

MINUTES (Approved at June 3 2023 AdCom Meeting at ICRA)

IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Administrative Committee (AdCom) Special AdCom Meeting

Thursday, 29 March 2023

09:00-10:30pm EDT (Virtual)

1) Meeting Called to Order, and Welcome (Mombaur)

2) Roll Call and Review of Consent Agenda (Mombaur)

- **ATTENDEES:**
- **16 Elected Members (Voting Members)**
 - **Class of 2023:** Tamim Asfour, Maria Pia Fanti, Aleksandra Faust, Yoshihiko Nakamura, Angela Schoellig, Michael Yu Wang
 - **Class of 2024:** Arash Ajoudani, Nancy Amato, Fumihito Arai, Inna Sharf, Kenji Suzuki
 - **Class of 2025:** Alin Albu-Schaeffer, Sabine Hauert, Yasuhisa Hirata, Lydia Kavraki, Eiichi Yoshida
- Not Attending: Karinne Ramirez Amaro, Hong Zhang
- **5 Society Officers (Voting Members):** Frank Park, Katja Mombaur, Aude Billard, Seth Hutchinson, Enrica Tricomi
- Not Attending: Tony Maciejewski
- **9 Non Voting Members:** Patrick M. Wensing, Paul Oh, Hiromi Mochiyama, Andra Keay, Kyujin Cho, Andreas Mueller
- Not Attending: Bram Vanderborght, Wolfram Burgard, Stefano Stramigioli, Todd Murphey
- **Guests:** George Pappas, Shri Ras,
- **IEEE STAFF:** Terence Martinez, Randi Sumner, Faith Agnew, Paul Goldberg

3) Presentation and Approval of Agenda (Mombaur, Park): Approved

The agenda and full reports/slides can be found at

<https://agd.ieee.org/mpt/Agenda.aspx?eid=18155>

4) Introduction of new Executive Director (Park, Martinez)

Terence Martinez has started as new Executive Director of RAS and is introduced in the meeting.

5) ICRA 2025 (Park / Pappas)

5.a Update (Park)

Convention Center at originally chosen location is not available any more in desired time frame.

Alternative locations have been inspected, included Marriott hotel downtown, which seemed small, also in combination with second hotel. A few days ago, designated General Chair for Austin, Peter Stone, withdrew Austin as location for ICRA 2025.

5.b Presentation of Atlanta as alternative venue (Pappas)

Atlanta has been identified as a very good alternative location to host ICRA 2025. Conference center is available at the original dates and is very large, hosts up to 9000 persons and is offering space for a large exhibition, several parallel keynotes, forums etc. Very good hotel situation in neighborhood at all price levels.

5.c. Introduction of Seth Hutchinson as proposed general Chair (Park)

Seth Hutchinson has been proposed as General Chair and would be available for this role.

Motion: To approve the Georgia World Convention Center (GWCC) as the venue for ICRA 2025, with Seth Hutchinson as general chair. The remaining members of the organizing committee will be chosen by the general chair in consultation with the ICRA Steering Committee.

(Motion passed)

6) Financial Motion: ICRA 2023 Travel Support Supplement (Park)

In order to bridge the gap until the implementation of the MAB Motion (IROS 2022 Adcom) on 50% surplus spending is worked out in detail, approved and implemented, the ICRA travel support budget should be increased for ICRA 2023, taking DEI aspects into account.

Motion: Approve to provide additional funds (200K) to ICRA 2023 to cover additional travel grants for researchers and professionals in robotics and related fields with financial needs, giving priority to under-represented members and regions, and individuals in the early stages of their careers.

(Motion passed)

7) ICRA 2023 Workshop Fees (Park)

Workshop fees at ICRA 2023 are very high compared to previous ICRA conferences. Different options are discussed with General Chair Kaspar Althoefer to reduce financial burden on workshop participants.

8) Other/New Business (Park)

Reminder – Next meeting will be held in person in June 2023, London, England (ICRA 2023 Venue)

9) Meeting Adjourned (Mombaur)