

**Minutes of the Control Systems Society Board of Governors Meeting
December 11, 2005
Seville, Spain**

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Mark Spong called the meeting of the Control Systems Society (CSS) Board of Governors (BoG) to order at 1:05 P.M. on December 11, 2005 then asked the attendees to introduce themselves. The following members of the BoG were in attendance: C. Abdallah, E. Abed, F. Allgöwer, J. Baillieul, D. Bernstein, J. Douglas Birdwell, L. Bushnell, C. Cassandras, D. Castanon, T. Djaferis, F. Doyle, F. Fahroo, J. Farrell, F. Lamnabhi-Lagarigue, W. Lin, R. Middleton, P. Misra, L. Pao, A. Perdon, T. Samad, M. Spong, D. Tilbury, M. E. Valcher, P. Van den Hof and Y. Yamamoto. Additionally, the following visitors attended the meeting: T. Parisini, R. Tempo, S. Ge, K. Kozlowski, E. Chong, E. Camacho and P. Antsaklis.

Modifications/additions to the agenda were noted, and the agenda was approved by unanimous consent. Next, the minutes of the BoG meeting of June 7, 2005 were approved by unanimous consent.

Action Items

Joining the IEEE Systems Council

Spong introduced the idea that the CSS join the newly formed IEEE Systems Council, which will be sponsoring an IEEE systems journal and a conference. Spong felt that CSS has the opportunity to play a leading role in this council and that there were no downsides to joining. Spong has already talked to the Council about CSS's new MSC conference and they were interested in participating. Baillieul said the cost would be \$5k/year to join and travel expenses for our liaison. At this point, the Council is not planning to become an IEEE Society. The BoG approved the membership.

Nominations

Spong announced that we would be following Robert's Rules of Order and noted that all motions out of the Executive Committee will not need seconds. Using a color-coded roster for 2006 appointments, Baillieul proceeded to present the new appointments. The BoG unanimously approved all of the appointments for 2006 with little discussion. In addition to the continuing chairs, the appointments approved for 2006 are as follows:

- Nominating Committee: Mark Spong, Chair, John Baillieul, J. Douglas Birdwell, Theodore Djaferis, Roberto Tempo
- Chair, Standing Committee on Chapter Activities: Alessandro Giua
- Chair, Standing Committee on Public Information: Hua Wang
- Long Range Planning Committee: Theodore Djaferis, Chair, Panos Antsaklis, S. Sam Ge, Steve Yurkovich

- *Transactions on Automatic Control*: Jessy Grizzle as AEAL, Maria Domenica Di Benedetto as AEAL, Mike Polis as Book Review Editor
- *Transactions on Control Systems Technology* AEs: Sem Borst, Naira Hovakimyan, Robert Landers, Marco Lovera, Peter Meckl, Chunming Wang
- *Control Systems Magazine*: Tyrone Vincent for Corresponding Editor for North and South America, Alexander Leonessa for Associate Editor for Education, Darren Cofer for Associate Editor
- Chair of the Technical Committee on Networks and Communication Systems: Ioannis Ch. Paschalidis
- Liaisons: Yoshito Ohta as the CSS-SICE Liaison, N. Harris McClamroch as the IEEE Systems Council Representative, E. Camacho as the EUCA Representative

Financial Activities Motions

Vice-President Jay Farrell presented the budget parameters for 2007, which would be unchanged from the 2006 rates. The BoG approved the rates.

Publication Activities Motions

There were two motions from the Publication Activities Board presented by Vice-President, Tariq Samad. The first had to do with term limits for editorial boards. CSS follows an annual appointment process for all volunteers, including continuing publication positions. However, we have not set any limits for how long editors-in-chief, editors, associate editors, and associate-editors-at-large can continue in their positions. Term limits will help the Society in succession planning, they will remove some of the uncertainty associated with the year-to-year appointment process, and they should help increase our volunteer pool. IEEE is encouraging all societies to adopt term limits for all publication appointments; most societies have already done so. The BoG passed the motion to establish term limits for CSS editorial boards as follows (all terms indicated are maximums and subject to CSS's normal annual appointment process): (1) Editors and Editors-in-Chief: initial term limit of 5 years with possible extension to a maximum of 3 additional years, (2) Associate Editors (AEs) and Associate-Editors-at-Large (AEALs): initial term limit of 3 years with possible extension to a maximum of 3 additional years, (3) Current Editors and Editors-in-Chief: term limits set through 2011, (4) Current AEs and AEALs: term limits for AEs/AEALs initially appointed between 2003 and 2005 set to 6 years; term limits for AEs/AEALs initially appointed before 2003 are set through 2008.

The second motion attracted more discussion within BoG. This motion was to authorize the Executive Committee to explore the establishment of a new, online CSS journal. Samad suggested that we do this because it would broaden the horizons and impact of our field, take advantage of new

publishing technologies and be an archival outlet for selected Multiconference on Systems and Control (MSC) papers. The journal would be online only with types of content being short papers, longer survey papers and multimedia. It would provide accessible presentations and links/references for mathematical details. The issues to discuss include overlap with our current publications, overlap with other IEEE Societies, Systems Council/Journal, and cultural norms in our community. Samad opened the floor to discussion. Cassandras asked if the proposed 3-month target for reviews was feasible. Samad said that Science and Nature journals have 10-day turn-around on reviews. Doyle added that for these two journals, the Editor rejects $\frac{3}{4}$ without reviews. Djaferis asked if there were any successful models from other societies, but Samad was unaware of any. Baillieul said this was an enormous on-going effort in IEEE. He liked the fact that this would let CSS do an experiment with an emphasis on rapid turn-around and was excited to see if CSS could do better than some other units of IEEE. He added that new quality metrics include the number of downloads from the IEEE Xplore. Our *Transactions on Automatic Control* is always in the top 10. Doyle added that this journal needs to be of high quality and have little backlog. Middleton said that CSS membership is decreasing but our journals are receiving more submissions. Cassandras confirmed this, saying that submissions to TAC have doubled over the last year. The backlog, however, is short and the number of accepted papers is the same. CSS conferences are doing well, too. Samad said he was interested in broadening the content for this journal. All but one BoG member approved the motion.

Member Activities Motions

Vice-President, Richard Middleton, presented three motions from the Member Activities Board. The first motion was that the CSS provide \$15,000/yr, starting from 2006, to support student travel, distributed as follows: Conference on Decision & Control \$10,000/yr and Conference on Control Applications (2006 only), and thereafter Multiconference on Systems & Control \$5,000/yr. The reimbursement amount will depend on the number of applicants, but is not to exceed \$1,000 for any student. To be eligible, an applicant must be a registered, presenting author for at least one paper at the conference; be a student member of IEEE CSS at the time of both application and the conference; and not receive other travel support from CSS, NSF or similar travel programs for the conference. A student may not receive more than two CSS-sponsored travel awards under this program. Middleton also discussed the tasks and the composition of the selection committee. The BoG approved this motion.

A second motion, similar to the above motion for the American Control Conference, was also approved by the BoG. This motion was to support students at \$5000/yr starting in 2006.

The third motion presented by Middleton was to allocate up to \$6,000 in 2006 for the purchase of Digital Audio Visual recording equipment, for the purpose of conducting trials of recording and distributing to CSS membership plenary and/or other significant lectures from some of our main conferences.

Castanon said that the hard part would be capturing high-quality audio. Middleton said that Danny Abramovitch would be volunteering to do this. Bernstein said that this is a great idea, especially for plenary talks where most do not produce papers in the conference proceedings. Cassandras asked what this cost was compared to hiring a professional. Djaferis estimated about \$20k per conference, but added that we should not discourage our volunteers from doing this. Middleton said that professional videographers charge about \$5k/hr. Misra said that the stage is set for a poor quality video with the dark room and white screen. He suggested that we record the talks in a studio setting. Baillieul was in favor of spending the money as an experiment. Bernstein said that for a meteorological society meeting he went to, you had to pay \$60 to have your presentation slides and an audio recording of your talk posted on-line. Middleton said that we had a different goal. We only want to record the plenaries and major talks at first. Tilbury said that Abramovitch did this for the ACC in Anchorage and the quality was ok. It is essential to have a trained person capturing the video. Cassandras said that having every talk produced this way is not good, especially with no-shows. The BoG voted to approve this motion.

Conference Activities Motions

Vice-President, Theodore Djaferis, presented five motions from the Conference Activities Board. The BoG approved the first motion, to appoint Thomas Parisini as the Program Chair for the 2008 CDC, without discussion.

Chaouki Abdallah, General Chair for the 2008 CDC, then presented the motion to choose the venue for the 2008 CDC. He presented the options of Cancun, Mexico, San Antonio, Texas and Tucson, Arizona. He strongly proposed the venue to be in Cancun. The hotel has 19 rooms that we can use for technical sessions. We can also use the convention center across the street for committee meeting rooms. There was much discussion among the BoG. Tucson was ruled out because it was too isolated. San Antonio only had the 3rd week of December open. Djaferis was concerned about having a back-up plan due to potential hurricane damage. Abdallah said he would explore alternate plans. More detailed plans would be brought back to the Executive Committee. The BoG approved this motion with only two negative votes.

The next motion was to approve that the 2009 CDC will be held in China with Lei Guo as General Chair and John Baillieul as General Co-Chair. Baillieul presented slides for this motion. Baillieul stated that the highest growth in IEEE membership is in Region 10. There were many issues about finances for such a conference. Most of the finances would be done through banks in the USA. A specific location within China was not up for approval. Baillieul mentioned Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Tilbury asked about Hong Kong. Lin said he was from Shanghai and it is very cold in December, the weather is better in Beijing, but Hong Kong would be the best. Djaferis said that our hope was to have a proposal from a unified China, so Hong Kong will not be considered. Baillieul said that Lei Guo has already been approached and it may be too complex to move the venue to Hong Kong. Parisini said that this would be the first CDC in

China. Ge added that if Lei Guo is to be the General Chair, it would be difficult for him to travel to Hong Kong. He added that the Olympics will be in China in 2008 and many problems will be resolved. Misra stated that this was the first discussion at BoG on holding a CDC in China. It would have been better if the BoG was approached two meetings before this. Birdwell said that when we held the CDC in Kobe, Japan, there were long discussions at the BoG meetings and an MOU was created. Djaferis said the ExCom has been discussing this over a year. Misra called the question to end discussion and a vote was taken. The motion passed with two negative votes and three abstentions.

The last motions were to approve Chun Yi Su as the CCA Program Chair, Jag Sarangapani as the ISIC Program Chair and the conference budget for the MSC 2007. The BoG approved these motions.

Activity Reports

Report of the President

Spong said he enjoyed his year as the President of CSS and presented his President's report. He gave some highlights of our accomplishments as a team: the student travel support program and the new Ruberti Prize.

Report of the Vice President, Financial Activities

Farrell presented his report, discussing IP revenue distribution, our 2005 financial status, the 2006 final budget numbers and the 2007 budget process data requirements. There was a change in the IP dividends formula.

Report of the Vice President, Publication Activities

Samad presented his report, highlighting items from the two journals and CSM. The CSM will have a new look starting in February 2006. Doyle stated that submissions were up, rejection rates were up and the use of Manuscript Central is going well. Samad also mentioned that the CSS web site will be redesigned early next year. He asked the BoG for feedback on this.

Report of the Vice President, Member Activities

Valcher, VP-elect for Member Activities, presented the highlights of the MAB report. There are plans to have an initiative for evaluating the effectiveness of the travel support program by conducting a survey among former recipients. In addition, there are plans to involve the Chair of the Technical Committee on Control Education in preparing a Control Education web page accessible to IEEE CSS members only. Valcher also mentioned that there has been an increase in student membership. Castanon asked about the new conference package that is available to members. Valcher said it was advertised on the MAB web site. Tilbury suggested advertising in the E-letter.

Report of the Vice President, Technical Activities

Yamamoto announced that the new guidelines for Technical Committees and Chairs is posted on the CSS web site.

Report of the Vice President, Conference Activities

Djaferis thanked everyone for making this year's conferences a success, naming Polycarpou, Patel, Camacho, Tempo, Varga, Misra, Ge and Abdallah. Special thanks were given to Misra for indispensable service to the society and to Parisini for assisting with the conference editorial tasks and for

Report of the Secretary-Administrator

Bushnell noted that the next BoG meeting would be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2005, at 1:00 P.M. in Minneapolis, MN at the 2006 ACC.

Adjournment

Spong thanked the members of the Board of Governors and visitors for attending the meeting. Certificates were given out to all BoG members who were finishing their term. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

L. G. Bushnell, IEEE CSS Secretary-Administrator, January 29, 2006