IEEE Systems Council Officers Meeting
Day 1: Thursday, 31 August 2023 | 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM ET
National Harbor, MD, USA

Attendees: Amir Aghdam, Karen Burnham, Paolo Carbone, Andy Chen, Walt Downing, Steve "Jack" Dyer, Chih-Peng Fan, Steve Holt, Rajiv Joshi, Stamatis Karnouskos, Fabrice Labeau, Ruidong Li, Greg Lyons, Shreekanth, Mandayam, Andre Oboler, Bozenna Pasik-Duncan, Jason Rupe, Stephanie White, Katie Wilson

Not in attendance: Jyotika Athavale, Henry Benitez, Matthieu Bloch, Michael Cardinale, Antonio J. Marques Cardoso, Lucio Ciabattoni, Mingcong Deng, Prasanta Ghosh, Ming Hour, Shiyan Hu, Andy Knight, Wei-Jen Lee, Emanuele Menegatti, Stefan Mozar, Yoshifumi Nishio, Michele Nogueira, Ernie Parker, Vincenzo Piuri, Bob Rassa, James Ritchie, Jeff Rubin, Yang Shi, Rifat Sipahi, Kim Fung Tsang, Mark Wehde, Alexander Wyglinski, Aylin Yener, Wei Zhang

Staff: Amanda Osborn

Call to Order and Introductions – Downing
Walt called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM ET. Minutes and agenda approved as written.

MOTION: Stephanie White moved to approve the Spring 2023 AdCom meeting agenda as written. Steve Holt seconded. Motion passed. M-2222

Walt recognized the following for their service to the Council: Jack Dyer, Past-President; Steve Holt, VP Technical Operations, Education Committee Chair, Standards Committee Chair; Paolo Carbone, VP Publications; Andy Chen, VP Conferences; Jeff Rubin, VP Finance; Rajiv Josh, CAS; Chih-Peng Fan, CTSoc, Lucio Ciabattoni, CTSoc, Amir Aghdam, CSS; Aylin Yenner, ITS; and Mark Wehde, TEMS.

Nominations and Appointments – Dyer

Jack reviewed the N&A guidelines and process. The positions to be selected at this meeting are President-Elect (2024), Vice President–Publications (2024–2025), Vice President–Finance (2024–2025), Vice President–Technical Operations (2024–2025), Vice President–Conferences (2024–2025), Fellows Evaluation Committee Chair (2024), and Systems Journal Editor-in-Chief (2024–2025).

MOTION: The Nominations and Appointments Committee moved to appoint Andy Chen for President-Elect for the term 2024. Motion passed. M-2223

MOTION: The Nominations and Appointments Committee moved to appoint Fabrice Labeau for VP Publications for the term 2024-2025. Motion passed. M-2224

MOTION: The Nominations and Appointments Committee moved to appoint Shreekanth Mandayam for VP Finance for the term 2024-2025. Motion passed. M-2225

MOTION: The Nominations and Appointments Committee moved to appoint Andre Oboler for VP Technical Operations for the term 2024-2025. Motion passed. M-2226

MOTION: The Nominations and Appointments Committee moved to appoint Paolo Carbone for VP Conferences for the term 2024-2025. Motion passed. M-2227

MOTION: The Nominations and Appointments Committee moved to endorse the appointment of Amir G. Aghdam as the Editor-in -Chief of the IEEE Systems Journal for the term of 2024-2025. Motion passed. M-2228

MOTION: The Nominations and Appointments Committee moved to approve the Presidential Appointment of Steve Butler as the Fellows Evaluation Committee Chair. Motion passed. M-2229

The additional members of the FEC are Katie Wilson, Dale Blair, John Baras, and Armando Colombo. Steve and Katie will serve on the Cohort Fellow Evaluation Committee. Stephanie reviewed the changes to the Fellows and FEC Cohorts.

James Ritchie will complete his term as YP rep. There have been two potential candidates – Garrett Jares and Behnoosh Meskoob – who have expressed interest. Conference Catalysts to add a call for the position on the website.

President's Report – Downing

Walt provided a current status report and future plans:
- Added the Reliability Society and EMC Society for a total of 20 member societies;
- Significant growth in the student branch chapters in Region 10;
- In-person conferences have resumed;
- Awarded the ISJ Best Paper Award and two scholarships;
- Changes to the scholarship TABARC;
- Initiated Best Chapter and Student Branch Chapter Awards;
- Launched Online Distinguished Lecturers program;
- Initiated History Column;
- And the website upgrade is underway.

The current challenges include revenue sources being threatened, the transition of student membership to full membership, and lack of volunteers, and a shortage of volunteer time.

It was noted the SYSCON registration fees have not been increased as much as the expenses have increased. Andre noted the increase in attending conferences with airfare and hotels, people will be attending fewer conferences and cheaper, virtual conferences.

Walt reviewed the intended action items for this meeting including elections, approval of FEC, other position appointments, finalizing the 2024 budget, identifying collaboration opportunities with member societies, HKN Student Leadership Conference sponsorship, RASSE 2023, 2024 Strategic Planning Meeting, and SYSCON 2024.

Finance/Budget and Awards – Rassa

Bob was unable to attend and will provide updates via email for Finance/Budget and Awards.

Conferences – Chen

Andy reviewed the registrations and paper submissions for SYSCON 2023 and RASSE 2023. There was a discussion held on having a multi-conference event in one location.

RASSE 2023 introduced an Industry Forum with 20 industry leaders as a response to the feedback provided by the previous SCRC review. Focused on promoting locally and sought governing agency support. They appointed a conference Treasurer and local arrangements chair. There has been steady growth of RASSE in Region 10 since 2021.

ISSE 2023 was skipped due to low turnout and attendance. RASSE 2024's potential hosts in Beijing and Singapore. ISSE 2024 is TBD. Discussion held on hosting ISSE 2024 in Dubai in place of having a separate, new conference in the Middle East.

Andy will work with Paolo to update the Conference Guidelines in 2024. The average acceptance rate for SYSC conferences is around 65%.

Technical Operations– Holt

This is Steve's last year as VP Tech Ops. There are currently 13 Technical Committees. The Intelligent Transportation Design (ITD) TC has a new Chair, Bapiraju Surampudi. The System Education TC has a new Chair, Veerpratap Meena. Communication from the TC chairs has been lacking. The new VP should work with the VP Conferences to develop special sessions with the TCs. The chairs have been asking to reach out to the member society reps to establish activities of mutual interest.

Education – Holt

Looking for additional tutorial speakers to create recordings for the Resource Center. Paul Hershey is the only tutorial to date. A goal is to offer professional and educational credits related to the tutorials. Need to develop a guideline for the types of tutorials the Council wants on the website and RC.

Standards – Holt

The Council should determine what is practical and what is not with limited staffing and resources to produce new standards but can offer guidance on documents. Walt recommended starting the transition process with Steve and Andre.

TC-SEM – White

Stephanie chairs the Technical Committee on Systems Engineering Methods (TC-SEM). They host monthly meetings that started in April 2023. The first meeting maxed out the 100-person limit on the Zoom meeting. The April meeting focused on a discussion to determine areas of interest. During the

May meeting, there were three breakout sessions. The challenges include producing material for SEBoK, maintaining participant interest, and making a technical difference for TC SEM's members.

Publications – Carbone

ISJ
In 2022, there were almost 2,000 paper submissions. There was a slight decrease in the Impact Factor to 4.4. There is strong competition among journals. There was a strategic goal established to increase industry contributions to the ISJ from industry to 50%. Paolo noted Manuscript Central has been unable to modify its site to ask authors about their type of affiliation (industry versus academia). Several solutions were discussed during the Officers' meeting and are being investigated. There was a discussion held on increasing the overlength page charges.

Action Item: Fabrice Labeau to connect Paolo Carbone and Amir Aghdam with someone at IEEE Publications to get access to the database of authors to determine affiliation type.

Action Item: Fabrice Labeau to send Paolo Carbone the spreadsheet with the publication's overlength page charges.

Action Item: Paolo Carbone to send Bob Rassa the revised page budget of 4,200 pages for 2024.

J-MASS
Received 25 new submissions and published 41 papers in 2023. IEEE did not submit the paperwork. IEEE Clarivate and looked at the lack of stability. Will slowly increase the rejection rate in 2024. Establishing a Best Paper Award with TABARC. Andre noted the award should go to the sponsoring OU's governing bodies for approval. Fabrice recommends the steering committee lead the award oversight.

OJSE
Projected to launch Q4 2023. The sponsors are the SYSC (40%), SMC (40%), and AESS (20%). An editorial board was established. Marketing efforts include a promotional flyer, web pages on AESS and SYSC websites, and announcements in the sponsors' newsletters. Established policy on discounting APC fees for the first two years. Tried four special issues and none were successful. Projected to publish

A strategic goal for SYSC publications is the monitor the average sub-to-pub time and reduce delays where possible.

SEBoK
The new EiC for SEBok is Dr. Nicole Hutchinson. The Council's representatives to SEBoK are Bob and Stephanie. Fabrice noted the four special issues have failed for the OJSE and require a lot of proactive efforts.

Website – Osborn

Amanda provided a brief update on the website. It is on track to be published in October.

Action Item: Amanda Osborn to post the development site and request feedback from the AdCom.

Parking Lot - All

Computer Society Special Technical Committees - Oboler
Andre presented on the Computer Society's Special Technical Committees. He noted there may be some overlap in interest for the SYSC and an opportunity to gain additional volunteers and collaboration. Provided links: https://www.computer.org/communities/special-technical-communities and https://slideplayer.com/slide/12698748/.

TAB Alternate Voting Members – Downing
IEEE asked to appoint two voting alternates for TAB meetings. Walt recommends Andy as President-Elect. There was a discussion held on who the second alternate should be but wasn't decided on.

The meeting was recessed until Friday, 1 September 2023.

Day 2: Friday, 1 September 2023 | 8:00 aM – 12:00 PM ET

Walt called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM and introduced Massimo Pellegrino.

IEEE European Public Policy Committee (EPPC) – Pellegrino

Massimo provided a presentation on the IEEE European Public Policy Committee. They hold meetings every two months virtually and once a year in person in Brussels with 12 members of the working group. He recommended that the Council develop public policy for the Global Public Policy Committee. There is a push to get more public policy across IEEE.

Member Services – White

Stephanie reviewed the subcommittees of Member Services. She noted the work Fabrice has done with the Chapters including increasing the number of chapters. Walt has been leading the efforts with Life and Senior Members. Stamatis agreed to take over the Industry Professionals Committee and will revisit the industry survey. Aylin is terming out as a representative; Stephanie to follow up with Aylin to determine if she wants to continue in her chair roles or needs co-chairs. Holly has been very active with the WiSE activities. James Ritchie is terming out as YP rep and there is a call for participation.

Stephanie reviewed the short-term actions and three-year goals related to the 2022 Strategic Plan that have been completed and ongoing. The challenges and opportunities include increasing cooperation and activity with the Member Societies.

Walt suggested looking at the papers that are submitted to the conference that are related to systems engineering and we can post to the website and help promote SE.

Action Item: Walt Downing to solicit conference papers with ties to systems engineering from the member society reps.

Distinguished Lecturer Program – White
Stephanie presented on behalf of Pierangela. The DL Committee suggested expanding the DL program to support the increasing number of chapters, overall low number of requests for in-person DLs, and limited local visibility. There were continued discussions on the DLP 2.0 document and proposal. Walt

recommended that the motion be moved to an e-vote to allow everyone to review the documents and confirm they are in final format. The DL reimbursement policy has been updated.

WISE – White

Stephanie reviewed the WiSE activities on behalf of Holly Handley including four webinars and a reception at SYSCON. Holly is planning online and in-person activities for each quarter in 2024.

Chapters – Labeau

There have been new student branch chapters and a joint chapter in India established. Fabrice worked with IEEE to resolve the issue of how chapter events were being coded (SYS45 and SYSC45). Fabrice noted a challenge with SBCs is that once they graduate, the SBC typically falls apart. Fabrice is looking to add a student forum at SYSCON. Fabrice will be stepping down as Chapter Chair and is actively seeking a replacement. Ramakrishnan (Ramki) Raman was suggested.

DEI – Aghdam

The report was put together by Bozenna and Amir. They have regularly participated in TAB CDI and engaged in two working groups. They hosted a joint event with CSS, SYSC, SSIT, and external entities at the American Control Conference in San Diego in June 2023. Stephanie recommended the member societies integrate a workshop or other event at their conferences. Amir provided an example of a workshop CSS hosts at its conference.

Life and Senior Members – Downing

Walt has hosted monthly committee meetings, created articles and announcements, and hosted informal social gatherings at conferences. The Senior Member initiative helped 27 volunteers in 2022 and 16 in 2023 YTD become elevated to Senior Member. Future activities include history articles, supporting STEM education, mentoring, group travel, and tech tours, stepping stone recognition, museum support, and participation in the Life Member Conference. The 2024 Life Member Conference conflicts with SYSCON 2024 so Walt will find a Life Member to attend on behalf of the SYSC.

MOTION: The Life Member committee moves that SYSC support the inaugural IEEE Life Member Conference in Austin, Texas on April 14-16, 2024 as a silver sponsor. Motion passed. M-2230

Industry and Industry Professionals – Karnouskos

The committee developed a survey but it needs to be shared with Conference Catalysts to distribute. Need to derive concrete actions for 2024, revisit the survey, and plan outreach. Looking for additional input and involvement from volunteers. Rajiv noted that CAS is also focused on increasing industry engagement and participation. He noted a conference in Singapore. Rajiv and Stephanie volunteered to be part of the industry committee.

Subcommittee on Non-IEEE Systems – Haifeng

Haifeng was named chair in April 2023. He has been in collaboration with INCOSE. Discussion was held on systems and software and potential student competition. There is an opportunity for the SYSC to co-

sponsor the Complex Adaptive Systems Conference. Haifeng will work with Andy to complete the sponsorship form. There was a discussion held on the paper publication platform the conference uses. Andre noted this conference could be seen as a competitor as the papers would not be published in *Xplore*. Stephanie noted for the SYSC to consider a co-sponsorship, the conference would have to commit to *Xplore*.

IEEE Climate Change – Lee

Wei-Jen provided an update on the IEE Global Power System Transformation in Respect to Climate Change Program and key takeaways from the United Nations Climate Change Conference. A dedicated ad hoc committee and program within IEEE was developed. Rajiv to reach out to Wei-Jen to get involved. Stephanie recommended that a SYSC TC to review the model.

Member Society Roundtable – All Reps

Reliability Society – Rupe
Jason noted there are multiple opportunities for the Council and RS to collaborate on conferences, primarily technical co-sponsored, to promote membership, and establish or combine co-TCs and Standards.

Parking Lot - All

MOTION: Paolo Carbone moved to increase the overlength page charges for IEEE Systems Journal from 150 USD to 200 USD while maintaining the current page limits of 8 complimentary pages for regular pages. Jack Dyer seconded. Motion passed. M-2231

Administrative Updates – Osborn
Amanda will be sending out requests for 2024 Member Society Reps and Appointments

MOTION: Jack Dyer moved to adjourn the meeting. Stephanie White seconded. Motion passed. M-2232