



IEEE Systems Council AdCom Meeting

Friday, September 3, 2021 | 9:00 AM – 12:20 PM (ET)

Virtual via Zoom

Voting AdCom Attendees: Amir Aghdam, Paolo Carbone, Andy Chen, Walt Downing, Steve Dyer, Chih-Peng Fan, Nelson Fonseca, Steve Holt, Rajiv Joshi, Okyay Kaynak, Fabrice Labeau, Cecilia Metra, Amir Mortazawi, Ernie Parker, Bozena-Pasik-Duncan, Vincenzo Piuri, James Ritchie, Jeffrey Rubin, Mandayam Shreekanth, Thomas Strasser, Mark Wehde, Stephanie White, Aylin Yener

Non-Voting AdCom Attendees: Jyotika Athavale, Holly Handley, Rich Hochberg, Amanda Osborn, Bob Rassa

Guests: Patrick McCarren, Jim Moore, Paul Nikolich, Edward Tau

Vincenzo Piuri called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM ET.

We have a quorum.

Vincenzo acknowledged the recent passing of Systems Council volunteer, Ferial El-Hawary, and shared her obituary.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Hochberg

MOTION: Stephanie White moved to approve the Fall 2021 AdCom meeting agenda as written. Okyay Kaynak seconded. Motion passed. M-0223

MOTION: Stephanie White moved to approve the Spring 2021 AdCom meeting minutes as written. Andy Chen seconded. Motion passed. M-0224

TAB Committee on Standards – Moore

Jim Moore presented an introduction on the IEEE Technical Activities Board Committee on Standards (TAB CoS) and on the standards relevant to the Systems Council.

President's Message and Report – Piuri

Piuri reviewed the Council's mission, 2021 Member Societies and respective representatives.

Strategic directions for 2021 included:

- Transform the ad hoc Education Committee into a Standing Committee and establish a Systems Education Program via the Resource Center
- Expand the Technical Activities by involving more volunteers and creating new TCs
- Create new conferences and increase cooperation with TCs
- Support and publicize the Council-sponsored publications



- Restructure the Member Services committees and expand activities
- Promote geographic and gender diversity
- Revise organizational structure to distribute the workload and create subcommittees focused on specific activities

Nominations and Appointments – Rassa

Bob Rassa reviewed the open Council positions for the 2022-2023 term.

2022-2023 Slate

VP Technical Operations: Steve Holt

VP Publications: Paolo Carbone

VP Finance: Jeff Rubin

MOTION: The Nominations and Appointment Committee moves to elect the slate of Systems Council officers for the 2022-2023 term as follows: VP Technical Operations: Steve Holt; VP Publications: Paolo Carbone; and VP Finance: Jeff Rubin. Motion passed. M-0225

A discussion was held on how diversity was taken into account during the search process for candidates.

MOTION: The Nominations and Appointment Committee moved to approve the Presidential appointment of Dale Blair as the Systems Council Fellows Evaluation Chair for 2022. Motion passed. M-0226

Bob reminded the AdCom that James Ritchie's term as the SysC Young Professionals rep was extended through 2023.

Incoming President, Jack Dyer, will appoint the Secretary and Treasurer positions for the 2023 term.

Vincenzo confirmed the Presidential appointments of Giuseppe Parise for the IEEE Smart City Initiative and Amir Aghdam as the Systems Journal Editor-in-Chief for the 2022-2023 term.

It was noted that there should be more Member Society involvement in the appointment process.

Budget and Finance – Rassa

Bob presented on the financial results from the 2020 virtual conferences, which generated a surplus of \$133k. He reviewed the 2017-2020 publications primary sources of revenue. Overlength page charges continue to generate significant income, while open access charges are down.

The preliminary 2020 results without investment income FM13 net was \$417k bringing reserves to \$2,161.7k. The Council spent \$43k less than projected due to meetings being held virtually. Conferences outperformed by \$1465.k and publications outperformed by \$202.7k.



The Council is financially solvent and can support additional expenses to support associate members, scholarships, chapter activities, etc.

The 2022 budget was submitted in July 2021 with a projected surplus of \$347.1k without investment income and includes two, in-person AdCom meetings and one, in-person Officers meeting.

Budget issues include potential reduced revenues for future publications as a result of Open Access and conferences due to on-going COVID-19 situation.

Conferences - Chen

Andy Chen reviewed the 2021 and 2022 financially sponsored conference portfolio and their statuses and locations. RASSE 2021 has been postponed to December 2021. The Council is a technical sponsor of 4 conferences in 2021 and 2022 to date.

The Meetings and Conference Committee is holding bi-monthly meetings.

COVID-19 continues to impact conferences significantly with 25% fewer paper submissions and registrations down 50%. International travel restrictions and lack of engagement of host organizations are additional challenges.

Planning underway for 2022 and 2023 conferences in Vancouver, Paris, and the MENA region.

Andy reviewed the 2022 RASSE proposal to be hosted in Taiwan.

There was a discussion held on the need for increased involvement from the Council's member societies partially with special sessions and tutorials and expanding educational activities at Council-sponsored conferences.

Publications – Carbone

Paolo Carbone presented on the Systems Journal performance metrics. There has been a consistent decline in the impact factor. Current impact factor is 3.931. All papers submitted by the end of 2018 have been included in issues by the second 2020 issue. There has been limited publicity and no special issues since the beginning of 2015 and Q4 2014, respectively, to limit the backlog of accepted papers.

The 2021 page budget was 5,750, which will need to be increased to 6,000 in 2022.

MOTION: The Publications Committee moved to add 750 pages to the page budget of the IEEE Systems Journal in 2021 (total 6,500 pages). Motion passed. M-0227

Carbone reviewed publications trend:

- IEEE *Xplore* website visits were down significantly in 2020 but are recovering.
- The number of newsletter recipients continues to grow and is now over 15,000.



- There has been an increase in number of visits to the ISJ website page.
- SYSCON and ISSE paper downloads were drastically down in 2020.

The J-MASS website and author templates have been improved. New special issues have been created with several tied to major conferences. There were 20 new appointed Associate Editors. The journal was delisted from the IEEE Watch List. Kim Fowler was appointed EiC with new assistant Ms. Greeley Hibbard in July 2021.

Paolo provided updates on the Open Access Journal on Systems Engineering. The projected launch date is Q4 2023. The EiC will be Dale Blair.

Paolo reviewed the co-sponsored journals – IEEE Transactions on Cloud Computing (7%) and IEEE Transactions on Big Data (5%) – metrics and performance.

[ACTION ITEM: Fabrice Labeau to provide Open Access presentation from the TAB Periodicals Committee during future AdCom or Officers meeting.](#)

Transition to Society – Rassa

The ad hoc committee met in December 2020. Bob provided a background and naming of the Systems Council and presented the pros and cons of a transition from Council to Society.

A discussion was held if the transition to Society status should be pursued and Member Societies provided feedback from their respective societies.

The ad hoc committee will dissolve at year end unless reappointed by incoming President, Jack Dyer.

Awards – Rassa

Bob reviewed the Council's awards and 2021 recipients. Awards are announced at SYSCON and ISSE. There were 5 nominations submitted for 2022 Fellows. Results will be announced in late November.

[ACTION ITEM: Bob Rassa to contact James O. Gray graduate recipient to ensure they are still eligible to receive scholarship.](#)

Member Services – White

Stephanie White provided updates on the various Member Services Subcommittees including achievements, challenges, and action items.

Chapters - A Chapter Summit was held in conjunction with SYSCON 2021. There have been four chapters added in 2021 for a total of 27. There is an active campaign to increase the number of chapters and participation in chapters.

Senior Members – Walt Downing assisted 9 IEEE Members for IEEE Senior Member status.



Distinguished Lecturers – There are two nominations for DLs to be voted on by AdCom.

Cooperation – Created subcommittees and all positions have been filled.

There was a discussion held on establishing a term-limit for Distinguished Lecturers.

MOTION: The Distinguished Lecturer Committee moves to limit the Distinguished Lecturers to a 3-year term, renewable by application and approval of AdCom with no limit on the number of terms that can be served. All DL's appointed before September 3, 2021 have to apply to have their DL status renewed and approved by AdCom within 3 years by September 3, 2024. Motion passed. M-0228

There are two new DL applications for AdCom consideration and approval.

MOTION: The Distinguished Lecturer Committee moves to approve Mark Wehde as a Systems Council Distinguished Lecturer. Motion passed. M-0229

MOTION: The Distinguished Lecturer Committee moves to approve Ramakrishnan Raman as a Systems Council Distinguished Lecturer. Motion passed. M-0230

MOTION: The Member Services Committee moved to approve the creation of two IEEE Systems Council "Chapter of the Year" Awards, providing an award of \$1,000 for the Most Outstanding Chapter and \$500 (or up to \$1,000 in travel reimbursement) for the Most Outstanding Student Chapter. Motion passed. M-0231

ACTION ITEM: Amanda Osborn to send Stephanie White and Fabrice Labeau the IEEE awards application.

Women in Systems Engineering – Handley

WISE held a joint virtual webinar on professional development with the Human System Integration Technical Committee.

Newly featured engineers are posted on the updated WISE website page. Challenges include identifying members to feature from Region 9 and determining the larger role in IEEE WIE.

Action items include developing a charter, reviewing demographics to determine gaps, and plan workshops and meetings.



Technical Operation – Holt

Steve Holt reported on the status and growth of the Council's 12 TCs.

Challenges include lack of recruitment and recruiting tools in place; individual TC websites vary in structure and information; lack of engagement with various societies.

There is an opportunity for TC expansion with Standards and CubeSat Miniaturized Satellite.

Educational Activities – Holt

Steve provided an updated on the Resource Center initiative. The ad hoc Education Committee has solicited tutorials from previous conferences and developed a process for selecting, reviewing, and processing tutorials. There are two tutorials in the pipeline. The Committee is developing a pricing structure to be submitted and approved by AdCom.

Additional solicitation requests for tutorials were sent to SysC DL, Chapters, AdCom, etc. and received limited results.

The Committee and Council needs to determine the types of tutorials desired for the Resource Center for the next few years.

MOTION: Vincenzo Piuri moved to extend the meeting by 30 minutes. Steve Holt seconded. Motion passed. M-0232

Strategic Plan Review – Dyer

Jack Dyer sent a working draft of the 2022 Strategic Plan to AdCom on September 3. The next draft will be reviewed during the Officers meeting on October 29. The Strategic Plan will be reviewed annually during an Officers meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Vice Presidents to provide feedback to Jack Dyer on their relevant areas by October 1.

Old/New Business – Piuri

Vincenzo reminded the AdCom of the SysC publicity resources available for use on the website.

There was an Officers meeting held in July and an additional meeting will be held in October.

Vincenzo recognized the outgoing AdCom members and thanks the Officers and AdCom for the work they have done for the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 12:31 PM ET.