



THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS

INCORPORATED

345 EAST 47th STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

PL 2-6800

May 28, 1968.

Dear Nelson,

I have not been very dutiful in writing up my part of the merger story but am now at it. I suspect that I have propelled myself into it because I am leaving about June 20 for a four month trip through the country to the Pacific Coast and return that will include Hemisphere at San Antonio, American Guild of Organists Convention at Denver, an IEEE meeting in Seattle in July and WESCON August 18.

Attached is a chronological statement of events taken from excerpts of minutes that Reed Crone sent me. I am enclosing a few sheets that he probably did not send to you. It is not clear from his other letters sending me these minutes whether copies were also sent you though he has the letters of transmittal marked for you. If you do not have them let me know and I will bundle them up for you. You should have them as the important actions and Resolutions passed by the IRE Boards are in them in full.

I could not find the names of the 14-man committee members. Perhaps you have them from other sources.

The Chairman of the AIEE ~~Committee~~ group (Joint IRE - AIEE ad hoc ~~committee on student activities~~ on coordination of student activities) was Scott Hill. I was one of the IRE representatives.

Regards,

Haraden
Haraden Pratt

P.S. Perhaps I can contribute further by answering any questions (if I can) that you may wish to ask.

My mail will be forwarded after I leave here, from time to time, so continue to use this address.

11.58.542

Comments on IRE-AIEE Merger Activities.

A Committee of the AIEE waited on me in the late 1930s to talk about overlapping fields of interest between the two societies. It could have been the year 1938 when I was President of IRE. The two societies had for some time, been doing some cooperative work in the field of standardization. There seemed to be little else that could be profitably discussed. These men were looking into the future and were concerned that AIEE was getting into what is now called electronics and that real competition was in the offing. No concrete proposals were made.

Several meetings of the joint committee on student matters, set up in 1960, were held. Progress was stalled when the AIEE members indicated that IRE should share with them its Student Journal. AIEE Chairman Scott Hill seemed to worry about this but was unable to offer anything that the IRE members could get interested in. One proposal was that the gist of the information in the AIEE publication EE Digest be incorporated as a section of the IRE Student Journal. The committee ceased to meet. It was this committee that the IRE Executive Committee appointed Haggerty to, to replace Fink, in March 1961. Fink was not active at the previously held meetings due to his residence in Philadelphia, as I recall. As a result of Haggerty's appointment, he was selected for the 2-man committee that Berkner and Chase created, in April 1961. As I recall, it was Berkner's idea to enlarge the previously confined thinking to specific fields such as student activities, to a general and immediate merger. Haggerty's mind ran similarly when he got into it. Berkner talked Chase into discussing this seriously.

There were a number of die-hards in both societies. In the AIEE a small group fought for retention of their technical committee organization, feeling that the new proposed Bylaws did not encompass that. Some in the power field felt that their activities would become hopelessly subordinated in a merger. One problem that really did not develop seriously, was the abolition of the AIEE District structure with its Vice Presidents. There were some difficulties in the Section areas, particularly where IRE activities were dominant compared with those of AIEE, and vice versa, the fear being that in a merger the minority group involved would lose its identity. In the Los Angeles area there was real fear that a merger society would cause a rift in the relationship between IRE and the West Coast industry group regarding the Convention WESCON and the financial support it gave to the IRE Section activities which were very numerous in Southern California. A committee of them came to Dallas to talk to Haggerty, who assured them the merger committee would recognize the agreements involved and recommend their continuance. Thereafter, the California delegation worked with us throughout.

There There were interesting discussions on the new name, the new emblem and other details. The 14-man committee considered it important that the new society start off with a gilt-edged Board of Directors and this was accomplished. A most vital matter was the selection of a General Manager, who under the new rules, was to have broad executive powers. The membership was fortunate that an able person was found for this post.

After the merger went into effect, in January 1963, an undue amount of readjustment became necessary due to the complexities of reconciling financial methods, record keeping and other housekeeping details, not excluding the problem of retention of former society employees, their pension plans, etc. IRE and AIEE had very different methods of fiscal management. Many glaring faults in fiscal, record and mechanization of dues records, etc., came to light in the systems of both societies that had not been obvious previously and certainly not to the 80-man and 14-man committees who had no opportunity for exposure to these systems. The personnel problems had to be settled which caused delays before department heads of capability became established. These organizational difficulties involved serious departures from the budgets that the 14-man committee evolved and relied on. One post-merger activity went very smoothly, and that was the publication policy. The 14-man committee established early in its work, a high powered committee to evolve a publication policy and much work had been done ahead of time.

In the field, the mergers of the Section organizations were capably dealt with and very little difficulty seemed to come to the attention of the management. Some took longer than others but all went through in time.

May 28, 1968.

Haraden Pratt

IRE - AIEE MERGER ACTIVITIES

Nov. 2, 1955

Discussions started by IRE with AIEE looking to a program whereby qualified members of one society may automatically become members of the other.

February 1957

Each society appointed 3 representatives to an "AIEE-IRE Coordination Committee". These were:

J. T. Henderson	W. J. Barrett
A. V. Loughren	M. S. Coover
J. D. Ryder	L. F. Hickernell

(See Hickernell's letter to Weber of July 15, 1959).

April 1958

IRE Education Committee recommends a joint publication for students.

June 1958

IRE Executive Committee feels the recommendation of the Education Committee should be a part of a broader approach.

September 10, 1958

President Fink was empowered to talk to AIEE on four points of common interest. These were:

- a. Eliminating duplication of effort by joint appointment of technical committees in common areas.
- b. Agreement on a common Joint Student Branch policy.
- c. Encouragement of Joint Section meetings.
- d. Reciprocal agreement on automatic entrance to equivalent membership grades.

October 1958

IRE discharges ad hoc committee established in Nov. 1957 there having been no meetings for over a year.

June 26, 1959

AIEE Board discharges its representatives on the ad hoc committee and votes to replace them with new representatives. The IRE proposal to talk about four points of possible common interest was accepted.

October 16, 1959

AIEE Board voted to accept Chairman Greene's recommendations of a sub committee of the P & C Committee which approved further cooperation and provided guidelines for the IRE-AIEE negotiating committee. ~~November 16, 1959~~

November 16, 1959

AIEE produced the first issue of EE Digest, a new student publication. IRE Executive Committee agreed it was now unnecessary to undertake a joint publication.

Dec. 15, 1959

IRE discontinues the Student Activities Coordination Committee.

March 1960

AIEE wrote IRE February 19 concerning possible closer cooperation. The IRE Executive Committee moved to appoint a 4-member liaison committee, to study closer cooperation.

July 1960

The IRE Executive Committee recommended the establishment of a joint task group on joint standards work.

October 1960

The IRE appoints four members to a Joint IRE-AIEEE ad hoc committee on coordination in student activities.

December 1960

The IRE Executive Committee approved the formation of a joint committee (with AIEE and ASEE) regarding graduate educational programs in electrical engineering.

January 1, 1961

The AIEE Board recommends that the task groups involved submit procedures on how to implement the reciprocal membership proposal.

March 22, 1961

IRE suggests to AIEE an interchange program for publishing certain items appearing in one society's magazine in that of the other.

March 24, 1961.

IRE replaces Fink with Haggerty as IRE Chairman on the liaison committee appointed in March 1960.

April 27, 1961

IRE President Berkner met with President-elect Chase of AIEE and they decided a 2-member committee be established to talk about common interests. (Haggerty and Teare were appointed.)

May 22, 1961.

Haggerty reports to IRE of his meeting with Teare. They found that further studies were in the common interest and recommended these be pursued by an 8-man joint committee

June 8, 1961

Berkner, at the instigation of Mervin Kelly, writes H. I. Romnes informing him of merger progress to date.

October 18, 1961

IRE Board appoints Berkner, Haggerty, McFarlan and Pratt to meet with Chase, Linder, Teare and Robertson of AIEE. This is the 8-man committee.

October 20, 1961

The AIEE Board approves the 8-man committee which has had meetings prior to November 14 and has already received reports from a 4-man and several 2-man subcommittees it created.

November 14, 1961

President Berkner of IRE has received favorable replies to the letters he wrote the IRE Sections October 20 explaining aspects of the merger proposals.

December 12, 1961

Haggerty advises IRE that a draft of the proposed new Constitution and Bylaws for the merged society are ready and proposed a joint Symposium so the merger could be discussed publically.

January 18, 1962

Drafts of the new Constitution and Bylaws were distributed. An open panel ~~panel~~ session is to be held during the AIEE show January 31.

March 9, 1962.

The recommendations of the 8-man committee were approved by the IRE and a 14 man committee approved to work out the details of merger. These recommendations included:

- Principles of Consolidation
- Merger agreement
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Timing of proxies involving membership approval.

The Board of the AIEE met concurrently and the two Boards were in touch over a special telephone connection arranged by Chase.

April 24, 1962.

Concurrent meetings of the respective Executive Committees were held, connected by the special telephone line.

May 5, 1962.

Proxies for a special membership meeting were mailed to members of both societies.

July 10, 1962

A special membership meeting of IRE was held. The merger was approved by 36,221 members. 5,489 were against it.

September 10, 1962

The IRE approved the slate of Directors for the continuing corporation (AIEE). The vote was 24,702 for and 826 against. (The legal advisors found the most expeditious way was to merge one corporation into the other. The AIEE corporation was chosen due to its age and for other reasons such as the Founder Society status).