

**Minutes of the Control Systems Society
Board of Governors Meeting on June 27, 2000
Hyatt Regency, Chicago, IL, USA**

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Başar called the meeting of the Control System Society's (CSS) Board of Governors (BoG) at 1:00 p.m. The following members of the BoG of the CSS attended the meeting: T. Başar, J. Baillieul, L. Bushnell, C. Cassandras, R. DeCarlo, M. Gevers, M. Grimbale, B. Heck, K. Loparo, R. Middleton, P. Misra, Ü. Özgüner, B. Pasik-Duncan, K. Passino, M. Polis, A. Rantzer, W.J. Rugh, T. Samad, C. Schrader, L. Shaw, M. Shor, R. Tempo, and S. Yurkovich. The following members of the BoG were not present at the meeting: J. Birdwell, M. Bodson, F. Lewis and H. Khalil. Additionally, the following visitors attended the meeting: K.-E. Årzen, R. Bitmead, P. Colinari, L. Glielmo, A. Haddad, G. Krolin, H. McClamroch, E. Misawa, T. Parisini, W. Perkins, E. Valcher, G. Yen and J. Zhu (Page: 1).

Modifications/additions to agenda items were noted and the modified agenda was approved by unanimous consent (Page 3). Further, Başar noted that to accommodate Gevers' (Vice President, Membership Activities) flight schedule, items pertaining to the Membership Activities Board could be moved ahead of those on the approved agenda. Next, the minutes of the BoG meeting of Dec. 6, 1999 held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Phoenix, AZ, USA, distributed prior to the meeting, were approved by unanimous consent (Page: 7). Başar welcomed the attendees and reminded them that only the members of the BoG were eligible to vote and/or make a motion. Upon his request, attendees introduced themselves.

Action Items

Election of Officers for 2001 (Page: 19)

Başar invited Yurkovich (Chair, Nominating Committee) to present his report to the BoG and present the slate of society officers for 2001. Yurkovich informed the BoG that the members of the committee for 2000 were, T. Başar, W.J. Rugh, P. Antsaklis and D. Atherton. The committee's responsibility included the nomination of candidates for the BoG election as well as nomination of candidates for the executive committee. The candidates for the BoG election, underway at the time of the BoG meeting were, T. Djaferis, S. Hara, R. Middleton, P. Misra, T. Parisini, K. Rudie, R. Tempo, V. Wertz and J. Zhu, and the outcome of the election was expected by late July [the following were elected to the BoG to serve from 2001-2003: T. Djaferis, S. Hara, R. Middleton, K. Rudie, R. Tempo and J. Zhu]. Next, he conducted the election

for society officers for 2001. For each officer's election, the nominee was requested to leave the room, a motion was made for the candidate proposed by the nominating committee and nominations from the floor were solicited. There were no nominations from the floor for any of the officer positions. The following candidates nominated by the nominating committee were elected unanimously as officers for the year 2001: President-Elect – L. Shaw, Vice-President for Conference Activities – C. Schrader, Vice-President for Financial Activities – R. DeCarlo, Vice-President for Membership Activities – M. Gevers, Vice-President for Publication Activities – M. Spong, and Vice-President for Technical Activities – J. Baillieul.

Subsequently, W. Rugh, the President-Elect proposed that L. Bushnell be approved as the Secretary Administrator for 2001. He noted that traditionally, the Secretary Administrator's appointment is done during the December BoG meeting; however, Bushnell will be taking over from the current Secretary Administrator; hence it would be useful to make an early appointment to facilitate the transition. The BoG approved the appointment with unanimous consent.

Increased Amount for the Control Systems Field Award

Başar informed the BoG that the IEEE was in the process of restructuring all field awards. One of the changes proposed was to make all field awards have the same monetary reward associated with all field awards and the suggested amount was \$10,000. The other change was that more than one society could sponsor a field award and partially underwrite the associated monetary reward. The latter change was still being implemented. With the above background, L. Shaw (Vice-President for Financial Activities) moved that the monetary reward associated with the IEEE Control Systems field award be increased from the present amount of \$5,000 to \$10,000. Polis inquired about the rationale for the \$10,000 figure, specifically, how did IEEE arrive at \$10,000.

In response to the question, Başar informed the BoG that the IEEE compared its field awards with comparable awards from other organizations and proposed the \$10,000 amount for IEEE field awards in order to make them equally prestigious.

The motion to increase the monetary reward associated with the Control Systems Field Award was approved with unanimous consent.

Conference CD-ROMs for Developing Countries.
(Page: 28)

Gevers informed the BoG that in 1998 and 1999, a number of CD-ROMs of the Proceedings of the American Control Conference (ACC) and the Conference on Decision and Control (CDC) were distributed to CSS Chapters and Active Control Groups under the initiative of the former Vice-President for Membership Activities, B. Pasik-Duncan. Based on the feedback from the Chapters and Control Groups, the membership Activities Board recommended setting up a permanent procedure so that the production of additional CD ROMs and their distribution would be guaranteed. Next, Gevers proposed that for every CDC and Conference on Control Applications (CCA), the CSS purchase 150 additional CD ROMs from the Conference at marginal cost, and that the responsibility for their distribution be delegated to the International Affairs Committee. In response to questions from members of the BoG, Gevers and Pasik-Duncan noted that there are currently 42 Control Groups in Africa, South America, Eastern Europe and Asia who would benefit from the initiative. These groups also happen to belong to countries that qualify for low income IEEE membership. Yurkovich suggested that an accompanying letter from the Vice President for Membership Activities should clearly state that the CD ROM should not be placed on the web. DeCarlo queried about the mechanism that would enable Chapter or Group Members to share the CD ROM and Özgüner inquired whether sharing of the CD ROM will violate the IEEE copyright on the papers. The BoG was informed that Chapter Chairs publicize within their chapter the availability of these CD ROMs so that members can request a copy of selected papers. Additionally, it was clarified that the IEEE had been consulted regarding copyright issues and they assured the CSS that providing copies of selected papers to Chapter members is akin to members making copies of selected papers from hardcopy journal or proceedings from the library and therefore did not constitute copyright infringement. The members of the BOG were supportive of the initiative and approved with unanimous consent a motion to distribute 150 CD-ROMS of the Proceedings of CDC and CCA to local chapters and active control groups in developing countries. These CD-ROM will be purchased by CSS at marginal cost.

Streamlining Distinguished Lecturer Program (Page: 29)

Gevers expressed his concern over the effectiveness of the CSS Distinguished Lecturer Program (DLP) and suggested that there be closer monitoring of the program. He also expressed the view that, given the "award" component of the function of Distinguished Lecturer, the election of these lecturers should be done with great care

and scrutiny. He moved to form a subcommittee within the Membership Activities Board (MAB), which would coordinate the DLP and assist the Vice President for Membership Activities in selection and evaluation of lecturers by accumulating data on the number of visits, requested topics, etc. He also moved that the final approval of the list of candidates for Distinguished Lecturer be made by the Executive Committee. The motion was passed with unanimous consent.

Removal of the Standing Committee on Human Rights
(Page: 30)

Gevers summarized the mandate of the Standing Committee on Human Rights as being a watchdog of the CSS who brings to attention any situation where the academic freedom of control scientists and engineers was being violated. He noted that in recent years due to the end of the Cold War and liberalization of press in countries where media is controlled by the government, the committee had become dormant. Further, he noted that it is virtually impossible, for a non-political organization, which aims at becoming a worldwide organization, to take political stances. He recommended that instead of having a Human Rights Committee, the chairperson of the Standing Committee on International Affairs be given the responsibility of being alert to specific violations of human rights of which our members might be victims. Based on this background he moved that the Standing Committee on Human Rights be abolished. Several members of the BoG, while sympathetic to the motivation behind the motion, expressed their reluctance to its abolishment. Heck inquired whether the IEEE had a standing policy on the issue of human rights violation and whether the CSS could in turn adopt the same. The BoG was informed that an earlier inquiry with IEEE on this issue had led to the conclusion that indeed the IEEE does not have a formal policy on the subject. Grimble suggested that for the sake of awareness, the International Affairs committee through the Vice President for Membership Activities could bring such issues and situations to the BoG's attention. The motion to abolish the Standing Committee on Human Rights was adopted with a majority vote, with two members voting against the motion and two abstentions.

Support Package for Attending CDC and CCA (Page: 31)

Gevers moved to approve a trial program of financial assistance to help offset the registration and accommodation costs for a limited number of CDC and CCA attendees from developing countries. He proposed an initial request of \$25,000 for 2001 and \$50,000 for 2002, based on the success of the program. He noted that the program will be monitored by the Standing Committee on International Affairs, and will be evaluated

by the BoG in 2002 to determine whether it should be continued. Gevers highlighted key benefits to the CSS members from developing countries: financial incentive for participation in IEEE/CSS activities, dissemination of information; support for local activities and broader participation of international members in CSS activities at large and observed that this would fit in very well with recent initiatives taken to help the CSS become the premier global scientific organization for control engineers. He further clarified that the proposal is to pay attendees' registration fee, as well as hotel costs for the duration of the conference to applicants that are IEEE members and reside in one of the countries listed in the IEEE's list of countries that meet the minimum income criterion, have a paper accepted at the conference, are presenters and are not residents of the organizing country. Further, only one travel grant will be allocated to authors of a paper, or to one person in the same year. He gave the BoG an estimate of \$850 per person to implement the program.

Several members of the BoG raised concerns regarding the logistics of implementing such a program, tax related issues, effectiveness of the program and whether the amount of \$850 is adequate. Gevers assured the BoG that the International Affairs Committee had given considerable thought to the matter and expressed his confidence that the program's implementation will not pose a major challenge. He agreed that perhaps \$850 is somewhat less than actual expenses; however, he suggested that the amount per person could be adjusted based on the experience gained from actual implementation. Gevers also offered some preliminary details regarding the implementation, e.g., a subcommittee from within the MAB will assist in implementation of the program and the members of the subcommittee will not belong to any of the low-income category countries towards which the program is directed. On the subject of tax, Shaw noted that due to the fact that the attendees never actually receive the money, tax issues do not surface. The CSS will directly compensate the conference, which in turn will facilitate rooms at the conference hotel. Pasik-Duncan called the question and the motion to approve the trial program for travel assistance was passed with a majority vote.

Editorial Appointments for Transactions on Automatic Control for 2001 (Page: 21)

Rugh reminded the BoG that to facilitate the transition of editorial responsibilities, the BoG had approved that editorial appointments could be made during the summer BoG meeting instead of the winter meeting, as was done traditionally. He proposed that J. Baillieul and I. Lasieka be appointed as incoming Associate Editors at Large (AEAL) to replace P. Couch and E. Sontag. Additionally,

the following individuals be appointed as new Associate Editors (AE): P. Apkarian, V. Balakrishnan, F. Callier, A. Datta, P. Iglesias, F. LeGland, Z. Lin, D. Miller, M. Reyhanoglu, J. Scherpen and H. Wang. He noted that brief biographies of nominated incoming AEALs and AEs was circulated to the BoG with attachments to the agenda. Further, he noted that these recommendations were based on inputs from the current editorial board and that they had agreed to serve as AEALs and AEs, if approved by the BoG. He recommended that the entire slate be approved at once to expedite matters. However, if the BoG had any concerns about specific individuals, their cases can be considered individually. The BoG, with unanimous consent, approved the entire slate of nominees to the Editorial Board of the Transactions on Automatic Control (TAC).

Editorial Appointments for Transactions on Control Systems Technology for 2001 (Page: 21)

Next, Rugh moved that S. Agrawal, D. Schoenwald, D. Bayard, A. Ferrara, J. Buffington, J. Tierno, A. Vemuri, and A. Ray be approved as incoming AEs for the Transactions on Control Systems Technology (TCST) for 2001 and noted that their biographies were distributed to the BoG with the attachments to the agenda sent prior to the meeting. He also reminded the BoG that the position Co-Editor of TCST, currently filled by S. Engell, will be eliminated starting July 1, 2000 as approved by the BoG during 1999. The slate of the nominated AEs for TCST was approved with unanimous consent.

Approval of Preliminary Budget Parameters for 2001 (Page: 39)

Shaw summarized major expense items for 2001. These included \$150K for digital archiving of all CSS journals [already approved by the BoG], \$25K travel support for CSS conference attendees from financially challenged countries [approved earlier in the meeting by the BoG], \$397K potential administrative charge by the IEEE levied to all societies and based on the society's current surplus, \$20K increase in the operating cost of the Conference Editorial Board to change the current part-time position of database programmer to a full-time position; and the usual indexed operating costs for various CSS offices, as noted in the report of the Vice President for Financial Activities in attachments to the agenda. He also mentioned that the BoG in its December 1999 meeting had already approved various page budgets for 2001 associated with the three CSS journals. He proposed that on the income side, in view of the current state of CSS surplus, the membership and subscription dues for members remain unchanged from the present values of \$15 for membership (including the subscription to the Control Systems Magazine), \$12 for the TAC and \$8 for

the TCST. He suggested an increase in the nonmember subscription rate that would be brought up during the December BoG meeting. With the above background Shaw moved that the budget parameters for 2001 be approved. Başar opened the floor for discussion on the proposed 2001 budget.

Shor expressed her concern on the suggested increase in nonmember subscription rates, which affects libraries, noting that library budgets were not increasing at par with the increased rates for journals. Rugh pointed out that the proposed increase in the TCST nonmember subscription rate by about 10% was justifiable in view of the fact that despite the increase, CSS journals rates were at 70% of the market value determined by the IEEE.

Several members of the BoG suggested that in view of the CSS being "penalized" for having a large surplus in the form of higher administrative charges by the IEEE, perhaps there should be additional initiatives undertaken to enhance membership benefits. While all present agreed with the sentiment, no concrete initiatives were proposed. Başar cautioned the BoG that while the CSS may propose initiatives, if the underlying expenses were large (over \$50K), initiatives may be turned down by the IEEE Technical Activities Board, which ultimately controls all society surpluses.

Budget for CDC 2002 (Page: 87)

Başar invited C. Schrader, Vice President for Conference Activities, to present motions pertaining to future CSS conferences. Schrader moved that the budget for Conference on Decision and Control (CDC), 2002, circulated to the BoG be approved and noted that all budget parameters were in compliance with IEEE guidelines. She asked Ü. Özgüner (General Chair, CDC 2002) to respond to questions from the BoG. In response to a question from Heck regarding audio-visual facilities in the meeting rooms, Özgüner assured the BoG that the conference facilities at the Rio Suite Hotel, the site of the conference, were state-of-the-art. Each meeting room was equipped to handle all the standard means of presentation, including overhead projector, computer LCD projector, internet based presentations, etc. There was no further discussion about the budget or other pertinent issues, and the budget was passed with unanimous consent.

General Chair for 2002 CACSD

The Technical Committee on Computer Aided Control Systems Design (CACSD) proposed the name of Dr. J. Gray for consideration as the General Chair for the 2002 CACSD Symposium to be held in conjunction with the 2000 Conference on Control Applications in Glasgow,

Scotland. Schrader moved that Gray be approved as the General Chair for 2000 CACSD. Several members of the BoG expressed their concern about the candidate not having any prior experience with the CSS conference organization. Schrader informed the BoG that the Chair of the Technical Committee on CACSD was very familiar with the candidate and had expressed his confidence in Gray's abilities. Additionally, it was pointed out that Gray was currently involved with organization of a CACSD workshop sponsored by the International Federation of Automatic Control. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Increased Budget for Conference Editorial Board for 2001

Next, Schrader moved that additional funding in the amount of \$20K be approved for Conference Editorial Board operations for 2001. She clarified that the purpose of the request for additional funding was to reduce vulnerability, increase portability, and promote a smooth transition of the CEB operation. She invited Zhu to briefly describe the status of Conference Editorial Board's current activities as well as short and long term plans in view of the request for increased funding for CEB operations for the year 2001. Yurkovich expressed his concern over the seemingly vague classification of various requests for funding to support CEB operations. Specifically he mentioned that he was not able to distinguish the portion of the CEB budget being proposed for on-going operations, from that being proposed for development or the portion being proposed for transition to a new CEB office. Schrader requested Zhu that he should attempt to clarify the issue during his presentation.

Zhu summarized to the BoG the current status of the CEB. Using the statistics of submissions and reviews for the 2000 CDC, he noted that 90% of the papers are being submitted electronically. Similarly 90% of the reviews are being conducted electronically. This has made the operation efficient as well as cost effective. He noted however, that while the user interface at this point is very well designed and easy to navigate, the backend database and script support still needs a considerable amount of work to make it robust and transportable. He pointed out that at the present time, the CEB is a one-person operation (his administrative assistant cum database programmer) and as such, it is quite vulnerable. He also noted that due to an exceedingly high turnaround rate of the CEB associate editors (AEs), an on-going problem is training incoming AEs quickly. To this end, the CEB has developed virtual office for AEs (AEVO). This is an internet based interface where the AEs manage manuscripts over the web. He presented several screen shots as well as operational features of the AEVO to the BoG.

He suggested that the only way to reduce vulnerability is to make the entire operation easily portable so that a new chair of the CEB can take over the operation without much delay or effort. In order for that to materialize, he suggested that (a) the entire CEB operation as well as software be documented extensively, (b) form handlers for various interfaces and the document servers be consolidated to a single database server (currently the two are disjoint), and (c) complete the development of the Associate Editor Virtual Office. He also noted over the past year the CEB had also incorporated the review of "Invited Sessions" into the system and as a result, the administrative assistant cum database programmer had been overloaded. He offered justification for additional funding as the need for offloading some of the administrative work to a secretary and utilize current assistant's programming skills to complete partially finished features of the CEB operation and to document the entire system.

Baillieul informed the BoG that the IEEE is developing a similar web-based facility at their headquarters and suggested that perhaps, in the long run, it might be more efficient to use IEEE services to facilitate conference editorial activities. Zhu expressed his opinion that the cost of using the IEEE facility would be higher than that incurred by the CSS having their own facility. Additionally, developing CSS's own facility will make it more flexible and less dependent on features or upgrades offered by the IEEE. Yurkovich expressed his regrets that the CSS will not use the IEEE facility despite having contributed to its development.

Subsequent to Zhu's presentation, the motion to approve \$20K to assist completion of the CEB operation, development and documentation was approved with unanimous consent.

Reports

Report of the President (Page: 17)

Başar opened his remarks by announcing that the CSS continues to be recognized as a leading technical society, backed by very sound fiscal reserves. He announced that the CSS closed last year with another big surplus, as a result of high (over \$600K) return on our investments and careful monitoring of the CSS expenses, bringing the CSS reserves to over \$3,000K. He reminded the BoG that at the BoG meeting in December, there was some uncertainty on whether or not the CSS would get back the investment interest income for 1999, due to a rather bleak forecast on the IEEE corporate finances. Fortunately for the IEEE, the year ended with a positive balance and consequently the proposed levies on societies were not exercised. However, the IEEE is still concerned about its

longer-term financial models and at some future point, may decide to charge an operational overhead to all societies. The issues currently being debated at the IEEE TAB level are should the societies be required to pay an overhead to the IEEE, and if yes, how should the amount be determined. One of the models being considered by the IEEE is to charge an overhead to each society based on the ratio of the society's reserve to total reserves of the IEEE. This formula is clearly disadvantageous to the CSS in view of large reserves. Başar's comment led to questions from the BoG about a rationale for having a large reserve. Başar assured the BoG that CSS's large reserves were not due to lack of initiatives for the membership, rather due to good fortune in long-term investment income. Polis inquired whether it is possible for the CSS to place CSS reserves in an endowment. Shaw answered the question in the negative noting that first, the IEEE will not permit it – since they will lose any control on the money. Second, it is not clear how an endowment can be managed by a society with a structure such as that of the CSS, where the executive officer and committee transition so frequently. Başar informed the BoG that the IEEE has set up a taskforce to deal with these and related issues and the taskforce is expected to report its preliminary findings during the November TAB meeting.

Next, Başar reminded the BoG that at its December 1999 meeting, the BoG gave the go-ahead to the Executive Committee for digitally archiving all issues of all three of CSS publications and to interface it with the *IEEEExplore*. He announced that after considerable research and consultations with the IEEE, Parity Computing in San Diego was selected as the vendor. He informed the BoG that a contract was already signed with Parity Computing for them to go ahead with the digital archiving of the Transactions on Automatic Control (TAC) covering the period 1956-1987, and of Control Systems Magazine (CSM), for the period 1981-1987, at an estimated cost of \$120K. Beyond 1987, issues of TAC and CSM, as well as all issues of the Transactions on Control Systems Technology, the IEEE has already created a digital database (using the same vendor), but without hyper-links to references and authors. Under a different contract, Parity Computing will also cross-list the references from 1988 onwards. The two contracts are projected to end by December 2000.

He mentioned that the publication of the centennial volume "*Twenty-five Seminal Papers in Control (1932 - 1981)*", was on schedule and is to be printed late fall of the current year. He also announced that for the CSS Distinguished member award, a slight modification to the current wording was being implemented to better reflect the scope of the award. Specifically, in the future the citation would read "To recognize significant technical

contributions ~~or~~ and outstanding long-term service to the CSS by an individual.” Başar then invited vice presidents to present their reports to the BoG.

Report of the VP-Membership Activities (Page: 27)

Since Gevers, the Vice President for Membership Activities, had to leave early, he requested BoG members to review his report in the attachments to the agenda circulated prior to the BoG meeting. In Gevers' absence, Başar invited several committee chairs from within Membership Activities Board to present their reports. Perkins, on behalf of the Awards Committee reported that nominations and evaluations for all CSS award were on track for presentation at the CDC in Sydney in December. Reporting for the Student Activities Standing Committee, Yen informed the BoG that considerable effort has been put in developing a web site that would be useful to student members of the CSS. Additionally, he has been discussing the possibility of an annual grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to assist student members to attend CDC and American Control Conference. Although there was no firm commitment from the NSF, the program director was entertaining the idea. Başar commended Pasik-Duncan's efforts in organizing a very successful NSF workshop for high school teachers to familiarize them with the field of control systems. Pasik-Duncan thanked the BoG for their encouragement and informed them that the report of the workshop will be put on the web and they will be informed about it in due course.

Report of the President-Elect

Rugh informed the BoG that most of his efforts in last few months were dedicated to soliciting names for various volunteer positions within CSS framework. In addition, together with Schrader and Zhu, he had spent considerable time on formulating long-term objectives for the Conference Editorial Board. A report of the latter will be presented to the BoG during the December meeting in Sydney.

Report of the VP-Technical Activities (Page: 41)

Passino informed the BoG of several initiatives that originated through the CSS Technical Activities Board. These included (a) preliminary investigation towards the formation of two new Technical Committees in the areas of Nonlinear Control and in Adaptive Estimation and Control, (b) several members of the TAB submitted technical and news items to the CSM based on requests of the CSM editor, Samad, (c) creation of new web pages for several Technical Committee as well as update several existing ones. He also mentioned that current focus of TAB was on improving web pages, and getting more

electronic newsletters in place, and to promote the Optimization and Control electronic archive at <http://www.theorem.net/control.html> which may serve as a unique technical resource for the CSS membership.

Next he invited chairs of several Technical Committees to make brief remarks on their respective Committees' activities. Heck noted that the Education Committee had launched its own newsletter and had organized technical sessions at both the American Control Conference and the Conference on Decision and Control. In addition, the committee had spent considerable time on the web page. Parisini informed the BoG that apart from the on-going publicity of the committee through its own newsletter, the committee's primary activity during recent months has been the organization of the International Symposium on Intelligent Control (ISIC) in Patras, Greece on July 17-19, 2000. On behalf of the newly formed Automotive Control Committee, Glielmo informed the BoG of their efforts in developing an informative web site, development of a newsletter and mailing list and publicity for people to organize sessions at future CSS sponsored conferences and forming liaison with other technical societies such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the International Federation of Automatic Control, and the Society of Automotive Engineers. Grimble, for the Technical Committee on Industrial Process Control informed the BoG that at their last meeting in Phoenix, the committee had decided to encourage future CDC, CCA and ACC Workshops in Process Control – a number of tentative titles were debated. These included: Controller Tuning and Process Benchmarking, Fault Monitoring and Diagnostics for the Process Industries and Developments in Predictive Supervisory Control Systems. Additionally, the committee held discussion on process control benchmarks and promotion of control of manufacturing engineering.

Report of the VP-Conference Activities (Page: 71)

Schrader referred the BoG to listings of various CSS sponsored and co-sponsored conference in her report in the attachments and remarked that all conferences seemed to be in good shape. She invited Özgüner to briefly comment on the preparation for the 2002 CDC. Özgüner noted that the BoG has earlier approved the budget. He made very positive comments about the conference hotel. Specifically, he mentioned that hotel's conference center has extensive of multimedia and computer networking capabilities. These open up the possibility of experimenting with remote control experiment demonstrations, live panel meetings with people in other countries and other internet based presentation. He was planning to form a committee to plan a few events to make use of these facilities.

Next, she invited Bitmead to say a few words about the 2000 CDC. Bitmead informed the BoG that submissions to the 2000 CDC were considerably larger than usual. Taking into account all short, invited and regular papers, approximately 1700 papers were submitted. Additionally, there were nine high-quality workshop proposals on topics of current interest. He expressed his concern over the newly instituted 10% Goods & Services Tax (GST) effective July 1. While it would not affect already signed contracts, all new contracts including all banquet events, will be charged the GST. He recommended that the registration fee be kept at the previously approved rate of US \$400, noting that with declining rate of the Australian dollar, despite the GST, the conference was budget was in good shape. Schrader thanked all conference organizers present in the room and noted that the 2002 CCA, previously scheduled in Edinburg had to be moved to Glasgow due to budgetary constraints.

Report of the VP-Publication Activities (Page: 93)

Since the Vice President for Publications Activities was unable to attend the meeting, Başar invited journal editors to make brief remarks about the state of affairs of their respective journals. Samad inquired whether G. Krolin from the IEEE publications department could be introduced to make a few comments. Başar noted that in the recent months, there were considerable delays in publications of CSS journals and invited Krolin to comment on the issue. Krolin acknowledged delays in publications and attributed it to considerable change in staff at the headquarters. She expressed her regrets for undue delays and assured the BoG that the publications department had finally caught up with the backlog. Starting the month of August 2000, all journals should be delivered on time.

Next, Samad, Editor of the Control Systems Magazine summarized new and on-going activities with the magazine. He mentioned the new look to the magazine that was initiated with the January 2000 issue. Several new departments were started or are currently under consideration, including "Scanning the Issue" pages from TAC, and in the near future similar pages from the TCST. He pointed out a fairly active "feedback department." Efforts are underway to broaden the scope of the conference columns by including reports and listings of non-CSS conferences of interest to the control community. He also noted several special issues in progress on: Process Control (M. Piovoso, guest editor), Power Systems and Markets (M. Amin, guest editor), Autonomous Vehicles (D. Schoenwald, guest editor), Communication Networks (L. Bushnell, guest editor), Control Developments in Agriculture and the Environment (P. Antsaklis, P. Groumpos, N. Sigrimis, guest editors). Additionally, issues under consideration

included those on emerging technologies, biosystems and control, and control history.

Başar invited C. Cassandras, Editor-in-Chief of the TAC to make a few remarks on the Transactions on Automatic Control. Cassandras informed the BoG that the backlog on the TAC was under reasonable control and the review cycle had been reduced to approximately five months. He noted with dismay that the editorial quality in the IEEE editorial department had regressed in recent months. There were numerous typographical errors on editorial and cover pages. He recognized that it may have been due to a change of staff at the IEEE and expressed his hope that the transient nature of the changeover was now behind us and that future issues will have far fewer errors.

Report of the Secretary Administrator

Başar suggested that Misra present to the BoG recent changes on the official CSS website. Misra cycled through several pages from the website and highlighted new features added on the site over the last few months. He noted that the site was still in formative stages and that the BoG's input would be extremely helpful in presenting the CSS in its best light. He announced that the next BoG meeting will be held in Sydney, Australia on December 11, 2000 at 1:00 p.m.

Other Business

Başar invited the BoG to raise any issue of interest to the CSS as new business. Polis informed the BoG that subsequent to the unfortunate passing of A. Olbrot, Wayne State University had instituted a memorial fund in his name and solicited the CSS for contribution to the funds. The request from Wayne State University was turned down by the CSS Executive Committee. He requested that the decision be reconsidered. Başar remarked that while the CSS indeed lost an esteemed colleague, as a society it should not be supporting such requests as it becomes a very subjective issue to determine whether or not such a request has merit. Polis remarked that such a policy decision should be formulated by the BoG and requested that the topic be placed as an agenda item for the December BoG meeting.

Adjournment

Başar thanked the members of the Board of Governors and visitors for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.