

**Minutes of the Control Systems Society Board of Governors Meeting
December 15, 2024**

Milan, Italy

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

President M. Egerstedt called the meeting of the Control Systems Society (CSS) Board of Governors (BoG) to order at 1:00 PM on December 15, 2024. He welcomed all attendees and invited the CDC general chairs to share information and updates about the CDC. Egerstedt thanked the organizers and began the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves. He then reminded the BoG about the objectives of the meeting, and meeting procedures, expectations were reviewed, including the mechanism for voting on motions. The following members of the BoG were in attendance:

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| - Beck, C. | - Isaksson, A. | - Ozay, N. |
| - Coogan, S. | - Johansson, K. | - Pena, P. |
| - Di Bernardo, M. | - Jungers, R. | - Petersen, I. |
| - Ebihara, Y. | - Korn, S. | - Pettersen, K. |
| - Egerstedt, M. | - Xie, L. | - Serrani, A. |
| - Fekih, A. | - Mastellone, S. (R) | - Tarbouriech, S. |
| - Ferrara, A. | - Nair, G. | - Van Den Hof, P. |
| - How, J. | - Nogueira, F. | - Vernekar, P. |
| - Hyungbo, S. | - Onori, S. | |

Additionally, the following visitors attended the meeting:

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|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| - Aghdam, A. | - Kolmanovsky, I. | - Spurgeon, C. |
| - Allgöwer, F. | - Parisini, T. | - Spurgeon, S. |
| - Baillieul, J. | - Paschalidis, Y. | - Zaccarian, L. |
| - Dong, D. | - Prandini, M. | |

2. Approval of Minutes
Quorum was established, and the meeting agenda approved. Next, the minutes of the BoG meeting of July 9th, 2024, held in Toronto, Canada, 2024 were approved.
3. Approval of Record of E-motions (July and August)
The E-motions for the fellow evaluators, fellow nominators and CSS nominating committee were approved.
4. Consent Agenda
President Egerstedt reminded BoG that the consent agenda can be found at: <http://bog-excom.ieecss.org/>.

Egerstedt asked the BoG for approval of the consent agenda and received approval. The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items

VP-Finance Activities: Jonathan How

How provided the CSS financial summary:

- Overall, CSS financial status is very healthy.
 - For 2023: Revenue: **\$8,653K**, Expenses: **\$7,131K**, Surplus: **\$1,522K** (budget **\$603K**)
 - YTD'24 (Sept) Revenue: **\$5,460K**, Expenses: **\$4,381K**, Surplus: **\$1,079K** (budget **\$456K**)
- CSS Reserves as of 2023 total **\$23,805K** (up 3.1% from 2022)
 - Integral of surplus + investments (controlled by IEEE)

How emphasized that the bulk of society's surplus was generated by the society publications (periodicals and proceedings). It was also pointed out that CSS has a large YTD surplus but numerous CDC'24 expenses have not yet been posted. He advised that the initiative budget consistently underspends but tends to lag. Egerstedt pointed out that all of CSS's journal publications are now in the blue instead of the red. How then explained that the original three rules to budget have been replaced by one rule: society can budget "1% of Society Reserve". He pointed out that the Society initiatives line item is vacant because those amounts are accounted for in the Operational Expenses. How then yielded the floor back to CSS President, Magnus Egerstedt.

*****The following individuals were requested to recuse themselves from the meeting, and invited back in after the discussions: Fabrizio Dabbene***

President Egerstedt presented the following motion:

- **Motion:** *To appoint Fabrizio Dabbene as Chair of the Technology Conference Editorial Board (TCEB) with a start date of January 1, 2026.*

President Egerstedt went over the background of the motion. Discussion was opened and Egerstedt shared his personal enthusiasm for the Dabbene in this role.

The motion passed unanimously.

President Egerstedt presented the following motions:

- **Motion:** *To establish a 3-year term limit for the positions of chair and member of the awards sub-committees (not including the Bode Award sub-committee).*

Egerstedt went over the background of the motion. Discussion was opened and it was pointed out that it is important to stagger the ending of term limits.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Motion:** *To stop financially co-sponsoring the Transactions on Intelligent Vehicles.*

Egerstedt went over the background to the motion, which included Clarivate's decision to place the journal on hold. The discussion was opened, and Serrani remarked that, from a publication standpoint, society activities are entirely driven by reputation, which is closely tied to the success of the publications. Baillieul agreed, emphasizing that this is a significant issue, and that the CSS should not be involved with the journal in light of Clarivate's actions. A question was raised about what other co-sponsoring societies plan to do regarding this issue. Egerstedt clarified that CSS had decided not to participate in the steering committee meeting on this matter, so he is unsure of the decisions made by other societies.

The motion passed unanimously.

President-Elect: Carolyn Beck

President-Elect Beck provided a background on the request from BoG in the past to have more society awards and presented the following motions:

- **Motion:** *To establish the IEEE Control Systems Society Conference on Control Technology and Applications Best Paper Award, to be given to an outstanding paper presented at the annual IEEE Conference on Control Technology and Applications.*

Beck went over the background and parameters regarding the award. She explained that the award will be funded by the CSS Fund and will be open to endowment in the future. The motion was opened for discussion and questions were raised regarding logistics of the award (timeliness of submission and announcement, as well as travel planning). Egerstedt explained that this motion's focus is on the establishment of the award, while the logistics should be finalized after it has been decided to establish the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Motion:** *To establish the IEEE Control Systems Society Test of Time Paper Award, to be given to up to one journal paper per year, published in any CSS journal more than 10 years prior to the presentation of the award.*

Beck went over the background of the motion. Discussion was opened and Serrani asked if it was possible for a paper that has received the Axelby Award to be nominated also for the Test of Time Award. Beck advised the decision would ultimately be that of the award's subcommittee which will formulate the specifications of the award. Egerstedt shared that he was pleased that this award includes technical notes as well.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Motion:** *To offer similar geographical discounts for open access fees to CSS journals based on the same criteria that IEEE currently uses. Note that based on the countries listed on the IEEE site, we expect only 2-5 requests per year.*

Beck went over the background of the motion. Discussion was opened and it was asked if this was something that the society could provide for our conferences which Beck advised could be done through travel grants. Pena shared that in Brazil the \$2,500 OA fees are something that in many cases cannot be paid because of the lower income levels. It was questioned what happens if requests grow quickly with authors now knowing this is an option. Serrani explained that, to the best of his knowledge, the number of requests has been very low in the past, and a significant increase should not be expected. Clarity was sought regarding whether hybrid journals would also be covered, and Beck confirmed that they would.

The motion passed unanimously.

VP for Conference Activities: Lihua Xie

The VP for Conference Activities: Lihua Xie presented the following motions:

- **Motion:** *To approve budget for CCTA 2026.*

Xie went over the background of the motion. It was questioned if with the indicated surplus, the society would be able to lower registration costs. Xie advised the target surplus was changed from 20% to 10%. How asked whether there was evidence that a lower target surplus can be beneficial to have reduced registration fees. Beck explained that the first indication of whether reducing the surplus has been effective will come with CCTA 2025. Egerstedt added that as conference expenses cannot be borne by the technical society per IEEE rules, costs will continue to rise slightly despite CSS's efforts to curtail them.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Motion:** *To approve Aug. 12-14 as dates of CCTA 2026.*

Xie went over the background of the motion. There was no discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Motion:** *To approve Sheraton Vancouver Wall Street as the venue of CCTA 2026.*

Xie went over the background of the motion. The venue is Sheraton Vancouver Wall Street. There was a discussion about this hotel being expensive and Xie mentioned there were additional affordable hotels nearby.

The motion passed unanimously.

****The following individuals were requested to recuse themselves from the meeting, and invited back in after the discussions: Frank Allgöwer and Steffi Knorn**

- **Motion:** *To approve Frank Allgöwer as General Chair for CCTA 2028.*

Xie went over the background of the motion and Egerstedt shared his approval.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Motion:** *To approve Steffi Knorn as General Co-Chair for CCTA 2028.*

Xie went over the background of the motion and Egerstedt again shared his comments of support.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Motion:** *To approve Berlin as the location of CCTA 2028.*

Xie invited Frank Allgöwer to go over the background of the motion. Discussion was opened and Egerstedt shared his excitement for hosting a control conference in Berlin after the IFAC World Congress had been forced to be remote due to the pandemic.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Motion:** *To approve allowing TAC, TCNS and OJ-CSYS papers to be presented at CDC.*

Xie provided an overview of the background for the motion. The discussion was opened, with Egerstedt emphasizing that this initiative would enable the the best and most impactful results in the field of control systems to be shared at our conferences. A question was raised about whether these papers would be mixed with other papers in the sessions or presented in separate sessions. Xie explained that both options are possible, with a preference for special sessions dedicated to these papers, though they could be included in other sessions if needed to fill gaps. The potential for increased manual handling was also considered, but Xie and Serrani confirmed that PaperCept has developed a process that reduces the manual labor typically involved, and they did not foresee any issues moving forward.

The question was raised about whether this could be applied to other journals, but it was determined that this would be addressed in a future discussion. Serrani clarified that the motion

would allow papers published in *L-CSS* to be presented at the next CDC. The issue of capacity was also discussed, with the decision on whether to accept additional submissions left to the program chair's discretion, should an excess of submissions occur. Allgöwer noted that IFAC has already implemented a similar plan and has not experienced many excess submissions, so the Board of Governors should not be concerned about potential overflows.

The motion passed unanimously.

Egerstedt noted that the discussion highlighted the need for a taskforce to work out the details of implementation and requested participation from BoG members.

VP for Publication Activities: Andrea Serrani

The VP for Publication Activities: Andrea Serrani presented the following motions:

- ***Motion:*** *To approve a new Editorial Services contract for IEEE CSm for 2025 at the cost of \$68K.*

Serrani went over the background of the motion. There was no discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- ***Motion:*** *To approve an increase of the page budget for the IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems from 2200 to 2400 pages, effective January 2025.*

Serrani went over the background of the motion. Discussion was opened. Serrani and Egerstedt both stressed the effect on the impact factor this motion holds.

The motion passed unanimously.

- ***Motion:*** *To decrease the page budget for the IEEE Control Systems Letters from 4300 to 4000, effective January 2025.*

Serrani went over the background of the motion. Discussion was opened and Parisini questioned if moving to volume only publications without the creation of issues would be a good idea. Serrani advised that this a discussion for a later time and Egerstedt confirmed that this very topic was on the agenda for the Long Range Planning Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

- ***Motion:*** *To approve keeping the same page budget as the current one for:*

IEEE Open Journal of Control Systems (550 pages)

IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control (8500 pages)

IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology (850 pages)

IEEE Control Systems (850 pages)

Serrani went over the background of the motion. There was no discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Motion:** *To establish an Editorial Board for the IEEE Press Series on Control Systems and Applications. The Editorial Board shall consist of the Editors-in-Chief of the six CSS publications.*

Serrani went over the background of the motion. Discussion was opened and Egerstedt shared comments of support.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Motion:** *To approve a common procedure to handle potential cases of plagiarism and/or ethical violations in manuscript submitted to CDC and CCTA (those reviewed by CEB and TCEB).*

Serrani went over the background of the motion. Discussion was opened and Egerstedt expressed his gratitude to Serrani for handling the revamping of this process. It was questioned if this would be implemented before the papers are assigned to associate editors and Serrani advised it could be triggered anytime during the review process.

The motion passed unanimously.

***The following individuals were requested to recuse themselves from the meeting, and invited back in after the discussions: Sanjay Lall*

VP for Member Activities: Kristin Pettersen

The VP for Technical Activities: Kristin Pettersen presented the following motion:

- **Motion:** *To appoint Sanjay Lall as the Chair for the Distinguished Lecturer Program.*

Pettersen went over the background of the motion and the duties of the Distinguished Lecturer Chair. Discussion was opened and Egerstedt gave comments of support.

The motion passed unanimously.

VP for Diversity, Outreach and Development Activities: Karl H. Johansson:

The VP for Diversity, Outreach and Development Activities: Karl H. Johansson the following motion:

- **Motion:** *To support IEEE Empower a Billion Lives Global Competition 2025.*

Johansson went over the background of the motion and explained the financial impact. Discussion was opened and Egerstedt provided statements of support.

The motion passed unanimously.

Informational Items

Family Care Grant Program

President-Elect Carolyn Beck went over the background of the Family Care Grant Program. She advised this will be used to promote participation at CCTA and CDC. The funds were already approved by BoG through 2025.

Publication Activities

Vice President for Publications Andrea Serrani provided the overview editorial services costs. He went over the differences in the editorial services among the publications and explained the two types of contracts utilized by CSS. Egerstedt shared that there is also a fixed cost affiliated with setup that is independent of the cost per submission. Parisini requested clarification on what services are provided by the editorial assistants for each journal. How shared that there may be a more efficient way to move forward to promote not only spending efficiently but also increase operational efficiency.

Conference Activities

Vice President for Conference Activities Lihua Xie shared background on the TCS PA Review Committee. He also presented the proposed committee for 2025-2026:

- Lihua Xie, Nanyang Technological University (Chair)
- Al Janaideh, Mohammad, Assistant Professor, Memorial University of Newfoundland.
- Zongli Lin, University of Virginia.

Egerstedt expressed his support and requested that Xie return to a future BoG meeting to present the rubric that the committee develops for evaluating these decisions.

Member Activities

Vice President for Member Activities, Kristin Y. Pettersen, presented the society membership statistics, highlighting that we have reached 10% female members and 15.4% graduate student and student members. She noted that CSS membership is becoming more diverse, with a growing number of female and younger members. Pettersen then provided an overview of the Distinguished Lecturers Program, emphasizing ongoing efforts to engage chapters in utilizing the program more effectively. She proposed several actions to increase the activity of distinguished lecturers.

Vernekar suggested that the industry committee chair and the distinguished lecturer chair collaborate more closely. Egerstedt agreed, stating that giving chapters and technical committees more input into the process would be a positive approach. Pena called for greater diversity among the Distinguished Lecturers. In response, Pettersen encouraged everyone to provide the Distinguished Lecturer Chair with good candidates for the Distinguished Lecturer Program.

Technical Activities

Vice President for Technical Activities, Ian Petersen, provided an update on CSS Day, sharing

details about the activities that took place. He explained that events were organized over a five-day period, spanning 24 hours to encourage global participation. Presenters from all continents, except Antarctica, participated, representing a wide range of seniority levels.

During the discussion, Egerstedt pointed out that the number of participants exceeded that of CCTA, although live participation in each session was less impressive. Petersen clarified that the registration numbers did not include those who registered but chose to watch the recorded sessions rather than attend live.

Di Bernardo shared his experience with the Conflux system, expressing dissatisfaction with the format used. It was also confirmed that the reported numbers did not differentiate between unique sign-ons across different days. Di Bernardo added that he would conduct a thorough review of the system and report his findings to the ExCom.

Petersen then presented details on the TC Outstanding Student Paper Prize. Egerstedt pointed out that this aids in the ambition to have more awards among the society.

Diversity, Outreach, and Development Activities

VP for Diversity, Outreach, and Development Activities Karl H. Johansson briefly went over the makeup of DODA and shared details of the current and processing projects budgeted with the Outreach Fund. He then went over the CSS Graduate Collaboration Fellowship process and details. Johansson closed out his presentation providing details on the success of the Women in Control Luncheon.

Financial Activities

Vice President for Financial Activities, Jonathan How, provided an overview of the society 2024 initiatives. He noted that there is often a delay in spending following approval, but the process has started to gain momentum.

How also reviewed conference revenue, highlighting that the society continues to generate income from past conferences (for example, \$50k from 2004 paper clicks in 2022). He confirmed that even the society's smaller conferences are still generating revenue, despite their size. Additionally, How mentioned that he will provide more detailed information in the operational budget before passing the responsibility on to the future VPFA.

CSS President

President Magnus Egerstedt presented options for adjusting the IEEE CSS membership fee structure, aiming to align CSS better with some other societies and to provide financial relief to our members. The Board of Governors (BoG) agreed to have the Executive Committee (ExCom) present a proposal for reduced fees at the summer BoG meeting. Egerstedt also provided an update on the renaming of the IEEE Control Systems Award, confirming that the change will take effect for the 2026 presentation.

Next, Egerstedt invited CSS member Sarah Spurgeon, an IEEE Foundation Director, to give an overview of the IEEE Foundation and discuss the endowment of awards. Spurgeon shared that the Foundation manages 260 donor-defined funds and partners with over 60 IEEE programs, with a total fund balance of approximately \$75 million, nearly \$15 million of which is unrestricted. She outlined the Foundation's five pillars of activity: Illuminate, Educate, Engage, Energize, and

Future.

Spurgeon then detailed the IEEE Roger Brockett Memorial Fund, explaining that its annual cost is approximately \$12,000. To sustain the Control Systems Award in the long term, a total of \$300k is needed. Combining the CS Award Fund with the Brockett Memorial Fund brings the total balance to \$240k, with \$40k already raised. This leaves \$20k still to be raised to fully endow the award.

Jungers asked confirmation that the society is currently drawing from its operational budget to fund the award, but moving it to the IEEE Foundation will shift this financial responsibility away from the society operational expenses. Baillieul noted that there have been no public campaigns or announcements to raise awareness or solicit individual donations for the award endowment. He suggested that launching such campaigns would help raise the remaining \$20k. The preferred approach for the society is to raise awareness and solicit donations through these efforts.

Activity Reports

No additional activity reports were presented during the meeting. BoG members were referred to the material contained in the agenda and reports document for full details on all activity reports.

Other Business

No additional business was presented during the meeting

Ferrara announced that the next BoG meeting will be held in conjunction with ACC 2025. It is scheduled for Monday, July 7, 2025, in Denver, Colorado.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm (CET)