

Minutes of the Control Systems Society Board of Governors Meeting

December 11, 2007

New Orleans, LA, USA

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

T. Djaferis called the meeting of the Control Systems Society (CSS) Board of Governors (BoG) to order at 1:05 PM on December 11, 2007, and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. The following members of the BoG were in attendance: F. Allgöwer, J. Baillieul, D. Bernstein, E. Camacho, C. Cassandras, D. Castañón, E. Chong, F. Chowdhury, T. Djaferis, J. Farrell, S. Ge, D. Lawrence, R. Middleton, E. Misawa, P. Misra, T. Parisini, M. Polycarpou, A. Stefanopoulou, J. Sun, D. Tilbury, M. E. Valcher, H. Wang and Y. Yamamoto. Additionally, the following visitors attended the meeting: J. Pratt, T. Samad, O. Gonzalez, W. Gruver, R. Tempo, B. Pasik-Duncan, M. Sznaier, and P. Antsaklis.

Quorum was established and changes to the agenda approved prior to the meeting were approved with unanimous consent. Next, the minutes of the BoG meeting of July 10, 2007 held in New York City, NY, USA were approved unanimously. Djaferis introduced distinguished visitor William Gruver, IEEE Division X Director and thanked him for attending the CSS Board of Governors' meeting. During the meeting Dr. Gruver made a short presentation to BoG.

Action Items

Constitution, Bylaws Changes

Creation of Executive Director Position: Djaferis raised the issue of how the complexity of and demands on the position of the CSS Secretary-Administrator had increased in recent years. Since the position continues to remain a volunteer one, the Executive Committee deemed it essential that the scope of the position be redefined, and staff support be provided. Accordingly, on behalf of the Executive Committee, he proposed to replace the position of Secretary Administrator by the position of Executive Director that includes paid staff support. BoG agreed that such a change in the scope and staff support was warranted and approved the motion without discussion and with unanimous consent. He reminded the BoG that L. Bushnell, after serving the society as Secretary-Administrator since 2001, had decided to step down. He then announced that M. Sznaier of the Northeastern University in Boston had agreed to take on the position, effective immediately. Bushnell's service and contributions to the CSS were applauded by the BoG. The BoG also approved the resulting changes to the CSS Constitution and Bylaws.

Creation of Coordinator for Conference Operations: The BoG had approved the creation of the position, Coordinator for Conference Operations, in the July 2007 meeting. However, it was necessary that the BoG approve changes to the Bylaws as a result of creation of the position. The BoG approved changes to the Bylaws with unanimous consent.

Changes to the Membership Activities Board Structure: During the December 2006 BoG meeting, the following changes to the MAB structure were approved –

“In order to streamline membership activities, Valcher proposed partial restructuring of the Membership Activities Board (MAB). Specifically she proposed the following amendments to the CSS Bylaws as follows:

New MAB composition:

- Awards Chair
- Chapter Activities Chair
- Distinguished Lecturers Chair (classified as a Standing Committee)
- Fellow Evaluation Chair
- Fellow Nominations Chair
- History Chair
- International Affairs Committee Chair
- MERGED: Membership & Admissions Chair and Public Information Chair replaced by a single Membership and Public Information Chair
- Student Activities Chair
- Women in Control Chair”

M.E. Valcher moved that the resulting changes to the CSS Bylaws be approved by the BoG. Changes to Bylaws were approved by the BoG unanimously, without any discussion.

Appointments

Board of Governors: Castañón informed the BoG that he was appointing the following six CSS members to the Board for 2008: G. Balas, W. Dixon, M. Fujita, J. Hespanha, D. Tilbury, and H. Wang. He noted that all six had served the society in a number of positions on editorial boards and conference organizing committees. Since these were appointed positions, BoG approval was not required. The BoG supported the appointments and welcomed the slate of newly appointed BoG members.

Nominating Committee: Castañón proposed that the 2008 CSS Nominating Committee chaired by T. Djaferis have the following members: P. Antsaklis, T. Samad, J. Baillieul, D. Castañón (by virtue of being the president), and M. Spong. The committee was approved by unanimous consent.

Standing Committees: Castañón proposed that the following chairs be approved as a slate –

Awards	Antsaklis, P.
Chapter Activities	Giua, A.
Conference Operations	Yurkovich, S.
Conference Editorial Board	Parisini, T.
Conference Publications	Misra, P.
Electronic Information	Misra, P.

Executive Committee	Castañón, D.
Fellow Evaluation	Krstic, M.
Fellow Nominations	Lindquist, A.
History	Abramovitch, D.
International Affairs	Allgöwer, F.
Long Range Planning	Samad, T.
Membership & Public Information	Lovera, M.
Standards	Chang, M.- F.
Student Activities	Jabbari, F.
Women in Control	Zattoni, E.

BoG agreed that the proposed slate will serve the society well and approved the entire slate unanimously.

Technical Committees: Castañón informed that BoG that all Technical Committee Chairs from 2007 were willing to continue in 2008 and requested their reappointment. The BoG approved the current slate of TC chairs to serve during 2008.

Awards Subcommittees: Castañón proposed the following slate of awards subcommittees for BoG approval.

Antonio Ruberti Young Researcher Prize	Willems, J.C.
Control Systems Technology Award	Banda, S.
George S. Axelby Outstanding Paper Award	Morse, S.
TCST Outstanding Paper Award	Jankovic, M.
CSM Outstanding Paper Award	Heck, B.
CDC Best Student-Paper Award	TBD
MSC Best Student-Paper Award	Mestha, L.K.

He also informed the BoG that the position for the CDC Best Student-Paper Award was recently vacated by M. Sznaier and that he had not been able to find a replacement. The BoG approved the proposed slate unanimously.

Transactions on Control Systems Technology: The following new associate editors were proposed for approval – Y. Bestaoui, U. Christen, F. Cuzzola, L. Dessaint, A. Feliachi, C. Hadjicostis, N. Kazantzis, S. Liu, M. Mesbahi, K. Roepke, F. Vasca, and R. Young. He assured the BoG that the Executive Committee had carefully screened all proposed candidates and reminded the BoG that biographies of all proposed Associate Editors were sent to the BoG prior to the meeting. Further, continuing associate editors as well as Editor in Chief were already approved by the BoG in its July meeting. The BoG approved the slate without discussion.

Control Systems Magazine: The following new associate editors were proposed for approval –

P. Axelrad, S. Ferrari, R. Fierro, K. Johnson, E. Klavins, and J. Watkins. Similar to the TCST, continuing associate editor and the magazine Editor in Chief were approved in July 2007 meeting. The BoG approved the proposed set of AEs unanimously.

Transactions on Automatic Control: The TAC editorial board for 2008 was approved by the BoG in its July meeting. However, due to resignation of one of the Associate Editors, Cassandras (Editor in Chief), requested that C.-H. Chen be approved as a new AE for the TAC. Castañón shared Chen’s biographical information with the BoG and the appointment was approved without any discussion.

Financial Activities Motion and Report

In the absence of VP-Financial Activities (E. Abed), J. Farrell presented and sought approval for the following 2009 membership dues and subscription fees. Operational budget parameters were approved by the BoG in the July meeting.

Society membership (Including IEEE CSM)

Member/Affiliate	25
Student/other/retired	13

TAC subscription

Member/Affiliate Electronic	0
Student/other/retired Electronic	0
Member/Affiliate print & elec	40
Student/other/retired print & elec.	20

TCST subscription

Member/Affiliate Electronic	0
Student/other/retired Electronic	0
Member/Affiliate print & elec	25
Student/other/retired print & elec.	13

CSS Conference package

Member/Affiliate Electronic	0
Student/other/retired Electronic	0

Journal Page Budgets

Year	TAC	TCST	CSM
06	2000	1100	736
07	2400	1210	736
08	2700	1210	752

The proposed 2009 membership dues and subscript fees were approved with unanimous consent.

Conference Activities Motions

Program Chair, ISIC (2009)

Middleton proposed that Hua Wang (Boston University, Boston, MA, USA) be approved as the Technical Program Chair for the 2009 ISIC. His appointment was approved unanimously.

General Chair MSC 2010

Next, Middleton proposed that M. Fujita (Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan) be approved as the General Chair for 2010 MSC. Djaferis reminded the BoG that the MSC is serving the society's need for a conference that can cater to wider base of authors that CDC cannot. The conference structure permits symposia and workshops from within the CSS as well as outside of the CSS to operate under the umbrella of multi-conference. BoG approved the appointment with unanimous consent.

2011 Joint CDC-ECC

Djaferis informed the BoG that similar to 2005 when the IFAC World Congress was held in Europe, the European Union Control Association (EUCA) approached CSS to explore the possibility of holding the CDC jointly with the European Control Conference (ECC), and repeating the 2005 success. Faced with a similar situation in 2011, EUCA is interested in holding the 2011 ECC jointly with the CDC. EUCA is agreeable to holding the conference in the US. Djaferis sought BoG's approval of the concept based on a Memorandum of Understanding under which the joint conference will be held. The BoG was very supportive of the idea of holding the CDC jointly with ECC in the US and approved the concept unanimously.

General Chair for 2011 Joint CDC-ECC

Next Djaferis sought to receive BoG's approval to appoint E. Chong (Colorado State University, CO, USA) as the General Chair for the 2011 Joint CDC-ECC. BoG expressed its confidence in E. Chong's abilities and approved his appointment unanimously.

2013 CDC Site and Co-General Chairs

Djaferis informed that BoG that R. Tempo and T. Parisini, had expressed interest in organizing the 52nd CDC (2013) in Italy and serving as Co-General Chairs for the same. He opened discussion for potential issues with holding the CDC in Italy during 2013. The main concern expressed by E. Camacho was that being in odd year, the CDC will be close to the ECC. During the discussion it became clear that neither the dates nor the location of 2013 ECC has been finalized yet. Suggestions to hold the CDC in Italy in 2012 or 2014 were not found acceptable.

The motion was tabled so the issue could be discussed further. During a quick break a discussion was held among the principals and objection to holding the CDC in Italy in 2013 was withdrawn and the motion to hold the 52nd CDC in Italy was approved with majority decision with 15 in favor, 2 opposed (E. Camacho recorded), 2 abstentions (A. Stefanopoulou and S. Ge recorded).

Membership Activities Motions

Developing Country Conference Support Program

Valcher moved to establish a Developing Countries Conference Support Program to run during 2008-2010 at the cost of up to \$40,000 per year.

She described its purpose being to promote IEEE CSS and research on Systems and Control in developing countries, by supporting, intellectually and financially, conferences that will take place in developing countries. The program will be under the purview of the IEEE CSS Vice President for Member Activities. The evaluating committee will consist of up to 4 people, including the Vice President for Member Activities (VPMA), the Vice President for Conference Activities (VPCA) and the Chair of the CSS International Affairs Committee.

Proposals will be considered twice each year. The deadlines for submissions are May 1 and November 1 of each year. Notifications of awards will be made by June 30 and December 31 each year. A conference for which the support is requested must be held in a country that belongs to the list of the developing countries (at the time the request is made) and must receive CSS sponsorship or technical co-sponsorship. Evaluation is based on quality and on the conference organizers' plans for outreach and impact in developing nations.

According to the proposal, the support provided shall not exceed \$20,000 for any conference, nor will it exceed 50% of the budgeted conference expenditure. The support could be sought for:

- *Travel and lodging expenses for plenary speakers.* In this case, the applicants should include extended biographies for the proposed speakers with the submission.
- *Student/Newcomers reception,* where the benefits of belonging to the CSS and to the IEEE will be briefly described, and membership forms will be made available to all attendees.
- Funds to defray costs of registration fees for students or for IEEE CSS members.
- Expenses for technical workshops associated with the conference.
- Proposals can also seek support for *other conference activities* not mentioned above; the applicants should describe in detail the scientific merits and benefits to conference participants and to the field.

It was suggested that such a program could be publicized most effectively through CSS chapters in these countries. The BoG was supportive of the initiative and approved it unanimously.

Other motions

IEEE CSS-INFORMS Liaison

Djaferis moved to establish an IEEE CSS-INFORMS Liaison and appoint Y. Paschalidis to this position. He reminded the BoG that in the past there was close cooperation between CSS and INFORMS but lately this interaction had reduced significantly. The purpose of the position is to create a formal mechanism to

increase participation from INFORMS members in the IEEE CDC and make the CDC more prominent as an outlet for INFORMS related work. INFORMS is a regular Sponsor of the CDC and there has been in the past a sustained liaison effort but it has become dormant in the last few years. Despite the lack of coordination, there is a substantial contingent of IEEE CSS members that regularly attend the CDC and INFORMS conferences. Research areas with significant overlap include applied probability, optimization, stochastic control, and decision theory and these areas are well represented in the CDC program each year. With a renewed liaison effort it is expected that such cross-pollination will increase and there would be several well attended CDC sessions with INFORMS thematic interest.

It was agreed that the CSS would actively seek INFORMS participation in the CDC for the next three years. If at the end of this period, there is no noticeable participation from the organization, then the technical relationship will be re-evaluated.

The BoG approved the formation of Liaison position as well as appointment of Y. Paschalidis as Chair unanimously.

Task Force for CSS Promotion

Based on discussions in the Executive Committee, Djaferis moved to approve formation of a Task Force headed by the incoming President-Elect T. Samad, to develop recommendations on the following topics:

- Developing Web and Internet content in systems and control to promote our field, attract members, and project CSS as the leading organization worldwide in control science and engineering.
- Better engaging industry, especially for attracting members and volunteers from industry and for facilitating better connections between academia and industry.

Samad shared his vision for this task force and anticipated that a funding of \$50,000 would be necessary to hold a workshop for brainstorming the concept. The BoG was supportive of the initiative and approved the formation of Task Forces and funding of up to \$50,000 to help the Task Forces achieve their objectives with unanimous consent.

Developing Country Travel Support Program

On behalf of International Affairs Committee, Valcher proposed continuation of the Developing Country Travel Support Program. She proposed that in order to simplify running the program instead of making the program and funding very rigid, recipients of travel support be simply given the student or regular registration fee plus a grant of at most \$500 which they could spend most effectively. The proposal placed restrictions on participants from the host country not being eligible for the grant. Through a friendly amendment restrictions on participants from the host country were removed.

It was agreed that to minimize imposition on the conference organizers, the logistics of the program will be managed by a member of the International Affairs Committee. The program was approved with majority decision with 15 in favor, 2 opposed and 3 abstaining.

2008 MSC Budget

Middleton informed the BoG that there was some urgency to approving the 2008 MSC budget, with the conference less than a year away. He assured the BoG that the budget had been reviewed by several former conference general chairs and met all the necessary parameters. He briefly reviewed the major income and expense items and moved that the budget be approved. The budget for 2008 MSC was approved with unanimous consent of the BoG.

Motions Approved via Email

In order that motions passed via email votes are formally recorded in CSS archives, Djaferis reminded the BoG that between the July and the December BoG meetings, the following motions were discussed and approved:

Motion: Appoint Mike Polis as IEEE CSM Associate Editor for Book Reviews.

This nomination was endorsed by ExCom and on September 24, 2007 we began a BOG two-week email discussion on this motion which was followed by a BOG vote with an October 15, 2007 deadline. The motion was approved.

Motion: Appoint Rick Middleton as IEEE TAC Associate Editor At Large as of November 1, 2007.

This motion was endorsed by ExCom and on October 11, 2007 we began a BOG two-week email discussion on this motion which was followed by a BOG vote with a November 1, 2007 deadline. The motion was approved.

Activity Reports

Report of the President

Djaferis shared with the BoG, major highlights from 2007:

New Collaborations: CDC-CCC09 MOU

In 2009 the CDC will be held in Shanghai, China in December. Planning and organization for this event began several years ago and involves a large number of Chinese IEEE-CSS colleagues throughout China. Many of these colleagues have been involved in IEEE-CSS activities for many years but they also have been involved in the organization of local Chinese scientific events such as the Chinese Control Conference (CCC). The CCC is sponsored and organized by the Technical Committee on Control

Theory (TCCT) which is part of the Chinese Association of Automation (CAA). For a number of years the CCC has been technically co-sponsored by CSS. In order to strengthen IEEE-CSS connections with our colleagues in China, the 2009 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC), and the 2009 Chinese Control Conference (CCC), will be held concurrently and as a single conference in Shanghai, China, in December 2009. An MOU towards this end has been developed and signed. We all look forward to a very successful conference.

New Conference: 2007 MSC

The idea of a multi-conference began to be discussed right after the turn of the century. CSS was concerned about the continued professional and financial success of these technical meetings and wanted to create a conference structure, in view of the new realities, that ensured success going forward. In recent years dramatic world events have affected the organization of technical meetings and in some cases have impacted attendance or even forced their cancellation. Holding a number of smaller meetings under the same umbrella and at the same venue allows for more efficient organization and operation. Increased attendance does lead to better hotel rates, and common registration, financial and publication operations run more efficiently. New events on specific themes and emerging technologies can be much more easily organized in a multi-conference setting, possibly in cooperation with other societies. The concept was discussed over a number of years during Executive Committee and Board of Governors meetings and a conference structure emerged through this discussion that met our needs. We hope that MSC will evolve into a premier conference in the general area of systems, control and emerging technologies.

The first Multi-conference on Systems and Control (MSC) was held October 1-3 in Suntec City, Singapore. The Control Systems Society has traditionally sponsored several small to medium size technical meetings in the general area of systems and control. These were the Conference on Control Applications (CCA), the International Symposium on Intelligent Control (ISIC), and the international symposium on Computer-Aided Control Systems Design (CACSD). The CACSD was not held every year and in some years these meetings were held together at the same venue. These meetings focused on specific topics and were organized to satisfy needs expressed by researchers and practitioners. Over the years they have served the systems and control community well.

New Award: MSC07 Local Award

The IEEE-CSS continues to seek out ways in which we can interact more closely with industry. One way in which this can take place is the industrial sponsorship of awards. This year members of the organizing committee of the 2007 MSC worked towards securing funding for the 2007 Industry Award for Excellence in Translational Control Research. The award was established to recognize an individual or a team of faculty researchers whose research activity arising from industry-university collaboration has produced substantive results with demonstrated impact. There

was a nomination process which resulted in the award given to one individual who best demonstrated research with a high-degree of excellence and effective industry-university collaboration and with proven record of success in translating systems and control theory to practical benefits for industrial or commercial systems. The first such award was funded by the Xerox Corporation and was presented to the winner during the 2007 MSC banquet. Our hope is that this award will evolve into a new Society award.

New Position: Coordinator, Conference Operations

CSS has constantly sought ways to improve conference operations and one example of these efforts was the creation of the Conference Editorial Board (CEB) in the early nineties. CSS felt that by providing a common infrastructure for paper submission and reviews conference operations would be improved. After an evaluation the CSS leadership established three new standing committees to assist in conference operations: Conference Administration, Conference Finance and Conference Publications. This was a step in the right direction and in the case of conference publications it is significant to point out that the activity expanded and evolved. In fact, at the turn of the century PaperPlaza was introduced that greatly facilitated not only paper submission, review and final program development, but conference registration as well. The capabilities of PaperPlaza have recently been expanded and it currently provides a platform for preparing all the necessary material for proceedings publication.

A number of other needs in the areas of administration, finance, banking, documentation and new services continue to exist and in order to improve the structure and operations in these areas the Executive Committee and BOG approved the creation of the new position of Coordinator, Conference Operations. The Coordinator would work closely with conference operating committees providing a robust link between them. It will provide tighter coupling between conferences in these areas will increase efficiency and robustness and reduce duplication. It will also provide vital assistance to conference organizers in the execution of their duties. This is particularly true in the areas of finance and banking as many of our future conferences will be held outside the US and in different parts of the world. This is a volunteer position but a budget for operating expenses and travel is provided in addition to a paid staff position who will work in a supporting role.

Members of the BoG thanked Djaferis for his leadership role in making a number of noteworthy initiatives a reality during his term.

Report of the Vice President, Technical Activities

J. Farrell informed the BoG that the name of the "IEEE CSS TC on Biosystems and Control" has been changed to the "IEEE CSS TC on Systems Biology." He noted that various TCs were active-

ly soliciting members and referred them to reports distributed prior to the meeting regarding activities of individual committees.

Report of the Vice President, Conference Activities

Middleton reported that the 46th CDC was progressing well with healthy registration numbers. 2008 MSC was on track and was planning to hold its closing reception in the same location where a Leonardo-da-Vinci exhibition will be held during the same time frame. The 47th CDC organizing and program committee were in place and the submission site was scheduled to open in January 2008. He reported that 2008 ACC submissions were down. This was expected in view of the fact that 2008 was the IFAC World Congress year. The likely site for the 48th CDC in 2009 will be the Shangri-la hotel or the conference center. Various contracts for the 48th CDC were under negotiation and the budget will be brought to the BoG for approval in June 2008 meeting in Seattle.

Report of the Vice President, Publications Activities

Y. Yamamoto highlighted major items from reports received from editors of the three CSS journals. He further noted that -

- All publications are operating smoothly with relatively minor or no backlog.
- Our editorial policy has been clarified for a double submission for an IEEE conference and our Transactions, and the new policy is posted on <http://control.bu.edu/ieee/information.html>
- A major upgrade was completed to the Web-based editorial system used by TAC in the fall of 2005. This provides extended functionalities in the handling system. However, it has become clear that this system cannot be maintained and upgraded in the same way in the future. Thus, the CSS has committed to develop a new system. This is currently being developed by Huibert Kwakernaak and Pradeep Misra.
- Submissions to TAC in 2006 recorded 472 regular-papers manuscripts-slightly less than 2005, but still a very high number. It appears that in 2007 the TAC will break a record of regular paper submissions. For acceptance/rejection statistics, see the pertinent report of TAC.
- For the TAC, 589 papers were submitted as Technical Notes in the last 12 months, as compared to 614 in the previous 12 months. Among them, the corresponding author of 22% of the submitted papers is from China. Virtually no backlogs for Technical Notes in the past few years. The rejection rate is about 60% in average.
- TCST had set a new record in 2006 for submissions (596 manuscripts) – almost 200 increase from 2005. Submissions this year (2007) are on a similar pace.

- The average submission-first decision periods are approx. 6 months for TAC, and 3-4 months for TCST.
- Each of our publications has featured and/or has in process one or more special issues:
 - TAC: Systems Biology (Papers under review); Positive Polynomials in Control (Open call for papers)
 - TCST: Control Applications in Automotive Engineering; Multi-vehicle Cooperative Control with Applications; Micro and Nano-Systems (all with open calls for papers);
 - CSM: Process Control (Dec. 2006); Classical Control Revisited Parts I & II (Feb. & Jun. 2007); Complex Networked Control Systems (Aug. 2007); Applications of System Identification (Oct. 2007); Modeling series: Behavior Modeling (Dec. 2007); Inertially stabilized platform technology (Apr. 2008) and others in planning stages.

CSM Website redesign

A new redesigned IEEE-CSS Website (www.ieeecss.org) has now come into effect. Under the leadership of the current chair of the CSS Electronic Information Committee, Pradeep Misra and past VP Publication Activities Tariq Samad, this web page have gone through a major revision and redesign. It should give more flexible and versatile functionalities for maintenance and updating, thereby providing more effective service to the users.

Plagiarism – A threat

There is a non-trivial increase of plagiarism investigated or under investigation. More and more cases are being discovered and reported to the society. Plagiarism can cause a serious effect not only on the lead author who may be primarily responsible but also on coauthors. While the majority of papers are believed to be free of such misconducts, plagiarism can greatly harm the credibility of accomplishments our society. Plagiarism is unethical, and it is unacceptable that such an act can do damage to our society and publications. We are planning to post a warning message on the CSS website, along with some guidelines.

Report of the Vice President, Membership Activities

M.E. Valcher noted that beyond the membership activities related motions and associated discussion, there were no additional issues to report.

Adjournment

Djaferis reminded the BoG that the meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2008, at 1:00 PM in Seattle, WA at the 2008 ACC.

Djaferis thanked the members of the Board of Governors and visitors for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.