



## IEEE Systems Council Officers Meeting

Thursday, 18 April 2024, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Montreal, QC, Canada

**Attendees:** Walt Downing, Andy Chen, Stephanie White, Paolo Carbone, Katie Wilson, Shreekanth Mandayam, Andre Oboler

**Not in attendance:** Fabrice Labeau, Robert Rassa

**Guests:** Alireza Safaee, Amir Aghdam

**Virtual Guests:** Shelby Lussier

**Staff:** Laura Paul, Amanda Osborn

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 AM ET. The agenda was approved as written.

**MOTION:** Andy Chen moved to approve the Fall 2023 Officers meeting minutes. Stephanie White seconded. Motion passed.

### Welcome – Downing

#### 2023 Updates

Walt shared that two new member societies and several new committees were added to the SYSC roster, and the Online Distinguished Lecture series was successfully launched. SYSC sponsored the IEEE-KHN Student Leadership Conference and IEEE Life Member Conference and plans to renew those sponsorships for their next events. Additionally, SYSC launched a new website.

Walt recommended continuing the Council support of the HKN Student Leadership Conference and the Life Member Conference.

**ACTION ITEM:** CCLLC to prompt CCLLC conference managers to add Life Member and Young Professional as a conference registration prompt.

#### 2024 Updates

Schedules did not align to hold a 2024 Strategic Planning Meeting, but Walt recommends scheduling one for January 2025. Governing document revisions will continue to be a point of focus in 2024.

An area of focus for the remainder of 2024 is converting students to IEEE members. Region 10 has seen significant growth in student members, so reaching out to those areas and engaging that audience is crucial. This will also put SYSC in front of a young, broader audience in the engineering and technology fields.

Walt introduced the idea of forming a Communications Committee. Currently, CCLLC manages all social media, website posts, and the newsletter. Several officers noted the rise of video platforms such as TikTok. Amanda noted that CCLLC's Operations Management contract does not support video and the included social media support is minimal. Amanda shared that CCLLC's Marketing Unit offers a more tailored opportunity for publicity, and it may be an option for SYSC to explore.

## **Conferences – Carbone**

### *SYSCON*

SYSCON 2024 generated more papers and attendees than in 2023. Conference papers were downloaded or read over 66,000 thousand times in 2023. 2025 planning has already begun. Conference papers were downloaded or read over 66,000 thousand times in 2023.

### *Student Event at SYSCON*

26 papers were accepted, with 19 being presented during the conference. All of the participants provided video submissions.

### *RASSE*

RASSE was held in India in 2023 and a large number of papers were withdrawn due to visa issues. Despite the lower paper numbers, conference papers were downloaded or read 7,355 times in 2023. Plans for 2024 and 2025 are underway. Both Taiwan and Singapore are being discussed as locations.

### *ISSE*

ISSE will be held in Perugia, Italy on 16-18 October 2024. Organizers are interested in further collaboration with the member societies for special sessions. OJSE has approved a special issue for ISSE 2024. Conference papers were downloaded or read 36,762 in 2023.

### *Overall Conference Performance*

The average net for SYSC conferences is lower than the Council would like, but the numbers do include and reflect the COVID-19 years when conferences could not go on as intended.

### *IEEE Xplore Conference Revenue Distribution*

Downloads account for 65% of the distribution while the amount of content added is responsible for 35% of the distribution.

## **Division X Report - White**

Ravinder S. Dahiya will assume the Division X Director role for the 2025-2026 term.

Division X is made up of

- IEEE Computational Intelligence Society
- IEEE Control Systems Society
- IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society
- IEEE Photonics Society
- IEEE Robotics and Automation Society
- IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society
- IEEE Biometrics Council
- IEEE Sensors Council
- IEEE Systems Council

Stephanie announced that the Fellows elevation process has been revised to include division cohorts and a new ranking system. Each member of the cohort ranks the nominees individually, and then the cohort meets and works together on a collective cohort ranking. Dalma Novak has been appointed Division X Cohort Committee Chair.

The SYSC Fellows Search Committee Chair is vacant and has been since 2019. The Council should discuss making an appointment for this position. Marco Parvis held it last.

Division X has chosen Cactus, a technical public relations firm, to publicize outstanding research results and papers. Division President need to meet and decide who wants to participate in this activity and bear the cost. The anticipated cost is \$7,000. Walt noted that Fabrice should be included in this discussion.

**ACTION ITEM:** Stephanie White and Walt Downing to discuss Division X technical public relations support firm with Fabrice Labeau.

Andre noted an issue with the IEEE Nominations Committee where emails announcing position vacancies are being sent out multiple times only for applicants to find that the same positions are listed and expired. This practice is a detriment to interested volunteers who are not provided accurate information.

**ACTION ITEM:** Stephanie White to work with the IEEE Nominations Committee to provide clarity on actual position vacancies.

The meeting was called to a recess at 10:00 AM ET.

The meeting was called back to order at 10:20 AM ET.

### **Special Presentation - Industry Engagement, Celia Desmond**

Celia presented information from the IEEE Industry Engagement Committee. The IEC has been working to identify portions of Industry that IEEE does not currently serve and determine how best to address those gaps.

The goal of the committee is to reach practitioners. IEEE is made up largely of academics and researchers, so reaching those who are actually using the technology rather than designing it is a huge opportunity for expansion. Celia encouraged outreach through Chapters and proposed incorporating more Industry professionals into Society and Council governing positions.

Andre noted that there should be value added for this type of engagement with Industry. Discussions ensued regarding the type and level of value needed to be successful. The officers noted several gaps within research availability and open-access journals which protect information from public view without large fees.

### **Member Services - White**

Stephanie recognized the new Chapters Chair, Ramki Raman, and the current roster of Committees and Chairs. Stephanie also noted that two Subcommittee Chair positions need to be filled (Cooperation with Practitioners and Cooperation with Other IEEE Entities) and welcomed interested persons to reach out.

Stephanie shared that the Early Career Speaker Program is being formed under Sambit Bakshi. Sambit created this program for the Computer Society and found interesting speakers that students and young professionals found a connection with. The program will be strictly virtual at first.

Andre shared that there is an IEEE-level committee change being discussed with plans to implement it in July. Councils and Societies will be able to appoint multiple levels of coordinators for different projects and committees.

#### *Distinguished Lecturer Program*

A large number of applications were received for 2024, but the majority were out of scope. The Council selected eight DLs who fit the scope and were engaging.

#### *Women in Systems Engineering*

Holly Handley has expressed interest in being replaced in 2025 after chairing the committee for three years.

[ACTION ITEM: Officers to send Walt Downing recommendations on WiSE Chair for 2025.](#)

[ACTION ITEM: CCLLC to share WiSE Chair position vacancy on social media.](#)

#### **Finance – Mandayam**

The Council continues to increase its surplus. Conference paper downloads from Xplore generally account for \$50,000 per year, but the exact numbers for each conference won't be known until about three years after the conference.

Additionally, overlength page charges account for a large percentage of the Council revenue each year.

#### **Technical Operations - Oboler**

Andre shared that the Chairs of the Technical Committees have not been responsive to inquiries. A survey was sent out at the beginning of the year that only four individuals responded to. Andre noted the difficulty in making plans or adjustments without data. For the TC Chairs that did respond, Andre plans to offer support from the Council. If the TC Chairs do not respond to the final reminder, Andre will consider the position vacant and work to put out a call for volunteers.

Andre recognized that several OUs list their technical committees on their IEEE registration page.

[ACTION ITEM: CCLLC to reach out to IEEE regarding technical committee listing on the IEEE registration site.](#)

Rather than allowing each technical committee to run their own webpages and rosters, Andre suggested pulling that information back to the Council level to manage.

#### **Governing Documents - Wilson**

Katie shared that the governing document revisions are a work in progress. A Google Document will be shared at a later date with the Officers for comments and suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 AM ET.