. For a particular committee meeting, the Section Chair, with the prior agreement of the Region Chair, may appoint an alternate representative who shall have the right to vote.
5. No alternate representative may be appointed for a Region Committee meeting other than for Section Chairs.
6. The Region Committee may establish an Executive Committee (ExCom) to act on its behalf between meetings of the Region Committee.
 - a. All actions of the ExCom are subject to ratification by the Region Committee. The Region Committee may, by majority vote of members present at its next following meeting, overrule any act or decision of the Region ExCom.
 - b. The composition of the ExCom shall be stated in the Region Bylaws.
7. With the exception of the Student Representative, each member of the Region Committee shall be an IEEE member of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member or Fellow grade.

G. Region Committee Officers

Pending installation of the first Region Director of a Region, the President of the IEEE shall appoint a Chair pro tem of the Region Committee, with the approval of the Executive Committee, and the Chair pro tem shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer pro tem.

1. An elected or appointed Vice Chair/Director-Elect as provided for in the Region Bylaws serves the Region Committee. Any election of a Vice Chair and/or Delegate Director-Elect must conform to the provisions of IEEE Bylaws. The Vice Chair or Director-Elect shall chair the Region Committee meetings in the absence of the Chair, conducting other Region Committee business in the absence or inability of the Chair to do so, and performing such other duties as assigned by the Chair.
2. The Region Chair may appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer or a combined Secretary/Treasurer as provided in the Region Bylaws and approved by the Region Committee. The duties of these officer(s) shall include correspondence, the keeping of the minutes of the Committee meetings, mailing notices, handling of funds, the keeping of financial records, the submission of a report to the IEEE Board of Directors at the end of each year to be sent to the Executive Director, and such other duties as are assigned by the Chair.
3. The Region Past Chair shall be the most recent Past Regional Director residing within the Region.
4. The names of the newly elected/appointed officers of the Region Committee shall be reported to IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Department within 20 days following appointment.

H. Region Nominating Committee

1. Each Region shall establish a Region Nominating Committee. The Chair and members shall

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be appointed in accordance to the Region Bylaws. If not specifically stated, the Region Director shall make the appointment. No potential candidate for Director-Elect can serve on the nominating committee. The Chair, for the coming term, shall be identified by 1 December. There shall be a minimum of three members on the committee, including the Chair. The committee membership should represent the diversity within the organizational unit it serves.

2. The duties of the Region Nominating Committee shall include the preparation of a slate of candidates recommended for the office of Region Delegate-Director-Elect. The Region Nominating Committee shall also be responsible for the annual solicitation within the Region of names of potential candidates to be considered by the IEEE Nominations and Appointments Committee and the MGA Nominations and Appointments Committee for service on IEEE Committees and Boards.
3. A broad call for nominations for candidates for Region Director-elect position shall be distributed within the Region at least 90 days prior to the Region Nominations Committee meeting. The call for nominations shall indicate the deadline for submission and where nominations are to be sent.
 - a. The Description for an IEEE Director, as approved by the IEEE Board of Directors, shall be distributed with the Call for Nominations. The description, as well as any special skills requested by the IEEE Board of Directors, shall be consulted when candidates are being reviewed by the Nominating Committee. These Position Descriptions are available on the IEEE web site.
 - b. All potential candidates shall complete and submit the Nominations Form which requires submission of a Biography, list of IEEE Activities, and Position Statement, for evaluation by the Nominating Committee.
4. Unless otherwise noted in the Region bylaws, the slate of candidates for Director-elect as supported by the nominating committee shall be forwarded to the Regional Committee who will determine the final slate of candidates. In accordance with IEEE Bylaws, the slate of candidates must be forwarded to the election staff for submission to the IEEE Board of Directors no later than 15 March.

The voting shall be done by secret ballot. Approval plurality voting should be used when there are three or more candidates (vote for any and all you approve of) or selection plurality voting when there are less than three candidates (vote for one or the other).

The slate submitted to the IEEE Board of Directors must have a minimum of two candidates. Specific procedures relative to the submission of slates with less than two names must be provided in accordance with IEEE Bylaw I-307.8 Single Nomination Slates. It is a recommended best practice that the slate contains no more than four candidates.

I. Region Funds

Each Region Committee shall conduct its activities within the IEEE Constitution, IEEE Bylaws, IEEE Policies, MGA Operations Manual and other rules externally imposed which by law affect the membership and activities of the IEEE. Funds within the Geographic Unit, from whatever source derived, are the property of the IEEE, and should not be used for purposes other than the normal operations of the geographic unit as defined in the IEEE Bylaws or published interpretation of policy, without prior authorization of the MGA Board and/or the IEEE Board of Directors, unless otherwise provided.

1. Subject to budget limits approved by the MGA Board, the MGA Finance Committee shall authorize the transfer of funds to the respective Region treasuries, the amounts thereof to be decided in consultation with the respective Regional Directors.
2. Regions shall have the right to obligate their funds for all purposes necessary to promote their objectives except that no Region or any officer or representative thereof shall have any authority to contract debts for, pledge the credit of, or in any way bind the IEEE for those activities specifically prohibited in the IEEE Constitution, IEEE Bylaws, IEEE Policies Manual or MGA Operations Manual.
3. Regions shall establish appropriate bank accounts for accounting of Region funds. Regions 1-6 shall establish Concentration Banking accounts as their only bank accounts. Regions 7-10

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are strongly encouraged to establish Concentration Banking accounts as their only bank accounts

- a. Accounts established in the name of IEEE must be reserved for the purpose for which they are established, without co-mingling of funds.
- b. Regions may establish a reserve fund at least equal to one half of the total budgeted yearly expenditures. All IEEE Reserves must be invested in the IEEE Investment Fund.
- c. All IEEE Regions must provide for the signatures of at least one volunteer and one additional volunteer signature as an alternative. In addition, the signature of the IEEE Staff Director - Financial Services, or his/her designee, shall be designated as an alternative. This will provide assurance to the IEEE organizational unit and to IEEE of the availability of one additional alternative signature.

J. Expense Reimbursement

Reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, as authorized by the Region Committee, shall be provided to attend Region Committee meetings and other authorized meetings.

1. Reimbursement shall be at Region expense, and the formula governing reimbursement shall be under the jurisdiction of the Region Committee and consistent with over-all IEEE policies on reimbursement established by IEEE.
2. The Region Committee, in determining the amount of such reimbursement, shall take into account circumstances which may affect Sections of small size or which are remotely located.

K. Region Assessments

Upon approval of the IEEE Board of Directors, a voluntary or mandatory fee may be charged to members residing in a Region for specified services for the benefit of members within the Region. The BoD will determine whether the fee is to be voluntary or mandatory in a particular circumstance depending on the nature of specific services to be provided. See also IEEE Bylaw I-108 - Dues, Assessment and Fees.

L. Region Publications

Any Region (or group of Regions) may issue a local publication. A Region publication may be a Newsletter and/or a Journal/Magazine. Information carried in a Newsletter is not expected to be archival, where Magazines/Journals have archival value. Additional information is available in the IEEE Policies Manual or PSPB Operations Manual.

M. Region Committee Meetings

The Region Committee shall hold at least one meeting each year, at an appropriate time and place.

1. A quorum for a Region Committee meeting shall consist of a majority of the members of the Committee or their alternates and shall include representatives from at least half of the Sections in the Region.
2. The Regional Director or, in the event of his/her unavailability, the Region Committee Vice Chair, shall be responsible for calling the necessary number of Region Committee meetings and designation of the places of meeting.
3. Minutes of Region Committee meetings shall be forwarded to the MGA Secretary.

N. Region Student Activities Committee

Each Region shall establish a Region Student Activities Committee to be responsible to the Region Committee. It shall be concerned with the encouragement of student activities in the Region including Student member and Student Branch operations, general supervision of student activities and meetings when held on a Region basis, and the fostering and coordination of activities with the Sections.

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1. The Region Student Activities Committee shall be composed of its Chair, all Counselors in the Region, the Region Student Representative, (other student appointees as appropriate), and any MGA Student Activities Committee members residing in the Region, ex officio.
2. The Regional Director shall appoint the Chair of this Committee and the Region Student Representative from the Region membership, for a two-year term of office that corresponds with or overlaps that of the Regional Director. The Chair of the Region Student Activities Committee (Graduate Student Member grade or higher) and the Region Student Representative (Student Member or Graduate Student Member) shall serve, ex officio, on the MGA SAC.

O. Region Dissolution

Regions failing to maintain reasonable activity may be dissolved and the Sections therein may be absorbed into other Regions, the boundaries of which are to be correspondingly altered.

9.2 AREAS

A. Definition

An Area is a part of a Region, consisting of several Sections, states, provinces, or countries which may be established by the Region Committee as a management and administrative organizational unit of IEEE to fulfill the communication needs and management/administrative missions of the Region within the territory prescribed.

1. The Regional Director may appoint Area Chairs to serve a one- or two-year term during the incumbency of the Director.
2. The Area Chair acts on behalf of and at the direction of the Regional Director on specific assignments related to the management and administration of the Region.
3. The Area Chair(s) may serve on the Region Committee with the approval of the Region Committee.

9.3 Geographic Councils

A. Definition

A Council may be formed by agreement of a group of contiguous Sections and it exists at their pleasure. It is intended to act as a subordinate committee of the Sections and they have the right to direct its operation. It is formed by the Sections to do only those delegated tasks that can be best done together by the Sections rather than singly by each Section. The Sections retain their recognition as the basic operating, executive and administrative unit of the IEEE. The Regional Director and the Member & Geographic Activities Board shall approve the formation of a Council.

B. Council Formation

1. Petition Process

- A. The petition shall contain the signature of the Chairs of the contiguous Sections forming the Council.
- B. The petition shall be submitted to the Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities for verification.

2. Approval Process

- A. Following verification, the petition shall be approved by the Region Committee before submission to the MGA Board.
- B. Regional Director presents recommendation for approval of Council formation to the MGA Board.

C. Council Bylaws

1. There shall be Council Bylaws for the purpose of governing the operations and administration of the Council. The bylaws shall indicate the purposed of the council.

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2. Council Bylaws shall name the Council and the Sections included in the Council.
3. Council Bylaws shall provide for the election of the Council Committee either by direct membership election of the affected IEEE members or by vote of the Section representatives.
4. Council bylaws shall specify the election procedure for balloting, according to the provisions of this Operations Manual (see "E" below).
5. Council bylaws shall specify the officers of the Council Committee, and, where one exists, the Council ExCom.
6. Council bylaws shall specify the fiscal year of the Council. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year.
7. If agreed to by the participating Sections, Council Bylaws shall provide for the establishment of Chapters and Affinity Groups for administrative and financial management of them after formation.
8. The suggested format and language for Council Bylaws is available.
9. Council Bylaws, and any revisions should be submitted to the Member and Geographic Activities Department for review to determine their compliance with IEEE Bylaws and Policy Manual. The Council shall approve council bylaws, Sections comprising the Council, and the Region Committee
10. Recommendation for the approval of Council bylaws shall be submitted to the MGA Board by the Regional Director.

D. Council Committee

1. Each Council shall have a Council Committee, which shall consist of at least the Council Chair, the Council Vice Chair, the Council Secretary, the Council Treasurer, and the Council Student Activities Committee Chair, if such Committee exists, and one representative of each Section in the Council appointed by the Section Executive Committee.
2. The Council Committee shall hold at least one meeting each year, within the Council geographic boundaries.
 - a. A quorum for a Council Committee meeting shall consist of a majority of the members of the Committee and shall include representatives from at least half of the Sections of the Council.
 - b. The Council Chair or, in the event of his/her unavailability, a Council Vice Chair, shall be responsible for calling the necessary number of Council Committee meetings.

E. Council Officers

1. The Council officers are the Council Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, except where the latter two offices are combined, in which case, there shall be three council Officers only. All officers shall be elected annually as provided in the Council Bylaws.
2. Each member of the Council Committee shall be an IEEE member of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member or Fellow grade.
3. The Council Chair shall be Chair of the Council Committee.
4. Pending election of the first Chair of the Council, the Regional Director shall appoint a Chair pro tem of the Council Committee, and the Chair pro tem may appoint a Secretary and Treasurer pro tem.
5. The Council Chair shall serve as Chair for all meetings of the Council, the Council Committee and the Council ExCom where such ExCom exists.
6. The Council Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the coordination of all Council activities. At the request of the Chair or in the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall Chair meetings of the Council, Council Committee or Council ExCom.
7. The duties of the Council Secretary shall include correspondence, the keeping of the minutes of the Committee meetings, mailing notices, submission of officer reports and, if appropriate, submission of Society Chapter meeting and officer reports to the Member and Geographic

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Activities Department at the end of each year and such other duties as are assigned to him/her by the Chair.

8. The duties of the Council Treasurer shall include the development of a Council budget for approval by the Council, accounting of all Council funds, keeping financial records, and submitting the Geographic Unit Annual Financial Report of the Council to the IEEE Staff Director, Financial Services.
9. The term of office for all officers shall normally be one year, but may continue until a successor has been duly elected and takes office. The term of office shall normally be from 1 January through 31 December. The consecutive period of service in any one office shall normally not exceed two years. All officers shall not serve in any one position, in any single organizational unit, more than six years in total. Exceptions require approval by the Region Director who will annually report such exceptions to the MGA Board.
10. The names of the newly elected/appointed officers of the Council shall be reported by the Council Secretary to IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Department within 20 days following election/appointment.

F. Council Nominating Committee

1. Each Council shall establish a Council Nominating Committee. The Council Chair shall appoint the Nominations Committee Chair. With the consent of the Council, the most recent Past-Chair shall serve as Chair. All constituent Sections shall have a representative on the Nominating Committee.
2. The duties of the Council Nominating Committee shall include the preparation of a slate of candidates recommended for the offices of Council Chair, and such other members of the Council elected at-large, in accordance with the Council Bylaws, to be submitted for approval by the Council Committee.
3. Except as noted in IEEE Bylaws, the slate shall include not less than two nor more than three candidates recommended for each office.
4. The Council Nominating Committee shall also be responsible for the annual solicitation within the Council of names of potential candidates to be considered by the Council Nominating Committee.

G. Council Election Process

1. Six months prior to the date of election, the Council Nominating Committee Chair shall issue a "Call for Nominations" for all positions elected at-large to all voting members of the Council through an appropriate medium.
2. Council Committee members and Section Chairs shall submit nominations within one month of the "Call for Nominations".
3. The Council Nominating Committee shall verify the candidate's eligibility and willingness to serve. The Council Nominating Committee shall also gather position statements and biographies of the potential candidates, as appropriate.
4. The Council Nominating Committee will select from all such submissions candidates for each position to be elected at large, and submit the slate of candidates to the Council Committee for ratification. The slate of candidates, at least two but not more than three candidates, shall be communicated to the voting members of the Council not less than six weeks prior to the election date. In addition, provision shall be made in the communication for petition candidates for these offices.
5. Petition candidates shall require the signatures of a minimum of one percent of the voting members of the Council, with at least 10% of the signatures coming from each constituent Section. No more than 25 signatures shall be required from each constituent Section.
6. The entire slate of candidates for office shall be communicated to the voting members of the Council not less than two weeks prior to the election date.
7. The election process shall be by secret ballot.
8. The Chair of the Council shall submit the names of three members of the Council to serve as a Tellers Committee, to the Council Committee for approval. After the tally of votes, the Tellers

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Committee shall report the results of the election to the Council Chair. The Council Chair shall inform each candidate for office of the results of the election prior to announcing the results to the Council.

9. The names of the newly elected/appointed officers of the Council shall be reported to IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Department within 20 days following election/appointment.

H. Council Funds

Each Council Committee shall conduct its activities within the IEEE Constitution; IEEE Bylaws, IEEE Policies and other rules externally imposed which by law affect the membership and activities of the IEEE. Councils shall have the right to obligate their funds for all purposes necessary to promote their objectives, except that no Council or any officer or representative thereof shall have any authority to contract debts for, pledge the credit of, or in any way bind the IEEE for those activities specifically prohibited to individual Sections. Funds within the Geographic Unit, from whatever source derived, are the property of the IEEE, and should not be used for purposes other than the normal operations of the geographic unit as defined in the IEEE Bylaws or published interpretation of policy, without prior authorization of the MGA Board and/or the IEEE Board of Directors, unless otherwise provided.

1. Financial support for Council activities shall be obtained from the Sections comprising the Council or from income producing activities, such as symposia and conferences, sponsored by the Council, or as otherwise provided by the Region.
2. If a Council is the sponsoring unit of a Society Chapter or Affinity Group, it is eligible to receive the rebate allowed for Society Chapters or Affinity Groups. Rebate funds are intended to support the activities of Society Chapters or Affinity Groups.
3. Councils may establish appropriate bank accounts for accounting of Council funds. Councils within the United States are strongly encouraged to use IEEE Concentration Banking accounts as their only bank account. All Geographic Unit accounts shall have signature cards with at least two volunteer signatures, one volunteer as the primary signatory and one additional volunteer as an alternate. Where government or banking regulations prohibit such a requirement, an exemption may be requested.
4. Councils may establish a reserve fund at least equal to one half of the total budgeted yearly expenditures.
5. All unit funds management shall adhere to a fiscal year 1 January - 31 December.

I. Sections Joining or Withdrawing from a Council

1. A neighboring Section wishing to join an existing Council may do so with the approval of its own Executive Committee, the Council Executive Committee, the Region Executive Committee and the MGA Board. The recommendation for approval of the Section joining the Council is presented to the MGA Board by the Regional Director.
2. After a Section has been a part of a Council for two years, the Section Executive Committee may call for a vote of the Section membership to withdraw from the Council.
3. The results of the Section vote will be reported to the Regional Director. In the event that the Section membership has voted to withdraw from the Council, the Regional Director will present this recommendation to the MGA Board for approval. A Council shall be dissolved if it consists of only one Section.

J. Council Requirements for Activity

1. Councils are required to submit to IEEE MGA staff a report of the previous year's financial activity by the third week of February each year. Failure to comply with this requirement shall be reported to the Chairs of the participating Sections and the Regional Director.
2. If a Council is a sponsoring unit of Society Chapter or Affinity Group, it must also submit the meeting and officer reports of those units on an annual basis, in order to qualify for the rebate allowed for Chapters or Affinity Groups.
3. Councils exist at the pleasure of the Sections comprising them. A Section or Sections may petition the Regional Director to intervene in Council operations in the event of an insoluble

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dispute. The Regional Director, at his or her discretion, may ask the MGA Board for assistance in resolving the dispute.

K. Council Probation

1. In the event that a Council fails to submit the required financial, and, where appropriate, Society Chapter or Affinity Group meeting and officer reports for two years, the Council will be placed on probation.
2. The Council, member Sections, Regional Director and the MGA Board will be informed by the Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities.

L. Council Dissolution

1. After one full year on probation a Council, which has not submitted the required financial reporting, will be subject to dissolution by the MGA Board at the recommendation of the Regional Director.
2. The MGA Board may dissolve any Council for any reason deemed sufficient by the MGA Board, and any remaining funds and assets in the custody of that Council shall revert to the IEEE.
3. The Region Director may request of the MGA Board that the dissolved Council's funds be divided equally among Sections which had been members of the Council.

9.4. Sections

A. Definition

A Section is the basic operating organizational unit of IEEE constituted by a minimum of 50 IEEE voting members and established with the approval of the MGA Board by petition of those who live/work in relatively close proximity to be served by activities that meet their needs and further the missions of IEEE.

1. The Section shall have for its purpose the advancement of the theory and practice of IEEE designated fields and the maintenance of high professional standards among its members, with special attention to such aims within the territory of the Section, all in consonance with the IEEE Constitution, IEEE Bylaws, IEEE Policy Manual MGA Operations Manual and Region Bylaws.
2. All Sections shall be exclusively those of the IEEE. Management of an IEEE Section shall be exclusively by IEEE members and not jointly with members of any other organization, society, or group. However, IEEE Sections may cooperate with other organizations in holding joint meetings and may invite members of such organizations and the public to their meetings.
3. With the approval of the Regional Director(s), two or more Sections may join in mutual support of the following activities: joint publications; joint meetings, conferences or symposia; joint Society Chapter or Affinity Group meetings; student activities; and such related activities as may be approved from time to time by the MGA Board. If in pursuing such joint activities it appears desirable to establish a formal aggregation of contiguous Sections, to be called a Council, and to be governed by Bylaws, this may be done under provisions herein.

B. Section Territory

The territory of the Section is approved by the MGA Board, and may be enlarged, reduced or otherwise altered by the MGA Board at any time, in accordance with the IEEE Bylaws.

1. The territory of a Section shall be entirely within the territory of one region.
2. An IEEE member of a Section shall be determined by the preferred mailing address, except where such member requests membership in a contiguous Section.

C. Section Formation

1. A petition for the formation of a Section shall be signed by not fewer than fifty (50) IEEE voting members, having a mailing address within the territorial boundaries proposed in the petition. Each individual who signs the petition shall be an IEEE member, in good standing, of Graduate

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Student Member, Member, Senior Member or Fellow grade. In lieu of their signatures on the petition, IEEE will accept an email message from an IEEE member stating his/her agreement to the formation. These emails must include the name of the member, IEEE membership number and a brief statement of support of the petition. These messages are to be sent to the petition organizer who is requested to cut and paste these emails, preserving the email header information, into one document.

2. The petition shall include the following:
 - a. Proposed name and territorial boundaries of the Section.
 - b. The name, member number, membership grade and contact information of the organizer of the Section. The organizer shall be of an IEEE Graduate Student Member or of higher-grade status and must be an IEEE member in good standing.
 - c. A business plan that includes mission and goals, planned meetings and activities for initial six months. Following receipt of this information, MGA staff shall distribute to Region Director (or their designee) for review and feedback to be provided to organizer.
 - d. Endorsement from the Region Director (or their designee).
3. The petition shall be presented to the Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities for verification prior to submission to the MGA Board. MGA Staff will confirm the validity of the petition, and concurrence of the surrounding Sections.
4. Regional Director presents recommendation for approval of Section formation to the MGA Board.

D. Section Management

1. The Section affairs shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of the elected officers. The number of voting members elected must be at least one greater than those appointed. Chapter and Affinity Group Chairs, as elected by their membership, are considered "elected" official, as is the Past Section Chair.
2. All Chapters and Affinity Groups in the Section shall have voting representation either individually or collectively on the Section Executive Committee, and the Subsection Chairs shall be ex-officio members with voting power.
3. Sections may have Student representation on the Executive Committee through appointment of one Student member and/or the Chair of the Section Student Activities Committee. It is recommended that every Section have a Section Student Representative (SSR), who is a voting member of the Section Committee, in Sections where there is at least one Student Branch.
4. A quorum is required for administrative meetings. A majority of the voting members the committee shall constitute a quorum. These meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order (latest version) as the standard parliamentary authority.
5. Reasonable efforts should be made to notify all members of Section meetings and activities. Methods of communication could be, but are not limited to, email distributions (in keeping with IEEE email policies), postings on Section Web sites, social media venues, or hard copy distributions.

E. Section Governing and Operating Documents

1. Section Bylaws: All Sections are required to operate in accordance with IEEE Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, and the MGA Operations Manual. The use of Section Bylaws shall be allowed when required to meet the requirements of local laws. All such required Section Bylaws shall be submitted for review to the Region Director, who will then forward to MGA staff for review and to obtain IEEE Legal Compliance Department legal approval before submission to the MGA Board for approval.

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2. Local Operating Procedures: Sections may maintain local operating procedures documents, which may be used to record the administration and operational processes of the Section. These documents shall not contain any exceptions to the MGA Operations Manual.
3. Addendums: Sections requiring exceptions to the MGA Operations Manual shall submit an addendum request to the Region Director for review. If the request meets with the approval of the Region Director, it shall then be presented to MGA staff for review before submitting to the MGA Board for approval.

F. Section Officers

At a minimum the officers of the Section shall include a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Section may combine the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. A Section may define in its local operating procedures document if the Vice Chair shall automatically become the Chair at the conclusion of their term.

1. With the exception of the Student Branch Representative, each member of the Section Committee shall be an IEEE member, in good standing, of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member or Fellow grade.
2. Pending election of the first officers of the Section, the Regional Director shall appoint a Chair pro tem of the Section Committee, and the Chair pro tem may appoint a Secretary and Treasurer pro tem.
3. The Section Chair shall serve as Chair for all meetings of the Section, the Section Committee and the Section ExCom where such ExCom exists.
4. The Section Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the coordination of all Section activities. At the request of the Section Chair or in the absence of the Section Chair, the Section Vice Chair shall chair meetings of the Section, Section Committee or Section ExCom.
5. The duties of the Section Secretary shall include correspondence, the keeping of the minutes of the Committee meetings, mailing notices, and submission of meeting and officer reports to the Member and Geographic Activities Department at the end of each year and such other duties as are assigned to him/her by the Chair.
6. The duties of the Section Treasurer shall include the development of a Section budget for approval by the Section, accounting of all Section funds, keeping financial records, and submitting the Financial Operations Report of the Section to the IEEE Staff Director, Financial Services.
7.
 - a. All officers shall be elected by Section members of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member and Fellow Grade. Elections for all officers shall take place every one or two years, in accordance with the term of office as defined by the Section.
 - b. The term of office for all officers shall be one or two years. A Section must define the officer term as one or two years and record it in its local operating procedures document; if the officer term is not recorded in the local operating procedures document, it shall be two year. An individual may continue in the position until a successor has been duly elected and takes office.
 - c. The term of office shall normally be from 1 January through 31 December.
 - d. The consecutive period of service in any one office shall normally not exceed four years. All officers shall not serve in any one position, in any single organizational unit, more than six years in total. Exceptions to this rule require approval by the Region Director who will annually report such exceptions to the MGA Board.
8. Any vacancy occurring during the year shall be filled by a majority vote of the Section Committee or Section Executive Committee (if applicable).
9. Removal from office. In order to proceed with the following options - a two-thirds vote of the Section Executive Committee is required or 15% of the Section voting members must submit a petition to the Region Director. An individual can only be removed from office in the same manner in which they were elected.

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- a. If the individual was elected at an annual General Meeting, they may be removed from office, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members at duly constituted meeting. Prior to taking this action, the meeting must be announced to the general membership via their normal practice.
 - b. If the individual was elected via the general membership (paper or electronic) election, this individual may be removed from office, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total votes cast of the recall election.
10. Suspension. The authority to act as an officer of a Section may be suspended by the appropriate Region Director with the concurrence of the Region Director-elect and immediate past Director for cause, as follows:
- a. Conduct that is determined to be a material violation of the IEEE Code of Ethics, or a material violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, or Operations Manuals of the IEEE that is seriously prejudicial to the IEEE, or other conduct that is seriously prejudicial to the IEEE.
 - b. Has not complied in accordance to the policies as defined in this manual.
 - c. The Section has not met the minimum reporting requirements for at least one year
 - d. If an individual is suspended, the Region Director may appoint an individual to serve in the interim position until an election may be held within the Section.
 - e. Any action taken by the Region Director must be reported to Vice President-MGA and MGA Board Secretary.

G. Section Nominating Committee

1. Each Section shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three or more Section members not then officers of the Section. A member of the Section Nominating Committee who does not resign from the committee prior to the meeting at which nominees are selected is not eligible to be nominated for any office to be filled by the Section Executive Committee.
2. The duties of the Section Nominating Committee shall include the preparation of a slate of candidates recommended for the offices of Section Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer (or Secretary/Treasurer), and such other members of the Section elected at-large, to be submitted for approval by the Section Executive Committee.
3. Except as noted in IEEE Bylaws, the slate shall include not less than two nor more than three candidates recommended for each office.
4. The Section Nominating Committee shall also be responsible for the annual solicitation within the Section of names of potential candidates to be considered for positions on Section Executive committees.
5. The Section Nominating Committee shall respond on behalf of the Section to calls for elected positions for Councils, and Regions as appropriate. Nominations for such positions shall be submitted to the Section Executive Committee or ExCom, as appropriate, for ratification.

H. Section Election Process

1. Six months prior to the date of election, the Section Nominating Committee Chair shall issue a "Call for Nominations" for all positions elected at-large to all voting members of the Section through an appropriate medium.
2. Section members shall submit nominations within one month of the "Call for Nominations".
3. The Section Nominating Committee shall verify the candidates' eligibility and willingness to serve. A candidate must be a member of the Section to hold office in that Section. The Section Nominating Committee shall also gather position statements and biographies of the potential candidates, as appropriate.
4. The Section Nominating Committee will select from all such submissions at least two but not more than three candidates for each position elected at large, and submit the slate of

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candidates to the Section Committee for ratification.

5. The slate of candidates for elected office shall be communicated to the voting members of the Section not less than six weeks prior to the election date. In addition, provision shall be made in the communication for petition candidates for these offices.
6. In addition to the candidates nominated by the Section Nominating Committee, individual voting members eligible to vote in such election may nominate candidates by petition.

In accordance with IEEE Bylaw I-307.17, "the number of signatures required on a petition shall be determined as follows. For all positions where the electorate is less than 30,000 voting members, signatures shall be required from 2% of the eligible voters.

For all positions where the electorate is more than 30,000 voting members, 600 signatures of eligible voters plus 1% of the difference between the number of eligible voters and 30,000 shall be required."

The petition shall be completed at least 28 days before the date of the election.

7. The entire slate of candidates for office shall be communicated to the voting members of the Section not less than two weeks prior to the election date.
8. The election process shall be by secret ballot.
9. The Section Chair shall submit the names of up to three members of the Section to serve as a Tellers Committee, to the Section for approval. After the tally of votes, the Tellers Committee shall report the results of the election to the Section Chair. The Section Chair shall inform each candidate for office of the results of the election prior to announcing the results to the Section membership.

I. Section Funds

The MGA Board shall be responsible for distributing rebate funds to the Sections in accordance with a stated set of objectives and a plan of distribution prepared by the Geographic Unit Operations Support Committee and submitted for approval to the MGA Board.

1. There shall be no Section assessments for Sections in Regions 1 - 7. Upon approval by IEEE Board of Directors, emergency or extraordinary expenses may be provided by voluntary contribution from the membership of the Section.
2. For Sections in Regions 8 - 10, an assessment may be established. A Section or group of Sections within a single country can apply to IEEE Board of Directors through the Regional Director for an assessment to fund an office and/or staff to improve interaction with the national society in that country. A business plan for the proposed expenditures and the results of a ballot sent to all members showing clear support for this action shall be included on the application.
3. Funds within the Section, from whatever source derived, are the property of the IEEE, and shall not be used for purposes other than the normal operations of the Section as defined in the IEEE Bylaws or published interpretation of policy, without prior authorization of the MGA Board and/or the IEEE Board of Directors, unless otherwise provided.
4. Funds derived from member dues (rebate funds) shall not be used for scholarships, fellowships and other education awards. The awards activities shall be supported by funds from activities all or in part specifically directed to such usage. Contributions may be accepted for such use and donations should be encouraged the use of tax-exempt mechanisms, where available.
5. Sections shall have the right to obligate their funds for all purposes necessary to promote their objectives, except that no Section or any officer or representative thereof shall have any authority to contract debts for, pledge the credit of, or in any way bind the IEEE for those activities specifically prohibited in the governing documents of the IEEE or published interpretation of policy.
6. The Section may serve nonmembers or groups wishing to receive meeting announcements and other Section publications.

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7. Sections may accept local voluntary financial contributions.
8. Chapter and Affinity Group funds provided to the Section through the annual rebate are intended for the support of those subunits. Chapters and Affinity Groups shall be funded at a minimum at the level of the annual Rebate.
9. Sections shall establish bank accounts for all IEEE funds.
 - a. Sections are encouraged to utilize the IEEE Concentration Banking Program as a depository for all IEEE funds, if possible.
 - b. Accounts established in the name of IEEE shall be reserved for the purpose for which they are established, without co-mingling of funds.
 - c. All Geographic Unit accounts shall have signature cards with at least two volunteer signatures, one volunteer as the primary signatory and one additional volunteer as an alternate. In addition, all IEEE Geographic Units accounts must have the IEEE Staff Director, Financial Services as a signatory thereon (Policy 11.3.A.3). Exemptions must be requested as part of the Geographic Unit Annual Financial Report, and approved by the Region Director.
10. Custody Accounts (Regions 8 – 10): The purpose of the Custody Account shall be to facilitate the payment of IEEE products and services in US funds through a direct deposit of the Section rebate, while supporting Section activities through the collection of funds in local currency. Services supported by the custody account include, but are not limited to, payment for initial membership application, membership renewal and the purchase of IEEE products.
11. Reserves: Sections may establish a reserve fund at least equal to one half of the total budgeted yearly expenditures.
12. All unit funds management must adhere to a fiscal year 1 January - 31 December except where government or banking regulations prohibit such a requirement such exceptions must be reported to the MGA Board through the Region Director.
13. Sections shall submit a Financial Operations Report to the IEEE Staff Director, Financial Services. Upon request, staff shall provide the Regional Director with a summary of each Section's financial report.

J. Section Expenses

1. Ordinary expenses of the Section shall be defrayed by the funds supplied by the IEEE either directly or by allocation from the Region.
2. Emergency or extraordinary expenses may be provided by voluntary contribution from the membership of the Section.

K. Section Publications

Any Section that publishes a periodical shall inform the MGA Board of the establishment thereof and shall provide the Regional Director and IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Department with copies thereof, as published. (See Section 11 of this Manual and/or Section 6 of the IEEE Policies Manual)

L. Section Reporting Requirements

1. A Section shall be required to maintain a membership of not fewer than twenty-five (25) IEEE members of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member, or Fellow grade.
2. A Section shall be required to hold not less than five (5) meetings per year. Chapter and/or Affinity Group meetings may be counted in fulfilling Section meeting requirements.
3. The Section Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer shall submit an annual report of meeting activities and the roster of officers to the Member and Geographic Activities Department staff.
4. The Section Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer shall submit the Geographic Unit Annual Financial Report to IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Department Staff. The incoming

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and outgoing Section Chair/Treasurer must sign this report. The incoming Section Chair and Treasurer shall also submit an IEEE Disclosure Statement.

5. Sections are required to submit their annual financial reports and annual officer and meeting reports by the deadlines defined in the Geographic Unit Rebate Schedule to be eligible for the dues rebates. A 10% bonus will be paid for complete reports received by the third Friday in February. Exceptions for payment of the dues rebate to those units submitting the required reports after the defined deadlines shall be at the discretion of the Region Director, and a 10% penalty shall be applied to all such exceptions.

M. Section Probation

1. Failure of a Section to meet the minimum required activities as described in 9.4.L for a period of one year shall result in the Section automatically being placed on probation, effective 1 January of the following year.
2. Probation means that in addition to a report to the MGA Board, the Section will not be eligible for Rebates until the Section comes into compliance with the minimum requirements. In addition, the MGA Board may take such action as deemed appropriate in the circumstances.
3. Funds in the possession of a Section that was under probation for more than one (1) year will be transferred by the MGA Board into a custody account until either;
 - a. Section comes into compliance with minimum requirements and repossesses the funds; or
 - b. Region Director has requested that the funds be dispensed to the Section for Rejuvenation; or
 - c. Section is dissolved (in accordance with 9.4.N)
4. The IEEE Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities or the Vice President, Member and Geographic Activities shall inform the Section Chair and the Regional Director of the probation.

N. Section Dissolution

1. The MGA Board may dissolve any Section for any reason deemed sufficient by the MGA Board and take the necessary action to transfer any remaining funds and assets in the possession of that Section under the custody of IEEE Member and Geographic Activities. If appropriate, the funds of the dissolved Section shall be divided proportionally among the Sections to which the membership is reassigned.
2. If the probation of a Section continues for a second year, and in the absence of plans to reactivate the Section acceptable to the Regional Director and the MGA Board, the Regional Directors with the concurrence of the MGA Board shall dissolve the Section, with Members in that Section territory reassigned to another Section approved by the Regional Director and the MGA Board. The Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities shall so inform the members previously constituting the Section.
3. The MGA Board may waive the provisions herein regarding dissolution of a Section in case war or any other force majeure affects such Section, for the period of the duration thereof and for at least six months thereafter. Responsibility for waiving requirements for the activity level of Sections with respect to probation shall be assigned to the respective Regional Directors.

9.5 Subsections

A. Definition

A Subsection shall be a part of a Section or Region, constituted by a minimum of twenty (20) IEEE voting members, and established with the approval of the MGA Board by petition of those who live/work in relatively close proximity to be served by the activities that further the mission of IEEE.

B. Subsection Petition for Establishment

A subsection may be established subject to the same limitation and control pursuant to the following

conditions:

1. A petition for the formation of a subsection shall be signed by not fewer than twenty (20) IEEE members, in good standing, of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member, or Fellow grade, having mailing addresses within the territorial boundaries proposed in the petition. In lieu of their signatures on the petition, IEEE will accept an email message from an IEEE member stating his/her agreement to the formation. These emails must include the name of the member, IEEE membership number and a brief statement of support of the petition. These messages are to be sent to the petition organizer who is requested to cut and paste these emails, preserving the email header information, into one document.
2. The petition shall include the following:
 - a. Proposed name and territorial boundaries of the Subsection.
 - b. The name, member number, membership grade and contact information of the organizer of the Subsection. The organizer shall be of an IEEE Graduate Student Member or of higher-grade status and must be an IEEE member in good standing.
 - c. A business plan that includes mission and goals, planned meetings and activities for initial six months. Following receipt of this information, MGA staff shall distribute to Region Director (or their designee) for review and feedback to be provided to organizer.
 - d. Endorsement from the Region Director (or their designee) or the Section Executive Committee.
3. The petition shall be presented to the Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities for verification prior to submission to the MGA Board. MGA Staff will confirm the validity of the petition, and concurrence of the surrounding Sections.
4. Region Director presents recommendation for approval of Subsection formation to the MGA Board.

C. Management of Subsection

1. The management of the Subsection mirrors that of a Section. These procedures include, but are not exclusive of Nominations, Elections, Officers, and Publications. Please reference Sections 9.4.D through 9.4.H of this manual.
2. Reasonable efforts should be made to notify all members of Subsection meetings and activities. Methods of communication could be, but are not limited to, email distributions (in keeping with IEEE email policies), postings on Subsection Web sites, social media venues, or hard copy distributions.

D. Subsection Funds

1. The parent organization (Region or Section) shall be responsible for distributing funds to its Subsections in accordance with a stated set of objectives and a plan of distribution, which shall be in consonance with the missions of the IEEE and MGA. Funds within the Geographic Unit, from whatever source derived, are the property of the IEEE, and should not be used for purposes other than the normal operations of the geographic unit as defined in the IEEE Bylaws or published interpretation of policy, without prior authorization of the MGA Board and/or the IEEE Board of Directors, unless otherwise provided.
2. There shall be no Subsection assessments.
3. Subsections are encouraged to utilize the IEEE Concentration Banking Program as a depository for all IEEE funds, if possible.
 - a. All Geographic Unit accounts shall have signature cards with at least two volunteer signatures, one volunteer as the primary signatory and one additional volunteer as an alternate. In addition, all IEEE Geographic Units accounts must have the IEEE Staff Director, Financial Services as a signatory thereon (Policy 11.3.A.3). Exemptions must be requested as part of the Geographic Unit Annual Financial Report, and approved by the Region Director.

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E. Subsection Expenses

Ordinary expenses of the Subsection shall be defrayed by the funds supplied by the Region or Section in agreement with the Region or Section budget. Emergency or extraordinary expenses may be provided by voluntary contributions from the membership of the Subsection.

F. Subsection Probation

As established by the MGA Board the minimum number of meetings to maintain Subsection status shall be five (5) per year. The minimum membership of the Subsection shall not be less than fifteen (15) IEEE members of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member, or Fellow grade. Meetings held by a Chapter in conjunction with the Subsection may be counted in fulfilling these requirements.

The Subsection is required to submit an annual report of meeting activities and the roster of Officers to the IEEE Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities. A financial report shall be submitted annually to the IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Department.

Failure of a Subsection to maintain these minimum required activities shall be reported to the Regional Director and the MGA Board and may result in the Subsection being placed on probation. The IEEE Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities or the Vice President, Member and Geographic Activities, shall inform the Section Chair (if appropriate), Subsection Chair and the Regional Director of the Subsection Probation.

Probation in this case means that the MGA Board may take such action as deemed appropriate in the circumstances, particularly that if the Subsection does not come into compliance with these minimum requirements, with the Regional Director's recommendation, the Subsection may be dissolved.

G. Subsection Dissolution

The MGA Board may dissolve any Subsection for any reason deemed sufficient by the MGA Board and any remaining funds and assets in the custody of that Subsection shall revert to the IEEE. The Region Director may request that the funds of the dissolved Subsection be returned to the parent IEEE Section or Region.

1. If the probation of a Subsection (see 9.4.J above) continues for a second year, the Regional Director, with the concurrence of the Region Committee and the MGA Board, shall take appropriate action in this matter.
2. The MGA Board may waive the provisions herein regarding dissolution of a Subsection in case war or any other force majeure affects such Subsection, for the period of the duration thereof and for at least six months there after. Responsibility for waiving requirements for the activity level of Subsections with respect to probation shall be assigned to the respective Regional Director(s).

H. Subsection Elevation to Section

1. A petition shall be submitted requesting a Subsection be elevated to a Section as currently named and within its defined territory.
2. The proposed Section should have not fewer than fifty (50) IEEE members of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member, or Fellow grade, identified as being within the territorial boundaries of the Subsection at the time of the petition.
3. The petition shall provide the name, address, and contact information of the current Chair of the Subsection and the petition organizer. A petition organizer shall be of an IEEE member of Graduate Student Member or higher-grade.
4. The petition shall be presented to the Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities for verification.
5. The petition shall be provided to the Region Director. The Parent geographic OU shall be contacted by the Region Director for feedback in regards to the elevation of the Subsection to a Section.
6. The Region Director will review the petition and feedback from the Parent geographic OU and

recommend the appropriate action prior to submission to the MGA Geographic Unit Operations Support Committee for review.

7. The Region Director to present the recommendation for approval of the elevation of a Subsection to a Section to the MGA Board.

9.6 CHAPTERS

A. Definition

A Chapter shall be a technical subunit of a Region, one or more Sections, or a Geographic Council. There may be single Society Chapters, joint Society Chapters, and Technical Council Chapters. A Chapter shall comprise a minimum of twelve (12) IEEE voting members of a Society, or group of Societies in the case of a joint Chapter, and shall be established by petition to the parent geographical and technical organizational units concerned to fulfill the mission of IEEE. In case of a Technical Council Chapter a minimum of any twelve (12) IEEE voting members of Council Member Societies in the parent geographical unit shall be required to petition to the geographic unit and to the Technical Council.

IEEE members of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member or Fellow grade who belong to an IEEE Society and a Geographic unit which has formed a Technical Chapter of such Society are considered Chapter members.

All references to "Chapter" in Section 9.6 are inclusive of both Chapter and Joint Chapter.

1. IEEE Technical Society Chapters shall conduct activities within the scope of technical field of interest of the sponsoring Society/Societies. IEEE Technical Council Chapters shall conduct activities within the technical field of interest of the Technical Council.
2. A Chapter functions in a manner similar to that of a committee of the Section/Council.
3. In instances where Section/Council territorial geography may warrant and Society member interests are sufficient to support multiple Chapters of a Society, additional Chapters, suitably identified, may be formed and operate under the current applicable procedures.

B. Chapter Formation

1. Petition Process. A petition to establish a Chapter shall contain the following:
 - a. Name of the Section(s);
 - b. Name of the sponsoring Society(ies);
 - c. Name of the organizer (who becomes interim Chair pending election of a regular Chair at a later organization meeting). The organizer shall be of an IEEE Graduate Student Member or of higher-grade status and must be an IEEE member.
 - d. Signatures of at least twelve (12) IEEE members, in good standing, of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member or Fellow grade, who are members of the Society(ies) and Section(s) involved. Each petition to form a Technical Council Chapter will be signed by at least 12 IEEE voting members of a Society which is a Member Society of the Technical Council. In lieu of their signatures on the petition, IEEE will accept an email message from an IEEE member stating his/her agreement to the formation. These emails must include the name of the member, IEEE membership number and a brief statement of support of the petition. These messages are to be sent to the petition organizer who is requested to cut and paste these emails, preserving the email header information, into one document.
 - e. The petition for a Chapter shall be submitted to the Section/Council Executive Committee for written approval and forwarded with this written approval to the IEEE Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities. The IEEE Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities shall forward a copy of the petition to the President(s) of the Society(ies) for verification to the IEEE Managing Director, Technical Activities for information.
 - f. A business plan that includes mission and goals, planned meetings and activities for initial six months. Following receipt of this information, MGA staff will distribute to Region Director (or their designee) for review and feedback to be provided to organizer.

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- g. A Joint Chapter may be established by the procedures defined herein to cover the territory of two or more contiguous Sections, or a Council, or the interests of two or more Societies within the territory provided the necessary approval is obtained by all concerned. That petition shall identify the organizational unit assuming responsibility for the Chapter management. That organizational unit shall receive rebates for the Chapter meetings. These funds are intended for the support of Chapter activities.

2. Approval Process

- a. The Chapter shall be considered established after MGA staff have ascertained that the Regional Director and the Society President(s) have no objection to its formation. A list of formations shall be transmitted to the MGA Board and the Technical Activities Board.
- b. The IEEE Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities shall so notify the Society President, and the Section/Council Chair.

C. Chapter Management

Responsibility for Chapter management shall rest with the Section/Council, which shall have control of all financial and other assets of the Chapter in carrying out its activities.

1. A Chapter may maintain its own accounting of income and disbursements, either within separate sub-accounts of the Section treasury or within a separate bank account as approved by the Section Executive Committee. Funds in such an account may include income received by the Chapter from Societies and Technical Councils and the Chapter's share of income and disbursements associated with programs sponsored or cosponsored by the Chapter and with operations of the Section.
2. If, upon petition by a Chapter to maintain a separate bank account, the Section withholds its approval, or if the Section decides to eliminate an existing account, the Section shall first seek the approval of the Vice Presidents of Member and Geographic and Technical Activities stating the reasons for its decision.
3. Those Chapters having separate bank accounts shall submit a year-end financial statement to the Section by 15 January for the previous fiscal year.
4. The managing Section shall be responsible for auditing, proper accounting, and submitting, with its annual financial report, a Chapter financial statement to the IEEE Staff Director, Financial Services.
5. Reasonable efforts should be made to notify all members of Chapter meetings. Methods of communication could be, but are not limited to, email distributions (in keeping with IEEE email policies), postings on Chapter Web sites, social media venues, or hard copy distributions.

D. Chapter Officers

Officers of the Chapter shall be at least a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Chapter may combine the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

1. Each member of the Chapter Committee shall be an IEEE member of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member or Fellow grade and a member of the parent Society. Officers of a Joint Chapter must be a member of at least one parent Society. The Chapter Chair shall serve as Chair for all meetings of the Chapter, the Chapter Committee and the Chapter ExCom where such ExCom exists.
To be an officer of a Technical Council Chapter, an individual must be an IEEE voting member of a Society which is a Member Society of the Technical Council.
2. The Chapter Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the coordination of all Chapter activities. At the request of the Chapter Chair or in the absence of the Chapter Chair, the Chapter Vice Chair shall chair meetings of the Chapter, Chapter Committee or Chapter ExCom.
3. The duties of the Chapter Secretary shall include correspondence, the keeping of the minutes of the Committee meetings, mailing notices, and submission of meeting reports to the Parent

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Section Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer at the end of each year and such other duties as are assigned to him/her by the Chair.

4. The duties of the Chapter Treasurer shall include the development of a Chapter budget for approval by the Section, accounting of all Chapter funds, keeping financial records, and submitting a financial record to the Section.
5.
 - a. All officers shall be elected by Chapter members of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member and Fellow Grade. Elections for all officers shall take place every one or two years, in accordance with the term of office as defined by the Parent geographical unit that assumes responsibility for the Chapter management.
 - b. The term of office for all officers shall be one or two years. The parent geographical unit that assumes responsibility for the Chapter management must define the officer term as one or two years and record it in its local operating procedures document; if the officer term is not recorded in the local operating procedures document, it shall be two years. An individual may continue in the position until a successor has been duly elected and takes office.
 - c. The term of office shall normally be from 1 January through 31 December.
 - d. The consecutive period of service in any one office shall normally not exceed four years. All officers shall not serve in any one position, in any single organizational unit, more than six years in total. Exceptions to this rule require approval by the Chair of the parent geographical unit that assumes responsibility for the Chapter management who will annually report such exceptions to the Region Director.
6. The names of the newly elected/appointed officers (voting and non-voting) of the Chapter shall be reported to IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Department, via the Section or Council Secretary, within 20 days following election/ appointment.

E. Chapter Nominating Committee

1. Section/Council Bylaws shall provide for appointment by the Chapter Chair of a Nominating Committee of three or more Chapter members not then officers of the Chapter. The Chapter Chair, in accordance with this Operations Manual shall appoint its Chair.
2. The duties of the Chapter Nominating Committee shall include the preparation of a slate of candidates recommended for the offices of Chapter Chair, and such other members of the Chapter elected at-large, in accordance with the Section/Council Bylaws, to be submitted for approval by the Chapter Committee.
3. Except as noted in IEEE Bylaws, the slate should include not less than two nor more than three candidates recommended for each office.
4. The Chapter Nominating Committee shall also be responsible for the annual solicitation within the Chapter of names of potential candidates to be considered for positions on Chapter committees according to the Section/Council Bylaws.

F. Chapter Election Process

1. Six months prior to the date of election, the Chapter Nominating Committee Chair shall issue a "Call for Nominations" for all positions elected at-large to all voting members of the Chapter through an appropriate medium.
2. Chapter members must submit nominations within one month of the "Call for Nominations".
3. The Chapter Nominating Committee must verify the candidates' eligibility and willingness to serve. A candidate must be a member of the Chapter to hold office in that Chapter. The Chapter Nominating Committee shall also gather position statements and biographies of the potential candidates, as appropriate.
4. The Chapter Nominating Committee will select from all such submissions candidates for each position to be elected at large, and submit the slate of candidates to the Chapter Committee for ratification. The slate of candidates, at least two but not more than three candidates, shall be communicated to the voting members of the Chapter not less than six weeks prior to the election date. In addition, provision shall be made in the communication for petition candidates for these offices.
5. In addition to the candidates nominated by the Chapter Nominating Committee, individual

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voting members eligible to vote in such election may nominate candidates by petition.

In accordance with IEEE Bylaw I-307.17, "the number of signatures on a petition for a Chapter officer position shall be required from 2% of the eligible voters, provided the electorate is less than 30,000 voting members."

The petition shall be completed at least 28 days before the date of the election.

6. The entire slate of candidates for office shall be communicated to the voting members of the Chapter not less than two weeks prior to the election date.
7. The election process must be by secret ballot.
8. The Chair of the Chapter shall submit the names of up to three members of the Chapter to serve as a Tellers Committee, to the Chapter for approval. After the tally of votes, the Tellers Committee shall report the results of the election to the Chapter Chair. The Chapter Chair shall inform each candidate for office of the results of the election prior to announcing the results to the Chapter and the Section/Council.
9. To be able to vote in an election for such officers for Technical Council Chapters officers, an individual must be a voting member of the Society and/or a member of the Society which is a Member Society of the Technical Council.

G. Financial Management of Chapter Funds

Section/Councils shall be responsible for distributing funds to its Chapters in accordance with a stated set of objectives and a plan of distribution, which shall be in consonance with the missions of the IEEE, MGA and TAB. Additionally, Technical Council Chapters will receive funding in the same manner as Society Chapters. Chapters are entitled to receive the funds generated by their own activities, including dues rebates (earned during the preceding year as computed by the Dues Rebate formula). Funds generated by more than a single geo unit should be shared as determined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

1. Funds within the Chapter, from whatever source derived, are the property of the IEEE, and shall not be used for purposes other than the normal operations of the Chapter as defined in the IEEE Bylaws or published interpretation of policy, without prior authorization of the MGA Board and TAB, unless otherwise provided.
2. Funds derived from member dues shall not be used for scholarships, fellowships and other education awards. The awards activities shall be supported by funds from activities all or in part specifically directed to such usage. Contributions may be accepted for such use and donorship should be encouraged by the use of tax-exempt mechanisms. All funds derived from whatever permitted source designated for these purposes shall be deposited in properly authorized separate accounts, foundations, or other approved depositories under agreement, direction, or control of the organizational unit, with adequate provisions for ensuring the proper use of the funds or proceeds there from. A properly executed agreement will include provisions for disposition of residual funds should any approved program be discontinued.
3. Chapters shall have the right to obligate their funds for all purposes necessary to promote their objectives, except that no Chapter or any officer or representative thereof shall have any authority to contract debts for, pledge the credit of, or in any way bind the IEEE for those activities specifically prohibited in the governing documents of the IEEE or published interpretation of policy.
4. The Chapter may serve nonmembers or groups wishing to receive meeting announcements and other Chapter publications.
5. Chapters may accept local voluntary financial contributions.
6. Chapters may establish appropriate bank accounts for accounting of Chapter funds.
 - a. Accounts established in the name of IEEE must be reserved for the purpose for which they are established, without co-mingling of funds.
 - b. Chapters may establish a reserve fund at least equal to one half of the total budgeted yearly expenditures.
 - c. All Geographic Unit accounts shall have signature cards with at least two volunteer

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signatures, one volunteer as the primary signatory and one additional volunteer as an alternate. In addition, all IEEE Geographic Units accounts must have the IEEE Staff Director, Financial Services as a signatory thereon (Policy 11.3.A.3). Exemptions must be requested as part of the Geographic Unit Annual Financial Report, and approved by the Region Director.

- d. Chapters are encouraged to utilize the IEEE Concentration Banking Program as a depository for all IEEE funds, if possible.
- e. All unit funds management must adhere to a fiscal year 1 January - 31 December.

H. Joint Chapter

A Joint Chapter comprising the members of more than one Society or contiguous Sections may be established by the procedures defined herein, provided, however, that the petition to establish a Joint Chapter shall contain at least twelve signatures and that each Society or Section involved shall be represented by at least three signatures.

I. Change of Joint Chapter Status

The status of a Chapter may be changed from single to joint, or vice versa or from one joint combination to another, without submission of a petition. The change in status will become effective following approval of the request for change by the Regional Director(s), Society President(s), Section Executive Committee, and other organizational units involved.

J. Chapter Requirements for Membership and Meeting Activity

1. A Chapter shall be required to maintain a membership of not fewer than ten (10) members of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member or Fellow grade, and to hold not less than two technical meetings per year, or to maintain a level of activity acceptable to the Regional Director and the Society President(s).
2. Meeting Activity
 - a. A Chapter may schedule a technical meeting in coordination with the Executive Committee of the parent geographical unit within whose boundaries the meeting is to be held, if deemed necessary.
 - b. All members in the parent geographical unit shall be advised of all meetings held in their geographical unit, including those organized by Chapters, using electronic communication tools provided by MGA and/or via posting on the parent geographical unit's website. In addition, a special notice may be sent to the members of the Chapter that organizes a meeting.
 - c. A Chapter shall submit annually a report on the meetings held within the past year and any changes to its roster of officers in a timely manner using electronic reporting tools provided by MGA.
 - d. The parent geographical unit that assumes responsibility for the Chapter management shall receive meeting credit for Chapter activity and shall disburse the Chapter rebate and Activity bonus (if applicable) to the Chapter based on reported Chapter activity, in accordance with Section 9.6.G: Financial Management of Chapter Funds.
3. Year-end membership statistics of a Technical Council Chapter will include all IEEE members who belong to any Society which is a Member Society of the Technical Council.

K. Chapter Probation

1. Failure of a Chapter to meet the minimum required activities as described in 9.6.J for a period of one year shall result in the Chapter automatically being placed on probation, effective 1 January of the following year. A Chapter probation period shall last three consecutive years. The Chapter will not be eligible for Rebates until it comes into compliance with the minimum requirements.
2. Annual notice of delinquency will be given to all concerned.
3. A report of delinquent Chapters will be presented to the MGA Board.

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L. Technical Chapter Dissolution

1. With the concurrence of the Executive Committee of the parent geographical unit that assumed responsibility for the Chapter management, the Chair(s) of any other parent geographical unit(s) when applicable, the President(s) of the parent technical organizational unit(s), and the Region Director, a Chapter may be dissolved.
2. A Chapter shall be dissolved automatically if it has failed to meet the requirements as stated in Section 9.6.J for three consecutive years and annual notice of the delinquency has been given to all concerned. Such dissolution will be reported to the MGA Board at its November Board meeting, and reported to the President(s) of the parent technical organizational unit(s).

Following dissolution any remaining funds and assets in the custody of the Chapter shall revert to the parent geographical unit that assumed responsibility for the Chapter management.

M. Chapter Reinstatement

1. A Chapter can be reinstated following the automatic dissolution at the November Board meeting when the following conditions have been met. The parent organizational units concerned shall have secured both the interest to reactivate the Chapter and a volunteer to serve as the Chapter Chair. This information shall be reported to the MGA staff no later than 60 days following the date of dissolution.
2. Reinstatement of the dissolved Chapter shall be reported to the MGA Board at its February meeting. As of that MGA Board meeting date, the Chapter shall be considered reinstated. The parent Society or Societies shall be informed of the reinstatement of the Chapter.
3. Any meetings held and reported during the year of reinstatement will apply to that year's rebate and activity bonus. Previous years' meeting reports will not apply to the Chapter's rebate or activity bonus.

9.7 STUDENT BRANCHES

A. Definition

A Student Branch is a basic operating organizational unit of an IEEE Section or Region, constituted by a minimum of twelve (12) IEEE members of Student Member or Graduate Student Member grade at a particular college, university or technical institute to represent and fulfill the needs of the members and the missions of IEEE. Each Branch shall conduct its activities within the Constitution, IEEE Bylaws, MGA Operations Manual, and other rules externally imposed, which by law affect the membership, and activities of the IEEE.

B. Student Branch Formation

Based on the recommendation of the Regional Student Activities Chair a Student Branch formation may be approved by the appropriate Region Director and reported to the MGA Board.

1. A petition to form a Student Branch must be signed by twelve (12) or more IEEE members of Student Member or Graduate Student Member grade and by at least three IEEE members of Member, Senior Member, or Fellow grade, of which no less than two are faculty members teaching in IEEE designated fields, who shall endorse the petition. Under special circumstances, in particular if the faculty does not contain sufficient IEEE members of Member, Senior Member, or Fellow grade, a faculty member of Graduate Student Member grade who is not also one of the petitioners, is acceptable as an endorser of the petition. All signees shall belong to the Section under which the Student Branch will reside.
2. Information on the educational programs offered in IEEE designated fields at the educational institution shall be completed and submitted to IEEE Student Services
3. In certain instances, where there is assurance that formation of the Branch will stimulate additional membership, the Regional Director may approve the petition with fewer than twelve (12) signatures.
4. The Section Executive Committee shall be informed of the establishment of a Student Branch, Joint Student Branch, and Section Student Branch.

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C. Student Branch Counselor

At each Student Branch there shall be a Branch Counselor who shall be an IEEE member teaching in IEEE designated fields.

1. The appropriate Section Chair based upon the recommendation of the Student members of the Branch, and in accordance with the practices for the establishment of other student organizations at the educational institution involved, shall appoint the Counselor.
2. The appointment or reappointment shall normally be for two years.
3. Each Branch Counselor is charged with promoting the welfare of the IEEE at the institution, particularly in matters relating to Student activities.

D. Student Branch Constitution

Each IEEE Student Branch shall adopt and conform to a Student Branch Constitution with a copy submitted to IEEE Headquarters. The Branch Constitution shall provide for the management of the Branch affairs by an Executive Committee consisting of the elected officers and any other members as may be specified.

E. Student Branch Officers

1. Officers of the Branch shall be at least a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer or a Secretary-Treasurer.
2. Each Student Branch Chapter Chair shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Branch Executive Committee.

F. Joint Student Branch

The IEEE, by action of the MGA Board, may join with another engineering or technical society to cosponsor a Joint Student Branch upon the recommendation of the Region Student Activities Committee Chairs with the approval of the Regional Director.

1. The petition for the establishment of the Joint Branch must be signed by the IEEE Counselor, or a representative of the faculty (who must be an IEEE member) of the educational institution involved, in the event a Counselor has not been appointed, and by twenty or more Student members of the IEEE.
2. Each Joint Student Branch shall adopt and conform to a Joint Student Branch Constitution, which shall have been submitted to and approved by both the MGA Board and the cosponsoring Society.

G. Section Student Branch

The normal organizational unit for the conduct of IEEE Student activities is the Student Branch associated with an educational institution. However, when circumstances do not permit the normal organizational arrangements within the boundary of a Section, the MGA Board may authorize the formation of a Section Student Branch open for membership to those Student Members or Graduate Student Members, attending institutions located within the Section having curricula, which would normally qualify for Student Members or Graduate Student Members status, who are not members of an IEEE Student Branch.

1. Such authorization shall be requested in a petition, signed by not less than twelve (12) such IEEE members of Student Member or Graduate Student Member grade, endorsed by the Section Executive Committee, and approved by the Regional Director.
2. Upon the establishment of the Section Student Branch, the Regional Director shall appoint a qualified Section Student Branch Advisor.
3. The Section Executive Committee shall be responsible for the organization and activities of the Section Student Branch, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Student Branch Constitution.

H. Student Branch Reporting and Funds

IEEE Student Branches and Joint Student Branches shall have the right to obligate their funds for all purposes necessary to promote their objectives, except that no IEEE Student Branch, Joint Student Branch, or any officer or representative thereof, shall have any authority to contract debts for, pledge the credit of, or in any way bind the IEEE for those activities specifically prohibited in the Student Branch Constitution or in the Student Branch Operations Guide. Funds within the Geographic Unit, from whatever source derived, are the property of the IEEE, and should not be used for purposes other than the normal operations of the geographic unit as defined in the IEEE Bylaws or published interpretation of policy, without prior authorization of the MGA Board and/or the IEEE Board of Directors, unless otherwise provided.

1. For maintenance of an IEEE Student Branch, IEEE Section Student Branch, or Joint Student Branch, upon timely receipt of an Annual Branch Activity Plan endorsed by the IEEE Counselor the IEEE shall issue to each such Branch, for one calendar year, fifty dollars (\$50.00) for Branches with fewer than fifty IEEE members of Student Member grade and one-hundred dollars (\$100.00) for Branches with fifty or more IEEE members of Student Member grade.
2. Allotments for Annual Branch Activity Plans submitted with an Annual Report are payable by 1 September. All other allotments for Annual Branch Activity Plans are payable by 15 December.
3. Upon timely receipt of an Annual Report, endorsed by the IEEE Counselor, the IEEE shall rebate to each such Branch, in good standing, \$2.00 per IEEE Student member of the Branch and an additional \$1.00 per Student Branch Chapter member based on membership count as of 31 December each year, this membership count to include those students who joined and upgraded during the calendar year. The rebate and allotment are payable by 15 December. In case of a Section Student Branch, these amounts shall be paid to the Section sponsoring the Branch.
4. Each IEEE Student Branch, IEEE Section Student Branch, and Joint Student Branch shall forward an Annual Report by 1 May to the Manager of Student Services, the Region Student Activities Committee Chair, and the Section.
5. The next year's Annual Branch Activity Plan should be submitted with the Annual Report but no later than 1 November.

I. Student Branch Expenses

An IEEE Student Branch, IEEE Section Student Branch, or Joint Student Branch may defray expenses by assessment of its members as provided in its Constitution and, in addition, may accept non-compulsory financial contributions.

1. Nonmember students of the institution where a Student Branch is established may attend the Student Branch meetings under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Student Branch. Within the budgetary conditions established by the Board of Directors, partial reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses may be authorized by the Regional Director for the Counselor of each Student Branch, for the Advisor of each Section Student Branch, for the Student Branch Chair, and the Student paper first prize winner, if any, from any Branch to attend one meeting within his/her Region each year.

J. Student Branch Probation

1. Failure of an IEEE Student Branch or IEEE Section Student Branch to maintain a minimum of ten IEEE members of Student Member or Graduate Student Member grade and to hold at least three meetings each year shall place the Branch on probation.
 - a. The Regional Director, the Region Student Activities Committee Chair, and the IEEE Student Branch Counselor (or in the event a Counselor has not been appointed, a representative of the faculty of the educational institution or other institute involved) shall be informed of the probation by the IEEE Managing Director, Member & Geographic Activities who shall also call to their attention the requirements for maintaining the Branch.
2. Failure of a Joint Student Branch to maintain a minimum of ten IEEE members of Student Member or Graduate Student Member grade and to hold at least three meetings each year shall be reported by the IEEE Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities to the

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MGA Board, and similar action as for delinquencies of IEEE Student Branches shall be taken following formal notification to the cosponsoring society.

K. Student Branch Dissolution

The MGA Board may, after consultation with the Regional Director, dissolve an IEEE Student Branch or IEEE Section Student Branch or withdraw its sponsorship and support of a Joint Student Branch for any reason deemed sufficient. Any remaining funds in the custody of that Branch, or Joint Branch, attributable to IEEE sponsorship, shall revert to the IEEE.

1. If the probation (see 9.7.J above) continues for a second year, the IEEE sponsorship shall be withdrawn automatically, and the Branch shall be dissolved. This action will be ratified by the MGA Board.
2. The MGA Vice Chair – Member Development or the IEEE Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities shall report Branch dissolutions to the MGA Board and notification will be sent to the Regional Student Activities Committee Chair, the Section Chair, and the IEEE Counselor of the dissolved Branch.

9.8 STUDENT BRANCH CHAPTERS

A. Definition

A Student Branch Chapter is a technical sub-unit of a Student Branch constituted by a minimum of six (6) IEEE members of Student Member or Graduate Student Member grade of a Society and established by petition to the parent Student Branch and Society concerned to represent and fulfill the needs of the members and the missions of IEEE. A Student Branch Chapter functions in a manner similar to a committee of the Student Branch.

B. Student Branch Chapter Establishment

1. A petition to establish a Student Branch Chapter, in the required form supplied by IEEE, must contain at least:
 - a. Name of Student Branch, signatures of its Student Branch officers, and signature of the Counselor.
 - b. Name of the sponsoring Society.
 - c. The signatures of at least six (6) IEEE members of Student Member or Graduate Student Member grade who are members of the Student Branch and of the Society involved, the signature of the Faculty Advisor of the Student Branch Chapter selected by the petitioning Student Member or Graduate Student Member, who shall be a member of the Society, the name of one Student petitioner who will serve as interim Chair until establishment of the Student Branch Chapter is authorized.
2. The petition for the Student Branch Chapter shall be submitted to the Manager of Student Services at the IEEE Operations Center. The Regional Director and the Society President shall consider the Student Branch Chapter established following approval of the petition by email. The Regional Director, the Society President, the Regional Student Activities Chair and the Regional Student Representative shall be informed of the Student Branch Chapter approval.
3. The Region Student Activities Committee Chair, the Regional Director, and the Society President shall consider the Student Branch Chapter established following approval of the petition.

C. Student Branch Chapter Membership

The Student Branch Chapter membership shall elect a Student Branch Chapter Chair and any other officers deemed necessary for its successful operation in accordance with the Branch Constitution.

D. Student Branch Chapter Management

The responsibility for Student Branch Chapter management rests with the Executive Committee of

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the Branch. The Student Branch Chapter Chair shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Branch Executive Committee in coordinating and planning activities and programs.

1. All Student Branch members shall be advised of all meetings held under the auspices of the Branch including those organized by a Student Branch Chapter.

E. Student Branch Chapter Requirements for Membership, Meetings and Activity

A Student Branch Chapter is required to maintain a membership of not fewer than five (5) IEEE members of Student Member or Graduate Student Member grade, and to hold not less than two technical meetings per year, and maintain a level of activity acceptable to the Society President, the Regional Director, and the Region Student Activities Committee Chair.

F. Student Branch Chapter Dissolution

The MGA Board may, after consultation with the Regional Director and the IEEE Society President, dissolve an IEEE Student Branch Chapter or withdraw its sponsorship and support of a Joint Student Branch Chapter for any reason deemed sufficient. The MGA Board, with the concurrence of the Advisor, the Society President, the Regional Director, and the Region Student Activities Committee Chair, a Student Branch Chapter may be dissolved. All Student Branch Chapter dissolutions will be reported to and ratified by the MGA Board.

G. Joint Student Branch Chapter

A Joint Student Branch Chapter comprising the members of more than one Society or Student Branch may be established, provided that the petition to establish a Joint Student Branch Chapter shall contain at least six (6) signatures and that each Society or Student Branch involved shall be represented by at least three (3) signatures.

9.9 AFFINITY GROUPS

A. Definition

Affinity Group is defined in IEEE Bylaw I-402.9; an affinity group shall be a non-technical subunit of a Region, one or more Sections or a Geographic Council. An affinity group shall be comprised by a minimum of six (6) IEEE members, who are members of the geographic unit(s) involved, and established by petition to the parent organizational unit(s) or standing committee concerned to fulfill the mission of IEEE. "Parent organizational unit" as used in this manual refers to an organizational unit or standing committee.

The following groups have been acknowledged by the MGA Board as parent organizational units as defined above and described in their charters: Consultants Network, IEEE Young Professionals Committee, IEEE Life Members Committee and Women in Engineering Committee. No parent organizational unit shall be formed when the topic matter is within the domain of a technical group, as determined by the Societies' field of interest.

All references to "Affinity Group" in Section 9.9 are inclusive of both Affinity Group and Joint Affinity Group.

1. An Affinity Group functions in a manner similar to that of a committee of the Section/Council.
2. Any group wishing to be recognized as a parent organizational unit that may establish Affinity Groups as defined in I-402.9 shall do so by petition to the MGA Board. This petition is to supply the organizational unit's charter, which shall address at least the following: role and responsibilities, organization structure, the manner in which the organizational unit is governed in the IEEE organization, and its funding method. It is expected that the need and sustainability of Affinity Groups related to this organizational unit shall have been substantiated by prior Section/Council-level committee and/or pilot experiences. A report of these experiences should accompany the petition.

B. Affinity Group Formation

1. A petition to establish an Affinity Group shall contain the following:
 - a. Name of the Section or Sections of Council.

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- b. Name of the parent organizational unit.
 - c. Name of the organizer (who becomes interim Chair pending election of a regular Chair at a later organization meeting). The organizer shall be of an IEEE Graduate Student Member or of higher-grade status and must be an IEEE member in good standing.
 - d. Signatures of at least six (6) IEEE members, in good standing, of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member or Fellow grade who are members of the Section(s) or Council involved, and who indicate they will join the Affinity Group, if established. In lieu of their signatures on the petition, IEEE will accept an email message from an IEEE member stating his/her agreement to the formation. These emails must include the name of the member, IEEE membership number and a brief statement of support of the petition. These messages are to be sent to the petition organizer who is requested to cut and paste these emails, preserving the email header information, into one document.
 - e. A business plan that includes mission and goals, planned meetings and activities for initial six months. Following receipt of this information, MGA staff will distribute to Region Director (or their designee) for review and feedback to be provided to organizer
 - f. Written approval of the Section/Council Executive Committee
2. The petition shall be forwarded to the IEEE Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities.
 3. The IEEE Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities shall forward a copy of the petition to the IEEE parent organizational unit for approval.
 4. The Affinity Group shall be considered established after MGA staff have ascertained that the Regional Director and IEEE parent organizational unit have no objection to its formation. A list of formations shall be transmitted to the MGA Board.
 5. The IEEE Managing Director, Member and Geographic Activities shall so notify the MGA Board, the IEEE parent organizational unit, and the Section Chair.
 6. An Affinity Group or Joint Affinity Group may be established by the procedures defined herein to cover the territory of two or more contiguous Sections, or a Council, provided the necessary approval is obtained by all concerned. The petition shall identify the Section assuming responsibility for the Affinity Group management. That Section shall receive the Affinity Group member rebates for the Affinity Group meetings.

C. Affinity Group Management

1. Responsibility for Affinity Group management shall rest with the Section/Council, which shall have control of all financial and other assets of the Affinity Group in carrying out its activities.
2. Reasonable efforts should be made to notify all members of Affinity Group meetings. Methods of communication could be, but are not limited to, email distributions (in keeping with IEEE email policies), postings on Affinity Group Web sites, social media venues, or hard copy distributions.

D. Affinity Group Officers

Officers of the Affinity Group shall be at least a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Affinity Group may combine the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

1. Each member of the Affinity Group Committee shall be an IEEE member of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member or Fellow grade.
2. The Affinity Group Chair shall serve as Chair for all meetings of the Affinity Group and the Affinity Group Committee.
3. The Affinity Group Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the coordination of all Affinity Group activities. At the request of the Affinity Group Chair or in the absence of the Affinity Group Chair, the Affinity Group Vice Chair shall chair meetings of the Affinity Group and the Affinity Group Committee.
4. The duties of the Affinity Group Secretary shall include correspondence, the keeping of the minutes of the Committee meetings, mailing notices, and submission of meeting reports and

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roster of members and officers to the Section/Council at the end of each year and such other duties as are assigned to him/her by the Chair.

5. The duties of the Affinity Group Treasurer shall include the development of an Affinity Group budget for approval by the Section/Council, accounting of all Affinity Group funds, keeping financial records, and submitting a financial record to the Section/Council.
6.
 - a. All officers shall be elected by Affinity Group members of Graduate Student Member, Member, Senior Member and Fellow Grade. Elections for all officers shall take place every one or two years, in accordance with the term of office as defined by the Parent geographical unit that assumes responsibility for the Affinity Group management.
 - b. The term of office for all officers shall be one or two years. The parent geographical unit that assumes responsibility for the Affinity Group management must define the officer term as one or two years and record it in its local operating procedures document; if the officer term is not recorded in the local operating procedures document, it shall be two years. An individual may continue in the position until a successor has been duly elected and takes office.
 - c. The term of office shall normally be from 1 January through 31 December.
 - d. The consecutive period of service in any one office shall normally not exceed four years. All officers shall not serve in any one position, in any single organizational unit, more than six years in total. Exceptions to this rule require approval by the Chair of the parent geographical unit that assumes responsibility for the Affinity Group management who will annually report such exceptions to the Region Director.
7. The names of the newly elected/appointed officers voting and non-voting of the Affinity Group shall be reported by the Affinity Group Chair to IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Department within 20 days following election/ appointment.

E. Affinity Group Nominating Committee

1. Section/Council Bylaws shall provide for appointment by the Affinity Group Chair of a Nominating Committee of three or more Affinity Group members not then officers of the Affinity Group. The Affinity Group Chair, in accordance with this Operations Manual shall appoint its Chair.
2. The duties of the Affinity Group Nominating Committee shall include the preparation of a slate of candidates recommended for the offices of Affinity Group Chair, and such other members of the Affinity Group elected at-large, in accordance with the Section/Council Bylaws, to be submitted for approval by the Group Committee.
3. The approved slate shall include not less than two nor more than three candidates recommended for each office.
4. The Affinity Group Nominating Committee shall also be responsible for the annual solicitation within the Affinity Group of names of potential candidates to be considered for positions on Affinity Group committees according to the Section/Council Bylaws.

F. Group Election Process

1. Six months prior to the date of election, the Affinity Group Nominating Committee Chair shall issue a "Call for Nominations" for all positions elected at-large to all voting members of the Affinity Group through an appropriate medium.
2. Affinity Group members shall submit nominations within one month of the "Call for Nominations".
3. The Affinity Group Nominating Committee shall verify the candidates' eligibility and willingness to serve. The Affinity Group Nominating Committee shall also gather position statements and biographies of the potential candidates, as appropriate.
4. The Affinity Group Nominating Committee will select from all such submissions candidates for each position elected at large, and submit the slate of candidates to the Affinity Group Committee for ratification.
5. The ratified slate of candidates, at least two but not more than three, shall be communicated to the voting members of the Affinity Group not less than six weeks prior to the election date. In

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addition, provision shall be made in the communication for petition candidates for these offices.

6. In addition to the candidates nominated by the Affinity Group Nominating Committee, individual voting members eligible to vote in such election may nominate candidates by petition.

In accordance with IEEE Bylaw I-307.17, "the number of signatures on a petition for an Affinity Group officer position shall be required from 2% of the eligible voters, provided the electorate is less than 30,000 voting members."

The petition shall be completed at least 28 days before the date of the election..

7. The entire slate of candidates for office shall be communicated to the voting members of the Affinity Group not less than two weeks prior to the election date.
8. The election process shall be by secret ballot.
9. The Chair of the Affinity Group shall submit the names of up to three members of the Affinity Group to serve as a Tellers Committee, to the Affinity Group for approval. After the tally of votes, the Tellers Committee shall report the results of the election to the Affinity Group Chair. The Affinity Group Chair shall inform each candidate for office of the results of the election prior to announcing the results to the Affinity Group and the Section/Council.

G. Financial Management of Affinity Group Funds

Section/Councils shall be responsible for distributing funds to its Affinity Groups in accordance with a stated set of objectives and a plan of distribution, which shall be in consonance with the missions of the IEEE, MGA and the parent organizational unit. Affinity Groups are entitled to receive the funds generated by their own activities, including dues rebates (earned during the preceding year as computed by the Dues Rebate formula). Funds generated by more than a single geo unit should be shared as determined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

1. Funds within the Affinity Groups, from whatever source derived, are the property of the IEEE, and shall not be used for purposes other than the normal operations of the Affinity Group as defined in the IEEE Bylaws or published interpretation of policy, without prior authorization of the MGA Board, unless otherwise provided.
2. Funds derived from member dues shall not be used for scholarships, fellowships and other education awards. The awards activities shall be supported by funds from activities all or in part specifically directed to such usage. Contributions may be accepted for such use and donations should be encouraged by the use of tax-exempt mechanisms.
3. All funds derived from whatever permitted source designated for these purposes shall be deposited in properly authorized separate accounts, foundations, or other approved depositories under agreement, direction, or control of the organizational unit, with adequate provisions for ensuring the proper use of the funds or proceeds there from. A properly executed agreement will include provisions for disposition of residual funds should any approved program be discontinued.
4. Affinity Groups shall have the right to obligate their funds for all purposes necessary to promote their objectives, except that no Affinity Group or any officer or representative thereof shall have any authority to contract debts for, pledge the credit of, or in any way bind the IEEE for those activities specifically prohibited in the governing documents of the IEEE or published interpretation of policy.
5. The Affinity Groups may serve nonmembers or groups wishing to receive meeting announcements and other Affinity Group publications.
6. Affinity Groups may accept local voluntary financial contributions.
7. All unit funds management must adhere to a fiscal year 1 January - 31 December.
8. Affinity Groups may establish appropriate bank accounts for accounting of funds.
 - a. Accounts established in the name of IEEE must be reserved for the purpose for which they are established, without co-mingling of funds.
 - b. They establish a reserve fund at least equal to one half of the total budgeted yearly expenditures.

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- c. All accounts shall have signature cards with at least two volunteer signatures, one volunteer as the primary signatory and one additional volunteer as an alternate. In addition, all IEEE Geographic Units accounts must have the IEEE Staff Director, Financial Services as a signatory thereon (Policy 11.3.A.3) Exemptions must be requested as part of the Geographic Unit Annual Financial Report, and approved by the Region Director
- d. All affinity groups are encouraged to utilize the IEEE Concentration Banking Program as a depository for all IEEE funds, if possible.

H. Joint Affinity Group

A Joint Group comprising the IEEE members of more than one parent organizational unit may be established by the procedures defined herein, provided, however, that the petition to establish a Joint Group shall contain at least six (6) signatures and that each parent organizational unit involved shall be represented by at least three signatures.

I. Change of Joint Affinity Group Status

The status of an Affinity Group may be changed from single to joint, or vice versa or from one joint combination to another, without submission of a petition. The change in status will become effective following approval of the request for change by the Regional Director(s), affinity group chair, Section/Council Executive Committee, and other organizational units involved.

J. Affinity Group Requirements for Membership and Meeting Activity

- 1. An Affinity Group shall be required to maintain a membership of not fewer than six (6) IEEE members, and to hold not less than two group-interest meetings per year, or to maintain a level of activity acceptable to the Section/Council Chair and Region Director.
- 2. Meeting Activity
 - a. An Affinity Group may schedule a group interest meeting in coordination with the Executive Committee of the parent geographical unit within whose boundaries the meeting is to be held, if deemed necessary.
 - b. All members in the parent geographical unit shall be advised of all meetings held in their geographical unit, including those organized by Affinity Groups, using electronic communication tools provided by MGA and/or via posting on the parent geographical unit's website. In addition, a special notice may be sent to the members of the Affinity Group that organizes a meeting.
 - c. An Affinity Group shall submit annually a report on the meetings held within the past year and any changes to its roster of officers in a timely manner using electronic reporting tools provided by MGA.
 - d. The parent geographical unit that assumes responsibility for the Affinity Group management shall receive meeting credit for Affinity Group activity and shall disburse the Affinity Group rebate and Activity bonus (if applicable) to the Affinity Group based on reported Affinity Group activity, in accordance with Section 9.9.G: Financial Management of Affinity Group Funds.

K. Affinity Group Probation

Failure of an Affinity Group to meet the minimum required activities as described in 9.9.F for a period of one year shall result in the Affinity Group automatically being placed on probation, effective 1 January of the following year. An Affinity Group probation period shall last three consecutive years. The Affinity Group will not be eligible for Rebates until it comes into compliance with the minimum requirements.

- 1. Annual notice of delinquency will be given to all concerned.
- 2. A report of delinquent Affinity Groups will be presented to the MGA Board.

L. Affinity Group Dissolution

An Affinity Group dissolution can occur in the following ways:

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1. With the concurrence of the Executive Committee of the parent geographical unit that assumed responsibility for the Affinity Group management, the Chair(s) of any other parent organizational unit(s) when applicable, and the Region Director, an Affinity Group may be dissolved.
2. An Affinity Group shall be dissolved automatically if it has failed to meet the requirements as stated in Section 9.9.J for three consecutive years and annual notice of the delinquency has been given to all concerned. Such dissolution will be reported to the MGA Board at its November Board meeting and reported to the Chair(s) of the parent technical organizational unit(s).

Following dissolution any remaining funds and assets in the custody of the Affinity Group shall revert to the parent geographical unit that assumed responsibility for the Affinity Group management.

M. Affinity Group Reinstatement

1. A dissolved Affinity Group can be reinstated following the automatic dissolution at the November Board meeting when the following conditions have been met. The parent geographical or organizational units concerned must have secured both the interest to reactivate the Affinity Group and a volunteer to serve as the Affinity Group chair. This information shall be reported to the MGA staff no later than 60 days following the date of dissolution.
2. Reinstatement of the dissolved Affinity Group shall be reported to the MGA Board at its February meeting. As of that MGA Board meeting date, the Affinity Group shall be considered reinstated. The parent Affinity Group or Affinity Groups shall be informed of the reinstatement of the Affinity Group.
3. Any meetings held and reported during the year the unit was reinstated will be applied to that year's rebate and activity bonus. Previous years' meeting reports will not apply to the Affinity Group rebate or activity bonus.

9.10 STUDENT BRANCH AFFINITY GROUPS

An Affinity Group, as a unit of an IEEE Student Branch, is permitted. The administration of such Affinity Groups shall follow the process for Student Branch Chapters, Section 9.8. Signatures of at least six (6) IEEE members of Student Member or Graduate Student Member grade are required to establish a Student Branch Affinity Group. The Regional Director, the Affinity Group Chair, the Regional Student Activities Chair and the Regional Student Representative shall be informed of the Student Branch Chapter approval. Each Student Branch Affinity Group shall have an advisor who shall be:

- a) A faculty member of IEEE grade higher than the student, not necessarily an Affinity Group member but with a strong commitment for its goals,
or;
- b) An Affinity Group member of the Section.