

# Conference Editorial Board Proposal

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Technical Programs (SCTP)

# Background

- Problems with ICRA 2004
  - Bekey report on Town Hall meeting, May 12, 2004.
  - However, recreating PCs from scratch every year has long been recognized as a problem.
- RACOR - RAS Conference Review Committee
  - Lumelsky (Chair), November 2004.
  - Basis for forming the SCTP.
- Ad Hoc Conference Review and Management Report
  - Meng (Chair), Spring 2005.
  - Included specific recommendations on conference software.
- Bylaw change, approved recently.
  - Established the SCTP.

# SCTP Members

- Raja Chatila AdCom
- Henrik Christensen Member-at-Large (MAL)
- Ruediger Dillmann ICRA 2005 PC Chair
- Ken Goldberg VP-TA
- Bill Hamel VP-PA
- Oussama Khatib AdCom
- Kazuhiro Kosuge AdCom
- Vijay Kumar MAL
- Vladimir Lumelsky MAL
- Nikos Papanikolopoulos ICRA 2006 PC Chair
- Bruno Siciliano ICRA 2007 PC Chair
- Alex Zelinsky AdCom

# Timeline

- October 2005: Dick Volz asked me to chair the SCTP.
- November 2005: The Control Systems Society was identified as having successfully used a CEB for years.
  - Thomas Parisini, EiC of the CSS/CEB, was very helpful.
- December 2005: A CEB draft based on the CSS/CEB was discussed at ICRA 2006 PC meeting with Volz, Tarn, and Siciliano.
- February 2006: The SCTP approves an interim CEB proposal for 2006, then approved by ExCom.
- April 2006: Seth Hutchinson agrees to become the first CEB EiC.
- May 20, 2006: Long-term approval of CEB by AdCom is being sought.

# CEB: Patterned after a Transactions Editorial Board.

- Editor-in-Chief (Seth Hutchinson)
  - Appointed by the SCTP.
  - Confirmed by the VP-CA and the RAS President.
- Editors (around 10)
  - Appointed by a 7-person committee: EiC's of the CEB, TRO, TASE, and RAS Magazine, the VP-TA, the VP-PA, and the Associate VP-SCTP.
- Associate Editors (AEs, around 135)
  - Appointed by the EiC and the Editors.
  - Anyone may apply (provide CV, reviewing info).

## Terms and Review:

- Initial appointments are for 1 year for the EiC, Editors, and AEs.
- Extendable to 3 years, once renewable.
- Performance review annually by the respective appointment committee.

An effort will be made for regional balance.

# CEB Procedures:

- Papers assigned to AEs by the Editors.
- AEs solicit 2 reviews/paper (except summary rejections).
  - An AE will make a recommendation about acceptance based on the reviews.
  - In case of disparate reviews, an AE may wish to solicit a 3rd review.
- An AE may propose the summary rejection of a paper that in his opinion is not worth sending for review.
  - An AE writes up the reason for the rejection.
  - The Editor decides whether to approve or not.
  - In case of disagreement or uncertainty, the paper is sent for review.
  - Summarily rejected papers will not be considered by the PC.

# The Future ICRA Program Committee

- Much reduced in size (maybe 30 members).
  - Consider inviting TC Chairs to PC.
- Functions like the current Executive PC.
- Makes final decision about acceptance (except for summarily rejected papers).
- Forms sessions.
- Handles all other aspects of running the conference (workshops, invited speakers, etc.).



# Interaction between the CEB and the PC

- A month before the PC meeting, the PC Chair meets with the CEB's EIC and assistant.
  - Review results are presented.
  - Problem papers are identified.
- The PC Chair then distributes papers to PC members for final acceptance decisions and session formation.
- Sessions are finalized at the PC meeting.
  - The CEB's EIC and assistant will attend too.

## Costs: RAS

- \$25,000 for an assistant to the EiC.
- \$5,000 for travel to the meeting with the PC Chair.

## Costs: PC

- Travel to the PC meeting for the EiC and assistant.