In 2021, MBPAC conducted two virtual meetings. The committee expects to hold its first virtual meeting of 2022 in early February and review its strategic objectives for the year at that time.

The main areas of focus for MBPAC are to recommend proposed, new, non-technical benefits and to assess the performance of existing benefits relative to their contributions to IEEE’s mission, money, and merit. Group insurance and third-party discounts represent a significant portion of the benefits assessed by MBPAC.

MBPAC reported the following to the IEEE Board of Directors at its February 2022 meeting:

Mercer Affinity is the contracted broker/administrator for the IEEE Member Group Insurance Program. Mercer announced its sale of the affinity programs portion of its business to AMBA. The brokerage and administration contract will be assigned to AMBA. The current Mercer staff, operations, systems, marketing and contractual commitments that pertain to the IEEE contract will continue uninterrupted as a result of the sale. Moreover, the current financial commitments will be fulfilled by AMBA.

IEEE Member Discounts department staff continue to pursue non-US opportunities for discounts and insurance. One example is that Dell Technologies expanded its small business purchase program and so far IEEE was able to enroll the UK Section in 2021. We also learned that the Western Australia Section is offering the Dell discount as well.

In 2021, the Member Discounts department supported IEEE engineers’ careers through some new alliances around the Institute. Member Discounts worked with IEEE Standards Association in 2021 to develop one Webinar about emerging risk with medical devices. An IEEE USA member and a Lloyds of London syndicate underwriter participated in the panel. The underwriter was also the lead underwriter for the IEEE Professional Liability Insurance policy available to members in the US and Canada. Member Discounts and Mercer worked with IEEE USA Consultants Network in 2021 to financially sponsor the annual consultants’ fee survey and the consultant’s newsletter, in support of self-employed members.