

Minutes of the CSS Board of Governors Meeting

The IEEE Control Systems Society's (CSS) Board of Governors (BoG) met on 13 December 2004 in Paradise Island, The Bahamas. The minutes from that meeting follow.

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

J.D. Birdwell, president and chair, called the regular meeting of the IEEE CSS BoG to order at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, 13 December 2004 at the Atlantis Hotel in Paradise Island, The Bahamas. He recognized IEEE Division X Director E. Ruspini and the former CSS presidents in attendance and then asked the attendees to introduce themselves. The following members of the BoG were in attendance: C. Abdallah, J. Baillicul, A. Banaszuk, B. Barmish, D. Bernstein, J.D. Birdwell, L. Bushnell, X.R. Cao, C. Cassandras, D. Castanon, T. Djaferis, S. Ge, B. Ghosh, K. Hoo, K. Kozlowski, M. Krstic, W. Lin, R. Middleton, P. Misra, H. Nijmeijer, C. Schrader, M. Spong, M. E. Valcher, P. Van den Hof, B. Wittenmark, and Y. Yamamoto. Visitors present included A. Varga, T. Parisini, E. Ruspini, P. Antsaklis, M. Shor, D. Lawrence, and D. Tilbury.

The secretary-administrator, L. Bushnell, noted modifications to the agenda, which was approved by unanimous consent. Next, the minutes of the BoG meeting of 29 June 2004 were approved by unanimous consent.

Action Items

Birdwell announced that we would be following Robert's Rules of Order and noted that all motions out of the Executive Committee will not need seconds. Using a color-coded roster for 2005 appointments, Spong proceeded to present the new appointments. The BoG unanimously approved all of the appointments for 2005 with little discussion. In addition to the continuing chairs, the appointments approved for 2005 are as follows:

- Nominating Committee: J. Douglas Birdwell (chair), Cheryl Schrader, Mark Spong, Roberto Tempo, and Steve Yurkovich
- Chair, Standing Committee on Fellow Evaluation: Xi-Ren Cao
- Long-Range Planning Committee: Chaouki Abdallah, Eyad Abed, and Stephen Yurkovich
- *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control (TAC)*: Jose E.R. Cury (associate editor), Frank Callier (associate editor-at-large), Roberto Tempo (editor, Technical Notes and Correspondence) (appointments as of 1 May 2005)
- *IEEE Transactions on Control Systems Technology (TCST)*—Associate editors: Ian Fialho, Jay Lee,

Camille Rabbath, Samer Saab, Luigi Villani, and Zidong Wang

- *IEEE Control Systems Magazine (CSM)*: Philip D. Oliver (associate editor, Control Technology), Kirsten Morris (associate editor, Book Reviews), Levent Guvenc (corresponding editor, Europe and Africa), and Henrik Gollee (associate editor)
- Technical Committee (TC) Chairs—Automotive Controls: I. Kolmanovsky; Biosystems and Control: M. Khammash; Computer Aided Control System Design: D. Henrion; Discrete Event Systems: R. Leduc
- Award Subcommittee Chairs—CSS Technology Award: S. Banda; *TCST* Outstanding Paper Award: M. Jankovic; *CSM* Outstanding Paper Award: D. Abramovitch
- Conference Editorial Board (CEB)—Associate editors: A. Armanou, D. Arzelier, M. French, S. Mascolo, G. Rovithakis, S. Saab, C. Wang, and X. Xia.

2006 Budget

Castanon presented the budget parameters for 2006, which remain unchanged from the 2005 rates. He predicted a US\$171,100 profit for 2004. A new membership package providing access to current and past conference papers in *IEEE Xplore* is now an option for US\$10 member (US\$5 student).

Conference Activities Motions

Djaferis next presented the motions under Conference Activities. The first motion was to approve the budget for the 2006 CCS/ISIC/CACSD. The BoG approved the budget. Next, Tempo presented nominees for various conference appointments. All were approved by the BoG. The new appointments are as follows:

- Derong Liu as program chair for ISIC 2006
- Sam Ge as general chair of the control cluster conference in 2007
- New Orleans Riverside Hilton as the venue for the 2007 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (CDC)
- Chaouki Abdallah as general chair of CDC 2008.

The BoG then approved the "control cluster conference" concept. Starting in 2007, thematic conferences like the Conference on Control Applications (CCA), the Computer-Aided Control Systems Design (CACSD), the International Symposium on Intelligent Control (ISIC), and others will be organized and held as a single multiconference event. The structure will consist of a single general chair with overall organizational responsibility and individual program chairs

for each of the thematic conferences. Djaferis said that this new structure will encourage the creation of smaller conferences and will be a better way to serve our members. Birdwell appointed an ad hoc committee to come up with a name and an organizational structure for this conference and to report back to the BoG in June 2005.

Ruspini reported that the IEEE New Technology Directions Committee has identified seven areas of particular importance to the IEEE. These areas are biotech, security, distributed intelligent networks and systems, digital intellectual property, future power, and global earth observations. Some of these areas can produce potential tracks in a control cluster conference.

Publication Activities Motions

The BoG voted to create a digital archive of the pre-1988 IEEE CDC (and Symposium on Adaptive Processes) proceedings in a form that can be uploaded to IEEE *Xplore*. This archive would be available to our members through IEEE *Xplore* and the new conference package. Birdwell said that we would like to scan all conference papers. He said that we would need to keep the cost under US\$50,000. Spong said he would check to see if we could scan the CACSD proceedings as well. Misra said all were scanned back to 1988.

Member Activities Motions

The BoG approved that the Travel Support Program be continued at the funding level of not more than US\$25,000 for 2005–2007, subject to the following changes:

- 1) Name: The program be known as the “Conference Support Program for Developing Nations” (CSP).
- 2) The procedures and conditions be revised as follows:
 - the award covers registration plus a cash award up to US\$500
 - include a specific category of early career award (within five years of Ph.D. and under 35 years of age); 50% of awards to be targeted to each category.
- 3) That the International Affairs Committee be asked to revise the list of eligible countries for support by the end of 2005 to determine whether any changes in countries or economic conditions should affect the list.

The motion as stated above was first presented by Middleton without the cash award statement. Ruspini said that this topic is discussed at many Societies’ BoG meetings. Birdwell said that the Society pays for this activity. Tilbury asked what the criteria are for receiving an award. Middleton said that among other criteria, the recipient has to be a presenting author from one of the eligible nations. Antsaklis asked about student support within this program. Middleton said that students are not excluded. Antsaklis mentioned the issue of decreasing National Science Foundation (NSF) funds for supporting student trav-

el. Middleton said that this issue was not discussed as part of the CSP program. Valcher was concerned that the award amount is too little. Middleton said the benefit of having a registration fee waiver depends on the location of the author. Birdwell then mentioned that the motion could be amended to include a cash award. Van den Hof proposed an amendment to the motion to include a cash award not to exceed US\$500. A discussion followed after a second by Wittenmark. Baillieul said that a cash award would simplify the logistics of this program. Spong said the program is a wonderful idea unless you are a general chair of a conference. Misra said this is a very difficult issue since general chairs are busy with so many other details. He suggested that a separate committee administer the CSP awards. Castanon said it was easier for the conference to handle the program because it has a checking account and the CSS does not. Tempo suggested giving out traveler’s checks. Abdallah thought this would simplify things. We could then deal with exceptions. Ruspini said that the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society has a simple program where students are issued checks from the IEEE after it has been verified that they came to the conference. Schrader said that a person could arrive at the conference, take the check, and leave. There needs to be an organizer. Spong was against the amendment because it reintroduces logistical headaches. Wittenmark said that the amendment makes it simpler. The BoG passed the amended motion (as written above) 14 to 4.

Other Motions

The BoG voted to approve the motion to change the CSS Constitution, Article V, Section 3 as was recorded in the 29 June 2004 minutes. The main change will allow for a larger pool of eligible nominees for Executive Committee positions. Following the procedure to amend the constitution, the changes were approved as a petition to the IEEE at the June 2004 meeting. The IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) approved the changes in November 2004. The changes will be effective 30 days after publication in *IEEE Control Systems Magazine (CSM)*.

Activity Reports

Report of the President

Birdwell presented some strategic issues and thoughts as the outgoing president of the Society.

Publications: Birdwell discussed the impact of open access publications and said that a list was maintained at Lund. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is now requiring all papers from funded research be open access six months after publication. IEEE gets approximately 50% of its revenue from publications. It needs a strategy for transitioning to open access. One option discussed at IEEE is to charge US\$2,000 to US\$3,000 per paper for open access status.

Workforce Improvement: The IEEE TAB rejected a motion to fund a Walt Disney World exhibit aimed at K–12 students. The IEEE Board of Directors (BoD) had approved the expenditure on the condition of receiving matching funds from industry. This decision was a “misdirected initiative,” according to Birdwell. There is a worldwide problem attracting children to engineering. IEEE could do better by providing leadership to promote science and math in grades K–12. The CSS has made an impact on grades K–12 with the initiatives by Pasik-Duncan, chair of the TC on Control Education. Birdwell encouraged more such activities from the Society.

XELL: The IEEE Xplore-Enabled Learning Library (XELL) is a new IEEE product to deliver continuing education electronically. The CSS is not doing well in reaching one-half of its members (mostly nonacademic professionals). There is a need for continuing education. The CSS can develop one to two XELL learning modules at no cost in 2005; the cost will be US\$20,000 per one-hour module starting in 2006. The content must be peer-reviewed material for the XELL library, and CSS will need to establish a mechanism for this.

Birdwell invited Ruspini to make some remarks on IEEE Division X. Ruspini first talked about the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), mentioning IEEE President Winston’s recent public message. Members in the affected countries are being upgraded in membership now, but still no money can be sent. The IEEE is working on these issues. Ruspini mentioned that the IEEE Press is going to continue to operate and that the IEEE needs to have a presence in this market. Ruspini talked about marketing and the importance of the volunteer/staff interactions. If the Society sells IEEE/IEE Electronic Library (IEL) subscriptions, it will get a 14% commission. This initiative is a way for Societies to make money. Ruspini reviewed the IEEE guidelines on plagiarism and multiple submissions. He also discussed the IEEE’s financial status. The infrastructure cost was reduced. The BoD has approved new ways to fund new initiatives. The reserves are greater than 50% of the expenses. The BoD had spent 3% of its reserves on new initiatives. A new rule will go into effect allowing Societies and Chapters to spend 1% of this amount if they are “doing well.”

Ruspini then discussed the position of the Division X director. He said that changes are needed to the TAB structure. He is interested in seeing what can be done to increase the interaction between volunteers and staff. He thought that a three-year term would be better for the division directors. There is now a new position of division director elect (one-year term). He encouraged the BoG to submit names and to vote in the election. He said that typically 14% of the IEEE members vote in the general elections, but only 7% voted in the 2004 division director elections. Baillieul thanked Ruspini for coming to both the CDC and American Control Conference (ACC) this year to

speak to the BoG. Birdwell closed his report with saying there would be new policies for technical cosponsorship. He also announced that Schrader was elected to the IEEE TAB Nominations and Appointments Committee as Society/Council presidents representative.

Report of the Awards Committee

Antsaklis said that the awards ceremony is on track. The list of awardees is in the BoG reports and will be printed in *CSM*.

Report of the Vice President, Financial Activities

Castanon did not have anything to add to the discussion for the finance motion above. The membership rates will stay the same in 2006.

Report of the Vice President, Technical Activities

Krstic was happy to report that he received 11 reports from the TCs, indicating that 2/3 of the TCs are active. The TC on Robust Control will be discontinued due to lack of activity. There are also four new TC chairs for 2005. Birdwell said he was pleased to see so many reports. He added that each TC is expected to be active and to send in reports for each BoG meeting.

Report of the Vice President, Conference Activities

Djaferis said that ISIC 2004 was successful. The CEB is working well. He thanked everyone who has been associated with conference activities for their efforts. Djaferis then asked for conference updates from the floor. Valcher, area editor for the CDC-ECC’05, reported that the Program Committee structure has been finalized. There is one program chair and two program vice chairs. The committee met at the International Symposium on Mathematical Theory of Networks and Systems (MTNS) in July and again at this meeting. There is now a manual with instructions. The invited sessions will be treated separately for review. There will be help online for area editors and associate editors. Misra added that the copyright issue between the IEEE and ECC has been resolved. Birdwell asked that a copy of this “best practices” manual be put in the CSS archives. Misra, general chair for CDC’06, and Middleton, program chair for CDC’06, said that everything is on track. The Program Committee will look at the borderline paper cases. Misawa, general chair for ACC’06, said that they were in the process of forming the Program Committee.

Report of the Vice President, Publication Activities

Baillieul said that all publication reports are in the BoG Reports document.

Report of the Vice President, Member Activities

Middleton presented the results from an IEEE survey. Membership is decreasing. Birdwell asked about the Distinguished Lecturer (DL) subcommittee. Middleton said that the MAB is working on this. Birdwell asked if any areas were not being served by the DL program. Middleton reminded everyone that the procedure is to ask the lecturer and the chair of the DL subcommittee when requesting a lecture.

Report of the Secretary- Administrator

Bushnell noted that the next BoG meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7 June 2005 at 1:00 p.m. in Portland, Oregon at the 2005 ACC.

New Business

Birdwell briefly mentioned the current legal dispute between National Instruments and The MathWorks. This dispute could have a big impact on the CSS community.

Adjournment

Birdwell thanked the members of the BoG and visitors for attending the meeting. Certificates were given out to all BoG members who were finishing their term. Spong thanked Birdwell for representing the CSS well at the IEEE TAB meetings. Ruspini added a special thanks to Birdwell, whose efficiency made the job of Division X director easier. Spong also thanked Schrader for her ten years of service on the BoG. On the motion of Schrader, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

—**L.G. Bushnell**

IEEE CSS Secretary-Administrator

CSS NEWS

2006 IEEE Fellow Nominations

Recognition by peers is a vital function of the IEEE, with election to the grade of IEEE Fellow one of the most visible mechanisms for acknowledgment. The nomination of highly qualified individuals for Fellow status is a valuable service to the IEEE Control Systems Society (CSS). Members of the academic community have been quite responsive in the past, and we encourage them to continue nominating their peers. The CSS is also interested in seeing more of its industrial members promoted to Fellow grade. Successful Fellow nominations can be built around exceptional accomplishments in product development and technical management, as well as archival publications and teaching.

Nominations for IEEE Fellow are due at IEEE Headquarters by 15 March 2006. Hence, the first steps must be taken

well before that date. Nominees must be active IEEE Senior members and have been IEEE Members for at least five years in any grade. A successful nomination requires a qualified candidate and a well-prepared nomination package. A key preliminary step is careful reading of the "IEEE Guide for Fellow Grade Nominations," which contains the nomination forms. These materials can be found in the Fellow nomination kits that will be made available in late November on the IEEE Web site at <http://www.ieee.org/about/awards>. They can also be obtained by writing to:

IEEE Fellow Program Staff
445 Hoes Lane
P.O. Box 1331
Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331
Phone: +1 732 562 3843
Fax: +1 732 981 9019
E-mail: fellows@ieee.org

Five to eight references are required

for the nomination. A list of Fellows is contained in the IEEE Membership Directory and is available online. Recently elected Fellows appear annually in *IEEE Control Systems Magazine*. If you know of outstanding individuals who are worthy of Fellow status but are not Senior Members of the IEEE, then by all means encourage them to initiate that process themselves by going to <http://www.ieee.org/about/awards/fellows/senior.htm>. This way, you can nominate them next year.

If you have any questions or need assistance, you may contact Prof. Maria D. Di Benedetto, chair of the CSS Standing Committee on Fellow Nominations, Electrical Engineering Department, Center of Excellence DEWS, University of L'Aquila, 67040 Poggio di Roio, L'Aquila, Italy; Phone: +39 0862 434404, Fax: +39 0862 434403, E-mail: dibenede@ing.univaq.it.