Minutes of the Control Systems Society Board of Governors Meeting
May 23, 2017 Seattle, Washington, USA

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda President E. Chong called the meeting of the Control Systems Society (CSS) Board of Governors (BoG) to order at 1:00 PM on May 23, 2017. He welcomed all attendees, reminded the BoG of the rules of the meeting. After reviewing the meeting procedures, he asked the attendees to introduce themselves. The following members of the BoG were in attendance:

- Annaswamy, A.
- Antsaklis, P.
- Astolfi, A.
- Balakrishnan, V.
- Bullo, F.
- Bushnell, L.
- Chong, E.
- Dixon, W.
- Cho, D.-I.
- Chong, E.
- Egerstedt, M.
- Ferrara, A.
- Fu, L.-C.
- Imura J.-I.
- Johansson, K.H.
- Marconi, L.

- Özbay, H.
- Özbay, H.
- Parisini, T.
- Parisini, T.
- Pasik-Duncan, B.
- Pasik-Duncan, B.
- Petersen I.
- Petersen I.
- Prandini M.
- Prandini M.
- Scherpen, J.
- Scherpen, J.
- Stoustrup, J.
- Stoustrup, J.
- Xie, L.
- Xie, L.

Additionally, the following visitors attended the meeting:

- Ahn, H.-S.
- Allgower, F.
- Baillieul, J.
- Bitmead, R.

C.-C.
ou, M.

- Ohta, Y.
- Ohta, Y.

Quorum was established, and the meeting agenda approved with unanimous consent. Next, the minutes of the BoG meeting of December 2017, held in Las Vegas, USA, were approved unanimously. Chong 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

On behalf of F. Doyle, Chair of the Nominating Committee, Chong provided the background on the Nominating Committee and its duties and procedures. He then informed the BoG that a ballot consisting of nine candidates was sent by IEEE on 23 March 2017 to all IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS) members for the election of six members to the CSS Board of Governors. The voting results were communicated to Doyle on May 8. The IEEE CSS BOG members elected for a three-year term from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020 are:

- Andrew Alleyne
- Maria Letizia Corradini
- Jorge Cortes
- João Hespanha
- Françoise Lamnabhi-Lagarrigue
- Jing Sun 1224 ballots were returned, representing 17.12% of the eligible membership, which is down slightly from 2016 (18.39% voting).

(R. Bitmead was not present when the following motion was considered.)

On behalf of Doyle, Chong presented the following motion:

- ***Motion:*** *To approve the following 2018 Executive Committee slate:*

  o *President*[*]*: Francesco Bullo* o
  President-Elect: Robert Bitmead o

Past-President*: Edwin Chong ○ VP-Conference
Activities: Faryar Jabbari ○ VP-Finance
Activities: Magnus Egerstedt ○ VP-Member
Activities: Li-Chen Fu ○ VP-Publication
Activities: Thomas Parisini ○ VP-Technical
Activities: Anu Annaswamy (*Already approved)

Chong presented a brief background on the nomination process, and proceeded to present the 2018 CSS Executive Committee (ExCom) nominees as a slate, highlighting the credentials of each candidate. There was no discussion, and the slate was approved unanimously.

In his role as the incoming chair of the Nominating Committee, E. Chong reminded the BoG that the request for nomination of candidates for election to the 2018 Nominating Committee was currently open, and invited BoG members to submit additional nominations.

E. Chong next presented the following motion:

• ***Motion:*** *To rescind the motion passed on December 11, 2016 on the three-year renewal of the MOU with Life Sciences Letters, in light of recent developments.*

> o At the 2016 December meeting, the BoG approved the following motion: "Renew the support of the Life Sciences Letters for an additional 3-year period." This was with the understanding that while EMBS was withdrawing its participation:
> > ▪ LSTC will remain as the administrative partner.
> > ▪ CAS will remain involved in the journal as a co-equal financial partner.
> > ▪ There will be strong editorial leadership of the LSL that was interested in collaborating with CSS to make the journal successful.
>
> o However, none of these conditions has been met. LSTC and CAS have decided to end their involvement with LSL, and the EiC of LSL (who had earlier indicated an interest in fostering strong collaboration with CSS) has indicated that he would like to step down.
>
> o In view of all these developments, CSS should consider ending its

involvement with LSL

If CSS were to remain a signatory to the MOU, the financial impact to CSS would have varied between a net income of $5,000 to a net expenditure of $5,000, over the three-year period of the MOU. The financial impact of the proposed motion is that this impact is removed.

There was no discussion. The motion was passed unanimously.

E. Chong next introduced the following motion:

> • **Motion**: *That CSS establish a CDC best paper award, name it the Roberto Tempo Best Paper Award, and contribute a total of $15K in partial support of this award.*

Chong invited T. Parisini to present the motion. Parisini stated that there has been a groundswell of support for some action from CSS to mark the untimely passing of Roberto and to honor one of the most beloved citizens of the CSS community. Parisini had been contacted by surviving members of Roberto's family with their desire to collaborate with CSS on this. Parisini, C. Cassandras, and J. Baillieul have brainstormed on this topic, and have come up with the following proposal:

> o Institute a conference-wide best paper award at CDC, and call it the Roberto

Tempo Best Paper Award. o CSS will contribute $15K to an endowment managed by the IEEE Foundation for this award; Roberto's family and well-wishers will contribute $15K. With the resulting $30K endowment, and annual cash prize of $1000 can be instituted. o The award will be advertised and managed in a way that accords it a stature that is comparable to that of the other high-profile CSS awards (such as journal best paper awards). o Implementation details are to be discussed and settled at a later date. Chong then called for a discussion.

Strong support for the motion was voiced by a member of the BoG, who proceeded to ask about how the award might be implemented. Parisini responded that the purpose of the motion was to first seek BoG approval for the establishment of an endowment to support the award in perpetuity. If BoG were to approve, he envisaged a small committee to discuss

possible options for implementation. He expected a desire that the award be sufficiently distinguished and differentiated from the CDC Best Student Paper Award, and that the award amount be comparable to that of other prestigious CSS awards. The committee on implementation will seek broad input from the CSS community. Another BoG member

asked if the award level of $1,000 was generous enough for a prestigious award. Parisini responded that while there were some CSS awards (the Ruberti Prize, for example) that had more generous award amounts, the award amount of $1,000 was roughly consistent with other CSS best paper awards. The BoG member who raised the question observed that the CSS award amounts were in general low compared to that of awards from other societies, and recommended that the ExCom consider this issue. A discussion ensued. It was observed that in order to sustain awards in perpetuity, the endowments that support the awards must be increased as well. It was also pointed out that the diversity of CSS awards might also need inspection: there are fewer awards for "theory" as opposed to "applications". Chong mentioned that the Long-Range Planning Committee continues to consider the broad issue of awards as well; indeed, a CDC Best Paper Award was identified as a top priority, and this motion addresses it. A vote was taken at the conclusion of the discussion. The motion was passed unanimously.

M. Prandini next presented the following motion.

• **Motion:** *Motion: To appoint Maarten Steinbuch as program chair for CCTA 2020.* She then presented the credentials of M. Steinbuch. There was no discussion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Prandini next presented the following motion:

 • **Motion:** *To approve August 19, 2019 to August 21, 2019 as dates for CCTA 2019.*

There had been some consideration of hosting CCTA 2019 during October. However, upon further reflection:

> o Hotels in October are significantly more expensive. o CCTA 2017, 2018, and 2020 are being held in August. o There is no other IEEE or SICE conference being held around those dates.

For these reasons, the August dates are being proposed.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Prandini next presented the following motion:

• **Motion:** *To approve the preliminary budget for CDC 2019.*

Prandini provided a brief background on the conference. As mandated by IEEE, the conference budget has a surplus of over 20%.

The motion was passed unanimously.

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The motion was passed unanimously.

A. Annaswamy then presented the following motion:

• **Motion:** *That CSS be a financial sponsoring party of the IEEE Smart Cities Initiative.* The financial implication for CSS was an annual expense of $20,000. Annaswamy mentioned that CSS was one of several core members; the total contributions from all members would total about $200,000 annually. A BoG member asked what IEEE provides in return for this fairly large annual contribution to the initiative. Annaswamy responded that IEEE provides resources (both fiscal and organizational) in support of activities associated with the initiative. She mentioned that such financial support by societies is standard practice; other more mature activities such as the Smart Grids Initiative had similar beginnings. Indeed, IEEE Initiatives are expected to mature into IEEE Communities, and then perhaps IEEE Societies. Through such a process, CSS has been instrumental in the formation of some currently thriving societies – Robotics and Automation (RAS), Systems, Man and Cybernetics (SMC), and Computational Intelligence (CI), to name three. A second question was raised about the specific benefits of being a core member of the initiative. Annaswamy responded that perhaps the greatest benefit was a "seat at the table", i.e., the privilege of having a vote on the steering committee, thus being able to align the goals and activities of the initiative to better serve the CSS community. A follow-on question was whether the CSS community was indeed interested in this initiative. Annaswamy responded with an emphatic "Yes", asserting that there consistently is a special session or two on this topic as our conferences, and that the associated CSS Technical Committee is very active. The motion was passed, with one

negative vote.

L.-C. Fu next presented the following
motion:

- **Motion:** *To increase the budget for Student Travel Support for CDC 2017 subject to approval from IEEE.*

With CDC 2017 being held outside the US, there are no NSF funds available to support student travel this year. An additional $22K from CSS is proposed to support student travel to CDC. IEEE approval is needed for implementation. Strong support was expressed for this motion. Indeed, it was proposed that student travel support at consistent level be included in the regular CSS budget as standard practice. However, as NSF support appears to be available for CDCs held inside the US, it appears that for now, it is good practice to have additional student support be flexibly budgeted though initiatives.

The motion was passed unanimously. **Activity**

Reports

M. Egerstedt, as the Vice-President for Financial Activities, presented a brief introduction to the CSS budget. He mentioned that owing to ACC being held early this year, the preliminary budget for 2018 was not yet ready. Instead, he presented an update on the status of 2017 numbers, in particular comparing the 2017 budget to the currently available actual data. He also presented 2016 numbers, sharing the news that CSS finished the year with a surplus of $129,400. He then discussed the issue of surpluses versus shortfalls, and specifically focused on the so-called 50% spending rule: If the society is in good standing (positive surplus, good reserves), then

- 50% of Year X surplus goes directly to reserves.
- Up to 50% is available for project funding in year X+1. He argued that it was wise to spend as much of the surplus available in any given year. However, these are for new initiatives, and cannot simply be rolled into the general budget lines. There was addition discussion on various aspects of the budget, mostly for the information and education of the BoG.

L.-C. Fu, as the Vice-President for Member Activities, next made his presentation. He provided a summary of CSS membership numbers, noting as of March 2017, a year-to-year comparison reveals a decline of 1.6% in CSS membership; this is also similar to that of IEEE membership, *i.e.*, 1.5% drop, as well as that of other comparable societies. The geographic distribution of the change in membership in CSS is far from uniform, with the Asia-Pacific region showing a small uptick in membership percentage, and South America showing a large decline. He then mentioned that to strengthen CSS's social media footprint, changes have been made to the management of CSS LinkedIn and Twitter accounts; the LinkedIn numbers are already enjoying a healthy increase. He then described some activities, either ongoing or planned by the Member Activities Committee: (i) panels and/or seminars on the application of control in various industries; (ii) "Day in the Life"

Sessions in which a few selected control engineers/scientists from different industries discuss what they do on a typical day. (iii) invited sessions on "Control Challenges and Successes in Industry". He then presented an update on CSS award nominations, noting that while some awards enjoy a healthy pool of nominees, the number of nominations received remains a concern for many other awards, including some best paper awards. To address this issue, the ExCom has charged the VP for Publication Activities to work with the EiCs to generate a richer pool of nominations for the journal best paper awards. Also, the ExCom will see to it that the awards manual is updated. Finally, the ExCom will continue to track submission statistics on all of the awards. Fu concluded his presentation with a brief summary of other member activities.

T. Parisini, as the Vice-President for Publication Activities, made his presentation, focusing mainly on the newly-instituted journal "Letters of the Control Systems Society" (L-CSS). He provided a brief introduction to the operation of the journal, highlighting its unique mission of rapid publication and its close coordination with CDC. He provided some statistics (submission to publication) thus far.

One BoG member noted that it was particularly impressive that accepted papers were already available on IEEE Xplore, while with the other electronic-only CSS journal, IEEE TCNS, there were significant delays between acceptance and appearance on Xplore. It was pointed out that such delays were related to PDF production/pagination costs (and budget limitations), and that such limits may come to play with L-CSS as well. The discussion then moved on to other topics, including whether CSM should be all-electronic. However, this issue had been considered earlier, and it became clear that a

significant fraction of the CSM audience wanted the print edition to continue. Another BoG member asked if L-CSS was indexed by Scopus or Web of Science; this was important as bureaucratic rules in some countries discount journals that are not indexed by standard bodies. Parisini responded that given that L-CSS is an IEEE journal, it was only a matter of time before this would happen (as L-CSS is brand-new, it is currently not indexed).

V. Balakrishnan informed the BoG that the next meeting will begin at noon on Monday, December 11, 2017, at the Melbourne Convention Center, Melbourne, Australia. E. Chong asked if there was any additional new business or old business, and hearing no response adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.