

Minutes of the Control Systems Society Board of Governors Meeting

June 7, 2005, Portland, Oregon U.S.A.

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 1:04 P.M. on June 7, 2005, then asked the attendees to introduce themselves. The following members of the BoG were in attendance: C. Abdallah, F. Allgöwer, J. Baillieul, J. Bay, D. Bernstein, J. Douglas Birdwell, L. Bushnell, C. Cassandras, T. Djaferis, F. Doyle, F. Fahroo, J. Farrell, B. Ghosh, K. Hoo, D. Lawrence, R. Middleton, E. Misawa, P. Misra, L. Pao, A. Perdon, T. Samad, D. Schoenwald, M. Spong, D. Tilbury, M. E. Valcher, and Y. Yamamoto. Additionally, the following visitors attended the meeting: E. F. Camacho, A. N. Michel, S. Yurkovich, T. Parisini, and R. Wyndrum.

Modifications/additions to the agenda were noted, and the agenda was approved by unanimous consent. Next, the minutes of the BoG meeting of December 13, 2004 were approved by unanimous consent.

Action Items

Election of Officers for 2006

J. Douglas Birdwell, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented his report to the BoG. In addition to Birdwell, the Nominating Committee members for 2005 are Cheryl Schrader, Roberto Tempo, Mark W. Spong, and Steve Yurkovich.

Birdwell conducted the election of CSS officers for 2006. There were no new nominations from the floor. The following candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee were approved by the BoG: President-Elect, Theodore E. Djaferis; Vice President for Conference Activities, Richard Middleton; Vice President for Financial Activities, Jay Farrell; Vice President for Member Activities, M. Elena Valcher; Vice President for Publication Activities, Tariq Samad; and Vice President for Technical Activities, Yutaka Yamamoto.

Birdwell next informed the BoG of the candidates for this year's election: Chaouki Abdallah, Eyad Abed, Frank Allgöwer, Edwin Chong, Bonnie Heck, Eduardo Misawa, Anna Stefanopoulou, and Mario Sznaiar. Birdwell thanked the Nominating Committee for their dedicated work.

Editorial Appointments for the Transactions on Automatic Control (TAC) for 2006

Baillieul presented the TAC AE nominees, which were previously approved by the Executive Committee. The BoG unanimously approved the following nominees, who will

start January 1, 2006: David Angeli, Carolyn Beck, Sergej Celikovskiy, Graziano Chesi, Denis Dochain, Kenji Fujimoto, Masayuki Fujita, Stefan Haar, Anders Hansson, Ioannis Paschalidis, and Xiaolan Xie.

Editorial Appointments for the Transactions on Control Systems Technology (TCST)

Baillieul presented the TCST AE nominees, which were also previously approved by the Executive Committee. The BoG unanimously approved the following nominees (to start July 2005): Guoxiao Guo, Maria Letizia Corradini, Greg Stewart, Sirkka-Liisa Jämsä-Jounela, and Kimberly Turner.

Editorial Appointments for the Control Systems Magazine (CSM)

Baillieul presented a motion to approve Vikram Kapila as Corresponding Editor for New Products. The BoG approved the nomination.

Editorial Appointments for the Conference Editorial Board (CEB)

Baillieul presented a motion to approve the following CEB Associate Editors (to start July 2005): Aman Behal, Jorge Cortes, Maria Letizia Corradini, Constantino Lagoa, Marco Lovera, Tal Shima, Dusan Stipanovic, Abdelhamid Tayebi, and Huanshui Zhang. The BoG approved all nominees.

Volunteer Travel Reimbursement

Farrell presented a motion to approve the change in the approved amounts for volunteer travel from \$250 for domestic and \$500 for foreign travel to \$300 for domestic and \$600 for foreign travel. The budget is for \$25k/year. The BoG approved this motion to start at the CDC-ECC'05 meeting.

2006 Budget

Farrell presented charts for the 2006 budget. He is projecting a \$180k surplus. Abdallah asked why the "meetings and conferences" numbers fluctuate so much. Farrell said that this was due to new accounting at IEEE. All conferences are now counted in the year they occur. Bay asked what the basis was for the projection of the budget. Farrell answered that he used the 2004 actuals and previous budgets along with IEEE inflation tables. The VPs and Editors were asked for any increases in page budgets. Samad asked if \$180k was considered good from the IEEE point of view. Farrell answered, "yes." The IEEE needs to budget a surplus. The BoG approved the 2006 budget.

Student Activities

Middleton presented a motion that IEEE CSS Board approve an annual budget of not more than \$5,000 for student activities. Expenditure under this budget item to satisfy the following: The funds are to be spent only at activities at CSS sponsored conferences; any such activity must actively promote IEEE and CSS student membership, must publicize CSS sponsorship for the event, and must be open to all IEEE student members; and the activity and amount of expenditure must be approved by the VPMA. A lengthy discussion followed. Farrell said there were funds to start this for the CDC-ECC'05. Middleton said that we could support travel if it would fit in with the proposed activity. He also said that the fund could be used to have students join the CSS. The idea is to put the freedom back into the hands of the General Chair or Student Activity Chair of the conference for the benefit of the student attendees. There would be no restriction on being an IEEE member to attend any event sponsored by this motion. The BoG considered including "technically co-sponsored" conferences. Birdwell said that we primarily want to use this fund for the CDC, ACC and CCA. Hoo asked if this would apply to high school workshops. Middleton said that the fund would be for student members of the IEEE. The Technical Committees have their own funds to support such activities such as high school workshops. Valcher asked if this would also cover foreign country travel for students. Spong said that the CSS has no "student travel" program at this point. Middleton added that \$5k/year would be too low for supporting student travel. Spong said that he would like to give VP MAB the freedom to use this fund. The funds could be used for CDC and ACC, but could also be used for technically co-sponsored events. Spong asked the Board if we needed to clarify the motion. Abdallah said to leave it up to the VP MAB and try it for one year to see how it works.

Spong motioned to amend the motion to include technically co-sponsored events to the motion. Discussion of this amendment followed. Spong said as the motion is written, the commitment is for five conferences: CDC, ACC, CCA, ISIC and CACSD. Samad agreed that the motion should be broadened to include the technically co-sponsored events. Ghosh asked what you could get for \$5k. Cassandras gave an example of a student reception at the CDC with soda and pretzels. Abdallah thought the fund should be used to reach students who are not already in our society. Birdwell said that student-newcomer receptions are expensive. He asked what we can do with this fund on an experimental basis. Ghosh asked if we could add more money to this fund if we are including technically co-sponsored events. Farrell suggested that we pay for CSS memberships at the student reception. Middleton said there would be a problem if there were a large number of applicants. He thought that covering five conferences would be enough. Cassandras asked the BoG to consider the situation where there is a new Technical Committee workshop where we could spend \$5k to promote

the CSS. The CDC and ACC already have student events. Middleton asked if we were actively promoting the IEEE and CSS with this motion. He thought that \$5k/year was not enough for outreach. Spong called for a vote on the amendment, which passed 16 to 5 plus one abstention.

The amended motion was then discussed. Bernstein brought up the fact that we could support hundreds of student memberships at \$5k/year. Samad suggested that we pay for the memberships at the conferences. Valcher suggested that we pay for IEEE membership, too. Bay said that the motion does not say it is only for recruitment. The supported activity could be a resume meeting, for example. Spong added that we need a metric to assess the program, such as retention of members. He added that at the MAB meeting this morning, it was reported that lots of students drop IEEE membership when the fee increases the year after graduation. The BoG approved the amended motion.

TC Chair, Intelligent Control

The BoG unanimously approved S. Sam Ge to the position of Chair, Technical Committee on Intelligent Control.

Past Presidents' Conference Registration

After all Past Presidents left the room, the BoG approved (all but one vote) that all Past Presidents of the IEEE Control Systems Society be granted free registration to the annual IEEE Conference on Decision and Control. Middleton said that there were approximately 10 Past Presidents attending CDCs. Abdallah said that this number will go up in the future. Yamamoto said this was just an estimate. Cassandras said we had 18 Past Presidents at the CDC'04, but this was due to special anniversary events. Misra said we get 5-6 Past Presidents on average. At ACCs, 2-3 Past Presidents of AACC come. The program will start in December 2005.

Activity Reports

Special Report from IEEE-USA

Ralph Wyndrum, 2006 IEEE-USA President, presented news from the IEEE-USA. He said there was a huge education gap and that IEEE needs to do something about it. He is working with the IEEE EAB and TAB on a two-pronged education program: (1) promoting credibility with industry, and (2) arranging for IEEE members to take MS courses at a discount at local colleges. He asked the BoG to get back to him with any comments/suggestions. He said that he recently talked to a semiconductor company in Texas that fired the whole customer service department. He said that companies like foreign workers because they are better educated. This new education program will be available in 2006. He said that IEEE members need an MS-equivalent education every 10 years to keep their jobs. Spong asked about certificate programs vs. MS degrees. Wyndrum said that Continuing Education Units (CEUs) make the program valuable. Baillieul agreed that this was an important issue. Most big companies are multi-national. They are looking "offshore" for workers at 1/3 to 1/5 of the cost of USA workers.

Wyndrum confirmed this. The real cost of offshore engineers is \$15k/year vs. \$60k/year in the USA. He said the “ambition gap” in the USA needs addressing. Hoo asked how this program compares to the Professional Engineer (PE) license. Wyndrum said that the PE is not used in Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences. Cassandras asked if the root of the problem is financial as well as obsolescence, who will fund it? Wyndrum said the salaries outside the USA are rising, but this is a temporary problem. The ratio is moving from 2:1 to 3:2 in about 4 years. USA companies want USA engineers. Cassandras said that the companies would have to fund the education program. Misra said that “offshore skills” are a different set of skills. Wyndrum said the issues are immigration and offshore jobs and that the program’s goal is to give more experience to USA engineers. He closed by saying that salaries are not going up with experience.

Report of the President

Spong gave highlights of the President’s Report. He attended the February IEEE TAB meeting and is going to the June and November meetings. There are 40 societies and councils. There are two proposals for new councils. One is for a CAD Council and one is for a Systems Council. He wanted to discuss the proposal for the systems council because there were lots of topics missing. He felt that a better name for the council would be Systems Engineering Council. The Executive Committee agreed that we should not support this new council unless it was more inclusive. Wyndrum said that the council had its start as a council that would carry forth Bell Systems’ “systems engineering” topics. Others did not choose to join. Bell added topics. He thought it could be narrowed back to systems engineering. Spong asked how this would impact us. There may be an overlap on journals and conferences. He said we should be a major player in the council or oppose it. He asked for input from the BoG.

Spong also announced that the IEEE now will let societies have new initiatives between 1% and 3% of reserves. He asked the BoG to think of new initiatives.

Spong also mentioned the issue with Open Access and Google Scholar. Tilbury asked how conferences go about applying for their content to be on Xplore. Spong said there was a revenue benefit. The conferences have to ask IEEE to be on Xplore.

Spong also mentioned that pre-1988 CDC proceedings will be scanned and put on Xplore. Lawrence asked what the cost was to members for the conference package. Farrell said it was \$15 for members and \$5 for student members per year. Tilbury asked what the cost was if you were not a member. Spong said that you would pay per paper. Baillieul added there were different levels of Xplore packages.

Report of the President-Elect

Baillieul said that there will be a Society Review in 2006. He is in a data-gathering mode, mostly from journals. He is interested in the future of the field. Since the late 1950s,

when control was new, there has been dissipation. Other groups in IEEE are developing areas that came out of the CSS. He asked the BoG for any thoughts on how to keep the discipline moving forward.

Report of the Vice President, Financial Activities

Farrell presented the 2004 actuals. We budgeted a \$171k surplus and ended up with \$1187k surplus, mostly due to an IEEE accounting change. All conference income estimates are now reported at the year-end. Corrections are made to the conferences in the following year.

Report of the Vice President, Member Activities

Middleton briefly reported on the Conference Travel Support for Developing Nations, Local Area Support Scheme for Chapters, and Chapter nominees for the Outstanding Chapter Award. There is a special history session on Wednesday involving Boris Kogan and George Bekey.

Report of the Vice President, Technical Activities

Yamamoto said there were 16 Technical Committees. There are new TC guidelines, which will be posted on the CSS web site. Thirteen of the TCs gave reports to this BoG meeting. Spong said that the TC Chairs did not know there were guidelines to be a Chair. Ghosh asked what the benefit was to be in a TC. Tilbury said that you get a newsletter. Yamamoto said that it is up to the TC Chair on the activities of the TC. They are open to all to join. Spong said that the TC depends on the Chair. Some do workshops, symposia, and newsletters. The benefit is what you put into it. Birdwell asked if CSS was getting any results from representation on the IEEE-USA committees. Yamamoto said there was not much activity from the representatives. Spong said that the CSS has low expectations from the policy committees. Wyndrum said that each policy committee meets four times a year. They meet with congressional staff and committees. They are very active. There are about 20 members per group and most live in the D.C. area. Middleton suggested that we replace the representatives after 5 years maximum. Spong said that the appointments were for 1 year.

Report of the Vice President, Conference Activities

Djaferis thanked all of the representatives from various conferences that were present for their hard work. He invited them to give a briefing on their conferences. Parisini, Program Chair for ISIC’05 in Cyprus June 27-29, said it was an interesting experience to join ISIC and MED conferences. All of the planning went well. There were 406 paper submitted and 287 accepted. He said the ISIC part of the conference is the outcome of the Technical Committee on Intelligent Control, for which he has been a member for the past 8 years. He said that Technical Committees can have a home in joint conferences. Camacho, General Chair for CDC-ECC’05, said there were more than 3000 submissions. The Program Committee is working hard and is meeting tomorrow. Middleton, Program Chair for CDC’06, said that the Operating Committee and Program Committee are all set. The venue in San Diego is the best hotel and newly

renovated. He noted that this conference is where we will switch back to a 3-day CDC.

Djaferis discussed the status of the Multiconference concept. The name of the conference needs to be decided within 2-3 weeks. S. Sam Ge was approved (at the December 2004 BoG meeting) to be the General Chair in 2007 and the venue is to be in Singapore. He presented three names to vote on, "Multiconference on Emerging Systems and Control Applications (MESCA)," "Multiconference on Systems and Control Technology (MSCT)," and "Multiconference on Systems and Control (MSC)." The Conference Activities Board had voted in the morning to favor MESCA. BoG voted (15) for MESCA and (4) for MSC. The Executive Committee would be meeting on Thursday morning to make the final decision. Djaferis also presented the revenue model for the Multiconference, which is to be based on the number of papers from each participating conference. Valcher asked if the organizers would be tempted to accept all papers to increase their revenue. Djaferis said this was a possibility. Spong said this was simpler than the ACC formula. Birdwell said that attendance plus number of papers balances out. Djaferis said this was informational only and to send comments to him. Birdwell said that there is a DINS initiative in IEEE with 10 societies involved. This would have a place in the Multiconference structure. We need to have co-sponsorship with other societies. We can give them the formula and let them decide to join in or not. Parisini said that he feels this type of conference is important. There is a long history of CCA and ISIC. The Technical Committees have an opportunity here. This is an interesting direction for the future of CSS.

Report of the Vice President, Publication Activities

Samad said that he is striving to increase the diversity in the AE candidates. He gave highlights of the CSM, TAC and TCST. The CSM will have a redesign in 2006. The TAC Technical Notes Editor is switching from Tits to Tempo. Doyle, Editor-in-Chief of the TCST, said that they are testing version 3 of the IEEE Manuscript Central. They are testing 6 papers this summer and will launch the new system in September. They are processing 100% electronic submissions now. They are participating in early posting on Xplore (after galley proofs are returned). Samad also discussed impact factors related to the society. Samad said that the CSS web site will be updated soon and that the E-letter has over 18k subscriptions. Samad discussed two issues with PaperPlaza: (1) a live mirror server is desirable to increase reliability and access if main server is down, and (2) professional support is likely to be necessary for maintenance and updates as system complexity increases. Samad said that the Xplore volume is increasing and that Manuscript Central now handles more than 70 journals. In addition, the IEEE is introducing a new citation standard for the online age: the Digital Object Identifier (DOI).

Report of the Secretary-Administrator

Bushnell noted that the next BoG meeting would be held on Sunday, December 11, 2005, at 1:00 P.M. in Seville, Spain at the CDC-ECC'05.

Adjournment

Spong thanked the members of the Board of Governors and visitors for attending the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 P.M.

*IEEE CSS Secretary-Administrator: Linda G. Bushnell,
August 24, 2005.*