Bruno Siciliano
VP Technical Activities
siciliano@unina.it


- Technical Committees
- Distinguished Lecturers Program
- Liaisons
- Recommendations
Role
- Lifeblood and raison d’être of our Society
- Incubators for exploration of emerging areas, development of new research communities, promotion of communication forums

Goals
- Dissemination
- Dynamics
- Accessibility
- Visibility
- Record
Dissemination

- Disseminate Robotics and Automation science worldwide
  - Promotion of special issues to journals (TRA & RAM)
  - Organization of workshops/tutorials/invited sessions (ICRA & other RAS-sponsored conferences)
  - Publication of books (IEEE)
  - Service on conference committees
Dynamics

- Enhance dynamic nature of TC’s
  - Replacement of inactive Co-Chairs
  - Termination of old TC’s
  - Activation of new TC’s on emerging areas

- Bottom-up: TC Microrobots
  established ’94, evolution towards Nano ’97
  many workshops & tutorials, journal special issues

- Top-down: TC Safety Systems and Rescue Robotics
  terrorist attack ’01, rescue robots @ ground zero
  steering meeting @ IROS’01, task force
  new TC SSRR, development meeting @ ICRA’02, work.’03
Accessibility

- Improve service to members
  - Mandatory TC website
  - Progressive adoption of uniform standards
  - Launch of portal concept
  - More links to related activities
  - Creation of member list
  - Statistics on no. hits
Visibility

- Make TC activities visible both inside RAS and outside
  - TC Reports sought twice a year (spring and fall TAB mtgs)
  - Periodic reports in RAM
  - Promotion @ ICRA/IROS
  - Issue of TC newsletter
Record

- Spreadsheet reporting TC activities
  - Termination of 2 TC’s
  - Activation of 5 TC’s
  - Replacement of 12 Co-Chairs
  - 57 IEEE + 17 workshops/tutorials/invited sessions
  - 13 IEEE + 12 journal special issues
  - 2 books
  - Service for 10 IEEE + 32 conferences
  - 2 portal infrastructures
  - Most Active TC Award → Service Robots (Prassler & Fiorini)
DL PROGRAM

- Goals
  - Diffusion of DL travel plans on the web
  - Introduction of criteria to select proposals (2 deadlines a year)
  - Increase of travel budget to 6K ... motion up to 9K
  - Greater promotion throughout chapters and local sections via email roster
  - Nomination of new Distinguished Lecturers
Standing Rules

- The duration of a DL term is normally two years, renewable once. After a two-year term, the former DL becomes re-eligible.

- DL’s are selected through voting within TAB.

- No more than 40% from a single geographical area (Americas/Europe&MiddleEast&Africa/Asia&Pacific) can serve at the same time.
New DL List for 2004

- Selected from list of 40+ Nominees (TAB voting)

- Minoru Asada
- Antonio Bicchi
- Zenn Bien
- Joel Burdick
- Raja Chatila
- Henrik Christensen
- Peter Corke
- Li-Chen Fu
- Ken Goldberg
- Shigeo Hirose
- Brad Nelson
- Daniela Rus
- Manuela Veloso
- Mark Yim
LIAISONS

- Appointment of 4 AdCom Members to TAB
  - Advise on TC’s and DL program
- Restart of Standards Committee
  - New Chair appointed
- Coordination
  - RAS Standing Committees (Industrial Activities + Standards)
  - IEEE TAB New Technology Directions Committee
  - RAS Representatives into Councils (Intelligent Transportation Systems, Nanotechnology, Neural Networks, Sensors)

- used as catalyst to get something underway regarding standards
- purpose, goals, background, research areas, levels of architecture, questions and concerns, efforts for standards
Motions
- Council soon to become Society
- CSS Conference Management System adopted
- A. Broggi elected EIC of Transactions
- S. Stramigioli elected Editor of Newsletter

Reports
- Newsletter: 14K subscriptions, on web, 4 issues a year
- Transactions: Manuscript Central, 2 special issues
- Finances: budgeted expenses on track
- Conferences: approved budgets through 2004
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Technical Committees
  - TC Co-Chairs brainstorming
  - Promotion of joint TC meetings
  - Further development of data-base portal concept, with foreseen integration into society portal
  - Closer interaction with conference organizers: “labeled” workshops/tutorials/invited sessions technically-oriented forum (group of thematic TC’s)
  - Reach out members at time of joining/renewal: opportunity to become TC member potential benefits
RECS (cont’d)

- **DL Program**
  - Periodic collection of indications for new topics/people
  - Other means to enhance promotion through chapters and local sections
  - Closer interaction with MAB
  - Promotion of DL collective visits, e.g. mini-courses
  - Substantial increase of budget sought

- **Liaisons**
  - More active Standing Committees
  - Proactive role in IEEE TAB NTDC
  - Desirable cross-fertilization with Councils, e.g. ITS story
FINAL WORD

- GREAT HONOUR AND PLEASURE TO SERVE RAS UNDER PRESIDENT HSIA AND PRESIDENT DARIO

- WARMEST THANKS TO COMMITTED TAB MEMBERS FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASM AND CONSTANT SUPPORT :-) 

- GOOD LUCK TO MY SUCCESSOR ;-)