

Minutes of the Control Systems Society Board of Governors Meeting December 9, 2012, Maui, Hawaii

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Christos Cassandras called the meeting of the Control Systems Society (CSS) Board of Governors (BoG) to order at 1:00 pm on December 9, 2012. He reminded the BoG of the rules of the meeting, including that an abstention is a no vote, and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. The following members of the BoG were in attendance: Frank Allgöwer, Anuradha Annaswamy, Panos Antsaklis, Alessandro Astolfi, Francesco Bullo, Carlos Canudas de Wit, Christos Cassandras, Edwin Chong, Warren Dixon, Frank Doyle, Magnus Egerstedt, Jay Farrell, Antonella Ferrara, Masayuki Fujita, Shuzhi Sam Ge, Sandra Hirche, Stephane Laforge, John Lygeros, Richard Middleton, Kristi Morgansen, Kirsten Morris, Lucy Pao, Thomas Parisini, Ioannis Paschalidis, Ian Petersen, Kristin Pettersen, Li Qiu, Toshiharu Sugie, Mario Sznaiier, Andrew Teel, Elena Valcher, M. Vidyasagar, Yutaka Yamamoto. Additionally, the following visitors attended the meeting: Christophe Aubrun, Fabrizio Dabbene, Yoshito Ohta, Dominique Sauter, and Amber Madison.

Quorum was established and the agenda was approved with unanimous consent. Following approval of the agenda, the minutes of the BoG meeting of June 26, 2012 held in Montreal Canada were approved unanimously. C. Cassandras proceeded to ask if anyone would like to remove items from the Consent Agenda (see Appendix A). No items were removed from the Consent Agenda and it was approved unanimously.

Action Items

Technical Activities Motions

F. Bullo, CSS Vice President for Technical Activities, presented the following motion.

To make the following changes, beginning in 2017:

- *Discontinue the IEEE Multi-Conference in Systems and Control,*
- *Continue to run the “Conference on Control Applications” (CCA) as an annual IEEE CSS-sponsored conference and change its name to “Conference on Control Technology and Applications” (CCTA).*

F. Bullo presented the intentions behind the motion, including: problems with the Multi-Conference on Systems and Control (MSC), rationale for the proposed transition and decoupling from the Computational Aspects of Control System Design (CACSD) and the International Symposium on Intelligent Control (ISIC), and advantages of the proposed structure over the current MSC format. He concluded with the following possible modifications to the motion.

Possible names for re-launching CCA are:

1. “*IEEE Conference on Control Technology and Applications*”
2. “*IEEE Conference on Systems and Control Technology*”
3. “*IEEE Conference on Systems and Control Applications*”

F. Bullo opened the floor for discussion on the topic. C. Cassandras informed the BoG that this is a difficult issue that has been debated for a year. M. Vidyasagar stated that we should approve the motion. He then questioned if we needed to determine a specific name at this meeting. He asked what would happen if we decided on a name today and then later decided to change the name. F. Bullo indicated that we would want to stay with one particular name. F. Bullo indicated that the selected new name for the CCA would be linked with and appear in Xplore under the title history. M. Vidyasagar then suggested that the motivation for his statement was that he wanted to forestall having thirty to forty people try to decide on the title in real-time. C. Cassandras suggested that this was also the feeling of the ExCom.

C. Canudas de Wit questioned the implementation date. He wondered about the rationality of postponing the name change. F. Bullo indicated that not all of the general chairs have agreed to the format change; hence, the current format will be respectfully maintained through 2016. M. Sznaier, general co-chair for the MSC 2016, indicated that he felt strongly about keeping the structure for his venue.

C. Canudas de Wit asked if we considered keeping the name unchanged or changing to the journal name (i.e., *Control Systems Technology (CST)*). F. Bullo indicated that the ExCom decided to change the name because of the desire to relaunch the conference and that changing the name is part of that process. The name should be close to the previous name with a desire to expand the scope. R. Middleton indicated that we did not want a 100% match with the journal and the conference.

F. Dabbene gave his opinion from the perspective as the chair of the Technical Committee on CACSD. He gave a brief motivation behind the creation of the MSC. He did not understand the need to relaunch the CCA at the expense of killing the CACSD and ISIC. He indicated that he does not have a solution to propose, and he thanked F. Bullo for trying to navigate this issue. F. Dabbene indicated that the intent of the motion is to relaunch the CCA, provide some stronger connection to the journal, and give it financial support, but questioned what this means for the CACSD. He questioned if there was a plan for the CACSD.

T. Parisini indicated that the MSC was an experiment that has failed. He indicated that CSS had not done a good job branding the CCA and there were quality questions, and this motivated recent changes to include a coordinating chair. He would like to see this as a conceptual move for the society where outreach increases; he thinks the name is important, and that the motion is well received. He said this motion is not a simple reshuffling.

I. Paschalidis recommended a friendly amendment to the motion. He indicated that the use of systems is important and would like the word "systems" to be included in the title of the conference; he advised a merger of the second and third suggested names (i.e.,

merging *IEEE Conference on Systems and Control Technology* with *IEEE Conference on Systems and Control Applications*).

M. Sznaier suggested there are two parts of the motion: breaking the MSC apart and changing the name. If the name is changed to the *Conference on Control Technology and Applications*, then there is no room for theory papers. He indicated that there is true science going on in the rest of the world. He thinks it is a huge mistake to break the conference into parts, but he suggested an alternative name such as the *Conference on Control Science and Technology* would at least keep theory involvement.

M. Vidyasagar seconded the friendly amendment motion by I. Paschalidis.

F. Bullo first indicated that the MSC is not a general conference, and that papers will either appear in the proceedings of the CCA, ISIC, or CACSD. The MSC is not the solution to the problem that Mario suggests. He indicated that the answer is not to be a conference for everyone. On the contrary, a conference with no focus has the chance to lose an audience. He indicated that the motion does not narrow the scope. There is no market for a generic conference that may be considered a second-tier version of the CDC.

M. Sznaier indicated that lack of room for theory papers is debatable. He did not understand why including the word "science" was problematic: the title is more inclusive. He did not understand why the word "science" takes away from the conference. C. Cassandras said the word "science" has the potential implication that the conference will be viewed as a second-rate CDC. M. Sznaier asked if C. Cassandras would send a paper to *IEEE TCST* if it was mostly theory. C. Cassandras said that question was hard to answer. M. Sznaier suggested that if the word "science" was in the conference title then we would not exclude those participants outside of the first world. S. Lafortune disagreed with M. Sznaier.

M. Vidyasagar called the question, C. Cassandras seconded. A vote was taken to end the discussion: there were twenty-nine yes votes, three no votes (R. Middleton, I. Petersen, S. Ge), and one abstention (E. Chong).

A vote was taken on the friendly amendment motion by I. Paschalidis: there were twenty-seven no votes, three yes votes (I. Petersen, L. Qiu, and M. Sznaier), and three abstentions (L. Pao, E. Chong, and E. Valcher). The name change amendment failed.

A friendly amendment was proposed for a fourth name: *Conference on Systems and Control Technology and Applications*. M. Vidyasagar commented that there are four main keywords, and that we should not have more than three keywords and no more than one "and" in the title. M. Vidyasagar disagreed with the notion that there is a risk of the conference becoming a second-rate CDC. M. Egerstedt indicated that the discussions are within striking distance of the final name for the conference, and we should end the discussion.

F. Bullo asked if we could have one round of votes for the name of the favorite choice. C. Cassandras said that we are trying, in a collegial manner, to ask for opinions of the BoG.

The suggested name in the friendly amendment was included in the list of names that were voted on. The votes were intended to give general guidance with respect to the final name choice. The general audience provided a nonexclusive vote (including votes by non-voting members) that included: sixteen for the first name, twelve for the second name, nine for the third name, and two for the fourth name. After narrowing the list to two names (*IEEE Conference on Control Technology and Applications* and *IEEE Conference on Systems and Control Technology*), an exclusive vote (also including votes by non-voting members) was taken: sixteen voted for the first name, and thirteen voted for the second name.

F. Dabbene indicated that he is strongly considering closing the Technical Committee on CACSD. He feels that CACSD has been pushed out and is unwanted. F. Dabbene asked why the BoG thinks that the registration numbers will increase if two conferences are excluded. The impression is that CACSD has been dragging down the CCA. F. Bullo indicates that we are not saying that the CACSD and CCA cannot be run together.

F. Bullo said that the motion considers the future of the CCA and does not provide any guidance with regard to what should happen to the other conferences. He also said that there is plenty of time for the corresponding Technical Committees to consider various options before these changes will take place in 2017 and that the ExCom and BoG will be receptive to providing appropriate forms of support to future proposals regarding the ISIC and the CACSD symposia.

M. Sznaier asked if the BoG would be automatically voting to stop financial sponsorship of the other two conferences. M. Sznaier said that any such consideration, if intended, should be an explicit part of the motion, rather than a hidden component of the motion. He indicated that CACSD should still receive financial funding, because otherwise the CACSD will be financially unviable. F. Bullo disagreed because other conferences of the size of the CACSD are successful. A vote was taken on the main motion: thirty voted yes, one voted against (M. Sznaier), and two abstained (E. Valcher and A. Astolfi).

C. Cassandras indicated that motions from the Vice President for Financial Activities would go next because there are financial implications on conference budgets.

Finance Activities Motions

E. Chong, Vice President for Financial Activities, presented the following motion.

Motion to approve grant to CSS conferences in the amounts shown below starting in 2014 for a period of three years (2014, 2015, and 2016).

- *CDC: \$25k*
- *MSC: \$6k*
- *ACC: \$25k*

E. Chong indicated that as of January 1, 2014, IEEE will no longer pay conferences for their proceedings papers. This represents a loss income for our conferences of approximately \$25/paper. For example, for CDC-ECC 2011, the budgeted income was \$30k. At the same time, IEEE requires conference budgets to show a 20% surplus. The

loss of this source of income to conferences makes it difficult to meet this requirement. The proposed grant aims to mitigate this loss of income to conferences.

C. Cassandras clarified that IEEE was no longer interested in buying the hard copy version of the conference proceedings. M. Vidyasagar questioned the motivation for the motion because the registration could be simply increased by \$20 and it would not be noticed. E. Chong suggested that general chairs have already been preparing budgets based on proceedings acquisitions. The intent is to be a bridge for current conferences. He explained that IEEE has a complex formula related to how much income comes to the society from Xplore. It is not clear what fraction of the money is related to just conference papers.

P. Antsaklis asked if the motion applied to all technical co-sponsored conferences. E. Chong said the motion only applied to conferences that include proceedings acquisition. R. Middleton indicated that CSS has been receiving significant funding from Xplore and that CSS is financially healthy in that regard. M. Vidyasagar checked his budget for the 2013 MSC and indicated that he has this line item in his budget. E. Chong noted that the numbers are a little lower than the money CSS would have originally obtained from IEEE. E. Chong asked for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Conference Activities Motions

M. Fujita, Vice President for Conference Activities, gave an overview of five different motions. He indicated that the general chairs of the respective conferences would present each motion in detail. The motions were given as follows.

1. *Motion to approve the venue and the dates of the MSC 2014.*
2. *Motion to approve the MSC 2014 preliminary budget.*
3. *Motion to approve the CDC 2014 preliminary budget.*
4. *Motion to approve the venue and the dates of the CDC 2015.*
5. *Motion to approve the CDC 2015 preliminary budget.*

For the first motion, D. Sauter, general chair of the MSC 2014, presented the details of the venue of Nice/Antibes-Juan Les Pins Congress Center on October 8 (Wed.) to 10 (Fri.), 2014. M. Fujita asked if there were any questions. Since there were no questions, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

For the second motion, M. Fujita presented the budget, indicating an approximate advanced member registration fee of €440, which is approximately \$580 USD. The registration fee was based on approximately 320 registrations. He opened the floor for questions. There was no discussion, and he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

For the third motion, Program Chair, A. Teel, presented the details of the dates and venue of the 2014 CDC for December 15-17 in the J. W. Marriott in Los Angeles. He also presented the preliminary budget of an advanced member registration of \$480 USD, based on 1150 attendees. Y. Yamamoto asked when it was decided that the conference

would only be held for three days. M. Fujita indicated that it had always been proposed as a three-day conference. W. Dixon asked if there was room or plans for interactive sessions. A. Teel answered that there is room but they have not discussed this option. There was no discussion regarding the budget. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

The next motion was to approve the 2015 CDC dates and venue. General Chair, Y. Ohta, presented an overview of the conference to be held in the Osaka International Convention Center, Osaka, Japan on December 15 (Tues.) to 18 (Fri.), 2015 (4 days) with workshops preceding the conference. M. Vidyasagar asked why the conference was not going to be held during the prior week. Y. Ohta answered that the venue was not available. A. Teel noted that the Los Angeles venue is the 15-17. M. Vidyasagar said we can wait to see how the attendance is affected by the dates. L. Pao indicated that there are positive and negative arguments for both the second and third week. The motion passed with one abstention. M. Fujita presented the budget summary. The budget summary included an advanced member registration rate of 58,000 yen (approx. \$700 USD) based on 1120 registrations. I. Paschalidis asked if the registration rate was developed to hedge against currency fluctuations. Y. Ohta indicated that since the budget was developed in Japanese yen that they did not have to develop the registration fee to hedge against currency fluctuations. He indicated that the expense was due to meeting rooms, banquets, etc. After no further discussion, the budget motion passed unanimously.

Prior to a 3:00 pm break, C. Cassandras acknowledged the contributions of the departing BoG members and presented these members with certificates. He also informed the BoG that gifts are available to them. C. Casandras also presented M. Egerstedt a plaque for completing his service as the Editor of Electronic Publications.

Publication Activities Motions

F. Doyle, Vice President for Publication Activities, presented a motion on the *IEEE Transactions on Network Science and Engineering (TNSE)* sponsored by the Computer Society as follows.

CSS will serve as a Technical Co-Sponsor of the new journal Transactions on Network Science and Engineering, sponsored by the Computer Society.

He indicated that there was some overlap with the proposed *IEEE Transactions on Control of Networked Systems (TCNS)*. He indicated that by accepting to be a technical co-sponsor, we can play an oversight role where this overlap can be minimized. Furthermore, TNSE has scope that is relevant to CSS members, and may not be covered by TCNS. The main cost was described as volunteer time serving on the Board for TNSE. He also indicated that another advantage of this role is creating a cooperative partnership with the Computer Society, which will facilitate our efforts with TCNS. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Membership Activities Motions

S. Ge, Vice President for Membership Activities, presented the following motion.

Approval of the maximum IEEE CSS contribution to distinguished lecture program to be increased

- *from \$1000 to \$2000 within the same continent, and*
- *from \$2000 to \$4000 across different continents*

starting from 2013.

He indicated that the Distinguished Lecturer funds have not been increased in eight years. I. Petersen indicated that the lack of funds has recently become an issue as costs have increased. L. Pao asked if this was still the guideline that IEEE pays a portion of the costs and if the motion was for the maximum. S. Ge responded that this was the case. After no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

S. Ge presented the following second motion.

Approval of the budget of the Student Travel Support Program for ACC be increased from 5k to 10k per annum from year 2013 onward.

He asked if there were any discussion items, and called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Motions

C. Cassandras presented the following motion.

Proposed Letter to IEEE Board of Directors regarding Citation and Impact Factor Manipulation

“The IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS) urges the IEEE leadership to establish an IEEE-wide policy on dealing with citation manipulation applicable to all IEEE publications. The CSS supports the creation of a code of ethics which will provide guidelines for all editors and reviewers and will specifically address the practice (or perception of such practice) of editors either requiring or encouraging authors to include in their submissions additional references to papers published in the journal where they are submitting.

The IEEE Control Systems Society endorses the petition (attached) recently submitted to the IEEE Board of Directors by Profs. M. C. Smith and E. C. Kerrigan on this same matter.”

He indicated that the Information Society was also considering a similar motion, and then opened the floor for discussion. M. Vidyasagar indicated that this is very timely and we should do this. R. Middleton said he first became aware of this issue because the *IEEE Transactions on Industrial Electronics* has the highest impact factor in the field. C. Canudas de Wit indicated that he received a letter from an Editor-in-Chief where he was asked to add 50% of the references from the same journal. A. Astolfi indicated that the ISI has ranked the journals that abuse self-citations and is considering taking action against some of the top ranked journals. I. Petersen indicated that the reason that this is happening is an overreliance on the impact factor. M. Vidyasagar commented that IEEE is not free from guilt because they are financially motivated. He also commented that we

should follow up on the letter and not let it be a shot in the dark. His suggestion is that we appoint a person to meet with IEEE to make sure that there is impact with regards on this motion. C. Cassandras said if we approve the motion, he will go to the Information Society and then potentially other societies to get more support and influence. T. Parisini commented that this item should be an agenda item for the editors meeting so that CSS makes this a priority. He recalled that IEEE asked what were the CSS's actions to increase our impact factor at the five year review; IEEE is potentially not motivated to address the issue. C. Cassandras commented that passing this motion is the first step. P. Antsaklis indicated that every five years they are asked to discuss how we can improve the IF. He indicated that we should use other factors such as eigenfactors. C. Cassandras said IEEE has made a study that concluded that the eigenfactor is a better indicator of impact. P. Antsaklis provided his support for the motion. C. Cassandras said that since money is involved, then it may be a difficult fight with IEEE. M. Vidyasagar indicated that Stanford and Cambridge are not taking the impact factor of a journal as factors in the tenure and promotion process. C. Cassandras asked if anyone would like to speak against the motion. There was no further discussion, and he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously, with the exception of one abstention (A. Teel).

Activity Reports

Report of the President

C. Cassandras started his report to BoG by indicating that the nominating committee process has been changed. He also indicated these changes have been updated in the CSS Bylaws and Constitution. He stated that potentially the biggest news for the society is phase two approval for our first new journal in twenty years. C. Cassandras generally thanked members of the BoG for their help in this effort, and particularly thanked F. Doyle for his efforts. He indicated that the *Impact of Control Technology Report* has been endorsed for a second edition. He commented that our number of IEEE Fellows diminished this year. CSS nominated forty candidates and only eight were elected, compared to last year when there were fourteen members elevated to Fellow. One potential reason is that CSS is grading our candidates rather harshly. As a comparison, CSS is not fairing as well compared to other societies. He indicated that he just wanted to make the BoG aware of this issue and that CSS may continue to have reduced candidates elevated to Fellow if our internal grading process remains as harsh.

P. Antsaklis presented an update on the changes to Wikipedia. He said that M. Egerstedt and he have been working on this issue. They have been reviewing keyword searches on Wikipedia. The trend is that if someone writes on an area that nobody cares about then the Wikipedia article does not get updated. If the Wikipedia article is on a topic of interest then people will refine the topic. He indicated that "hybrid" and "networked" keywords are underrepresented. He presented an overview of some pages and the status of the pages. He indicated that the current plan is to ask the TC chairs to take an active role in editing existing entries. He asked for suggestions and comments. M. Egerstedt indicated that it makes sense for us as a community of clear stakeholders, and that we should provide the best light on our community.

Report of the President Elect

Y. Yamamoto discussed the recent letter on guidelines on CDC presentations. He explained the motivation of the letter.

Report of the Vice President for Financial Activities

E. Chong presented slides that highlighted the budget for 2012. He explained the difference between the budgeted expenses and the expense variance. CSS is in the positive by \$328k , and this number will come down somewhat by the end of the year.

The expense report was provided. He showed the projections of CSS net worth as approximately \$7M. He indicated that to tap into money outside of our budget is a laborious and bureaucratic task. There were no discussions.

Report of the Vice President for Publication Activities

F. Doyle gave an update on the TCNS proposal. He indicated that there was a favorable readership survey and CSS had a unanimous approval on the Phase 2 proposal. This is a new e-journal. He explained that E. Chong worked with IEEE on a budget with a goal to get to a neutral budget in two years. There are three confirmed technical co-sponsors: IEEE Circuits and Systems Society, IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, and the IEEE Computer Society. He indicated that CSS also invited the IEEE Communications Society but they have not agreed to be a co-sponsor. He indicated that the current action items include pursuing an Editor-in-Chief and an editorial board by February 2013. CSS also needs to execute Memorandums of Understanding by February 2013.

F. Doyle also indicated that a new initiative is being developed in coordination with M. Vidyasagar through the IEEE Life Sciences Initiative, since one of the activities in that initiative is a new journal. There will likely be motions and information items in further meetings related to this initiative. He asked for a show of hands for support to develop a collaborative proposal and there was a strong show of support among the general audience.

F. Doyle indicated that IEEE has a need for someone to promote a control book series from CSS. He indicated that if anyone has interest then he would like to bring the initiative to T. Samad.

F. Doyle provided updates related to the discussion on the Ethics in Publishing Committee described during the June 2012 BoG meeting. He gave a review of the committee, and pointed out that there have been only one or two minor cases to review since June, and the next review cycle will be for the MSC. To make ethical publishing behaviors clearer for authors, there are author guidelines for authors and conference chairs. He showed links to the CSS website that advertises the guidelines webpage (i.e., <http://www.ieeecss.org/publications/css-policy-overlapping-conferencejournal->

submissions and <http://www.ieeecss.org/publications/plagiarism>). E. Valcher indicated that she had not seen the page. Conferences and journals should have a cross link. F. Doyle indicated that there is a special session during the CDC that will include 6 presentations covering ethics in publishing.

F. Doyle indicated that IEEE Transactions have an open-access hybrid now available. The fee is approximately \$1700 for open access.

C. Cassandras commented that the ethics issue really related to self-plagiarism is due to an overlap between conference and journal papers. He indicated that it is a difficult problem to deal with because of the grey area and that it has not been smooth sailing. M. Vidyasagar said that he recalls when there were no questions that were raised when an author simultaneously submitted to a journal and a conference. He wonders what would happen today if he did this. He said there is something to say for using the CDC as a dress rehearsal, but we should examine the role of the CDC and conference publications. If we can make this argument, then that helps to clarify the ethics of dual submission. F. Doyle suggested that IEEE recognizes the acceptable practice of an evolutionary process of transforming a conference paper into a journal paper.

Report of the Vice President, Membership Activities

S. Ge presented the student workshop program. CSS gave a \$6k grant to the CDC 2012 for student workshops, and only charged a \$5 USD registration fee for students attending the CDC 2012. He indicated that there were 88 student registrations, with 66 valid registrations due to the cancellation of some workshop. Subsequent to the meeting, it was determined that there were 109 student member workshop registrations. For the MSC 2012, a model was used where a student had to be student member of IEEE and CSS to qualify for a free student workshop. In the MSC model, students register and pay and then get a refund. He indicated that IEEE was reluctant to endorse the free student membership and that they provided some guidance on how to reach out to students. He indicated that even though BoG approved the free student membership that we have decided not to push the issue with IEEE at the present time, and postpone its implementation or other alternatives to a later stage. He presented an overview of membership trends. He indicated that our student membership and society membership are both increasing due our outreach activities.

Report of the Director of Operations

C. Cassandras asked if there was any new business. W. Dixon indicated that the next meeting would be June 16, 2013. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.