

Robotics and Automation Council  
Council Minutes: 3/25/85

The meeting of the Robotics and Automation Council was convened on March 25, 1985, at the St. Louis Marriott Pavilion Hotel. The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p. m. by the President, J. F. Jarvis.

### 1. Roll Call

The following members and guests were in attendance:

J. F. Jarvis, President  
G. N. Saridis, Past President and Chairman, Nominations Committee  
K. S. Fu, Vice President  
H. E. Stephanou, Secretary  
R. Klafter, Treasurer  
A. K. Bejczy, Chairman, Publications Committee  
Y. C. Ho, Chairman, Meetings Committee  
A. A. Desrochers, Chairman, Education Committee  
W. E. Snyder, Newsletter Editor  
A. Scheide, Industrial Applications Society  
W. Gevarter, Systems Man and Cybernetics Society  
R. P. Paul, Systems Man and Cybernetics Society  
N. Caplan, Control Systems Society  
W. S. Levine, Control Systems Society  
R. J. P. deFigueiredo, Circuits and Systems Society  
H. Hayman, 1985 Conference Treasurer

### 2. Adoption of Agenda

The meeting agenda proposed by Jarvis was adopted.

### 3. Consent Agenda

The minutes of the CRA Adcom meeting held on December 11, 1984 at the Las Vegas Hilton were approved.

#### 4. Action Items

##### A. Nominations of the 1987 Conference Committee

The adcom approved a motion made by Saridis to nominate Y. C. Ho as General Chairman of the 1987 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation. Ho proposed Raleigh, North Carolina, for the 1987 conference site. He distributed a preliminary conference budget, and some material describing the conference facilities in Raleigh. Ho will present a firm budget proposal and nominate a program chairman at the December 1985 meeting of the adcom. There was a brief discussion on the pros and cons of including exhibits at the conference

It was also decided that the 1988 conference chairman will be appointed at the December 1985 Adcom meeting.

##### B. Final Approval of the 1986 Conference

Bejczy highlighted three areas that will receive increased emphasis at the 1986 Conference: papers on industrial flexible automation, papers from industry, and the international character of the conference.

The adcom unanimously approved the following motion, made by Bejczy and amended by Levine:

The 1986 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation will be held on April 14 - 17, 1986, at the San Francisco Hotel Meridien, with particular emphasis on automation papers, and an international program committee. The conference budget is to include a 20% surplus relative to the estimated gross expenses.

##### C. Next Adcom Meeting

The next Adcom meeting will be held on Tuesday December 10, 1985 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, one day prior to the 1985 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control.

## 5. Reports

### A. President

Jarvis gave a brief report on the February 1985 TAB meeting, and encouraged adcom members to start thinking about services that the council could provide for member societies. Overall, the feeling was the Council's progress is on track, although some nervousness about the Journal was expressed. Jarvis also informed the adcom that the number of Journal subscriptions is close to 7,000.

### B. Treasurer

Klafter reported that the Council's net worth is \$900.

### C. Publications Committee

Bejczy indicated his intent to appoint one member on a rotating basis from the parent societies, and another member from abroad.

### D. Journal Editor

In Bekey's absence, Bejczy reported on the status of the JRA. The first issue was in printing. It consists of 5 papers (3 on theory, 2 on applications), and a book review. There is an excellent backlog of papers for 1985. Papers are submitted at the rate of about 6 per month. Bejczy also relayed Bekey's recommendation to increase the subscription cost to \$15 (from the current \$10).

There was some uncertainty about the incremental cost per subscription. Jarvis asked Bejczy to clarify this question before the adcom could act on Bekey's recommendation.

Ho expressed some concern that some comments made by Bekey in an interview with the Control Systems magazine had been interpreted to imply that there was, in the Council, much more interest in robotics than in automation. Jarvis suggested writing future CRA advertisements in a way that reflects a balance between robotics and automation.

## E. Education Committee

Desrochers gave a brief report on the Satellite Video Broadcast on "Robot Dynamics and Control" held on February 27, 1985. The broadcast covered 136 sites and reached 4300 people. It was the largest one day program ever held by the IEEE, and the first of the nine broadcasts to make money. There was a brief discussion on the possibility of holding another teleconference on April 14, 1986 with the Hotel Meridien as one of the remote sites. It was decided not to follow up on this idea.

## 6. New Business

Levine made a motion to approve the Council's cooperation, at no financial cost to the Council, in the sponsorship of the IFAC Symposium on Modeling, Control and Education of Robot Manipulators (to be held on November 12 - 16, 1986 at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque), subject to the cosponsorship of the Symposium by the IEEE Control Systems Society.

The motion was unanimously approved.

## 7. Discussion Items

Jarvis led the discussion by soliciting ideas on various services that the Council could offer the member societies. He suggested the possibility of offering each attendee of the Conference an automatic membership in one of the member societies. He also proposed to actively solicit Japanese papers for the Journal, which would provide translation services. Finally, he suggested sponsoring a future conference in Japan or Europe.

The adcom strongly supported Jarvis' proposal to increase the Council's international character by increasing its visibility and activities in Europe and Japan. One of the suggestions was to increase the Japanese representation on the adcom and on the editorial committee. Caplan proposed that the Council collaborate with a NATO committee on "Sensory Control of Robotics" that is to hold a series of workshops in Italy.

In response to a question by Saridis, Snyder indicated that the first issue of the newsletter was to be issued by early May. The plan is to initially have two issues per year, and to eventually go to six issues per year. Jarvis asked for the newsletter budget to be submitted for the adcom's approval by mail ballot.

Saridis announced that he had appointed Y. C. Ho and H. E. Stephanou as members of the nominations committee.

There was a brief discussion on the possibility of a CRA award in the field of robotics and automation. Scheibe suggested some mechanism for selecting the best journal paper, independently of the editorial board (this would add a second screening process). Jarvis asked Scheibe to form an adhoc committee to prepare a proposal describing the award structure and mechanism and submit it to the adcom at its December 1985 meeting. Jarvis suggested that the award consist of a plaque and/or certificate, and that there should be no financial award.

Finally, Bejczy suggested that the 1988 Conference be held near a NASA center, possibly in Houston. Jarvis announced his intention to nominate Theo Pavlidis as Chairman of that conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.