Robotics and Automation Council
Council Minutes: 12/10/85

The meeting of the Robotics and Automation Council was convened on December 10, 1985, at the Bonaventure Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by the President, John 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
R.P. Paul, Vice President
H.E. Stephanou, Secretary
R. Klafter, Treasurer
A.K. Bejczy, Chairman, Publications Committee
G.A. Bekey, Editor of Journal
Y.C. Ho, Chairman, Meetings Committee
A.A. Desrochers, Chairman, Education Committee
A.C. Sanderson, 1987 Conference Program Chairman
W.E. Snyder, Newsletter Editor
W.J. Trybula, CHMT Society
J.Y. Luh, Control Systems Society
A.J. Koivo, Control Systems Society
W.S. Levine, Control Systems Society
R.J.P. de Figueiredo, Circuits & Systems Society
D.G. Raheja, Reliability Society
H. Hayman, Conference Treasurer

2. Review and Adoption of Agenda

The meeting agenda proposed by Jarvis was adopted.

3. Consent Agenda

The minutes of the CRA ADCOM meeting held on March 25, 1985 at the St. Louis Pavilion Hotel were approved.

4. Action Items

A. Election of 1986 President Elect

A.K. Bejczy was nominated by G.N. Saridis for 1986 Vice President and President Elect. The ADCOM unanimously approved the nomination by acclamation.

B. Approval of 1987 Conference and Site.

Progress reports about planning activities for the 1987 Conference were given by Y.C. Ho (Conference Chairman), A.C. Sanderson (Program Chairman), and W.E. Snyder (Local Arrangements Chairman).

The ADCOM unanimously approved a motion to hold the Conference at the Radisson Plaza Civic Center, Raleigh, North Carolina, from Monday March 30 to Thursday April 2, 1987. The tutorial sessions will be held on Monday. The ADCOM then approved the 1987 Conference preliminary budget submitted by Ho.

It was also decided to provide H.Hayman, 1987 Conference Treasurer, with a cash advance in the early planning phase of the Conference. The necessary budget form will be submitted to IEEE for proper approval.

Bejczy suggested opening up the conference to more applications oriented papers, dealing for example with microprocessor implementations. Paul recommended the addition of prosthetics on the list of topics to be included in the call for papers. Saridis suggested to increase the pulicity budget, and include announcements about the Conference in the IFAC and IFIP newsletters.

C. Nomination of 1988 Conference Chairman

Ho nominated T. Pavlidis as Chairman of the 1988 Conference. The ADCOM unanimously approved the nomination. The 1988 Program Chairman will be nominated at the April 1986 meeting of the ADCOM.

D. Page Budget for JRA in 1986

Bekey announced that the Journal of Robotics and Automation now has about 8595 paper and 1100 microfiche subscriptions. He proposed increasing the number of pages per issue from 64 to 80. The ADCOM unanimously approved a motion for a budget of 336 pages (including covers) for 1986.

There was some uncertainty about the incremental cost per issue to the Council, and about the lack of any credited income from voluntary page charges. Paul asked Klefter and Bekey for a written presentation on the financial situation of the JRA at the April meeting. It was also decided that the ADCOM would consider the possibility of increasing the JRA subscription fee at its April meeting.

E. Review of JRA publishing schedule

The ADCOM unanimously approved a motion to endorse the JRA publication schedule as proposed in the September 30, 1985 letter from Bekey to Jarvis. The letter projects the publication of six issues in 1986 (January, March, May, July, October, and December).

Jarvis announced that TAB, in a non-binding recommendation, favors the change of the title of all archival documents to Transactions. After some discussion, the ADCOM decided not to immediately change the title of the JRA.

Bekey introduced a motion that the JRA should accept no advertising except for the Council's own conferences. The motion was unanimously approved by the ADCOM. Finally, Bekey suggested the idea of JRA theme issues with guest editors. The idea was well received by the ADCOM.

F. Travel Support for RAC President

The ADCOM unanimously approved a motion that the Council reimburse the President for travel and living expenses to IEEE TAB meetings, and the Journal Editor for travel and living expenses to Board of Editors meetings, subject to all applicable IEEE regulations on such matters.

G. Inclusion of RAC in Technical Interest Profile

The following motion was introduced by Paul and modified by Trybula: In order to coordinate and focus activities of various societies within IEEE, the Robotics and Automation Council requests that the IEEE technical profile consolidate both Robotics and Automation under one heading. After some discussion, the ADCOM decided to table the motion, so that the representatives may have the opportunity to consult with their respective societies.

H. Next Adcom meeting

The next ADCOM meeting will be held in conjunction with the 1986 Conference, on April 7, 1986, 1:00 pm, at the San Francisco Hilton & Tower.

I. Nominations for Committee Chairmen

Saridis nominated Robert Kelley for Chairman of the Publications Committee, and Theo Pavlidis for Chairman of the Meetings Committee. Both nominations were unanimously approved by the ADCOM.

5. Old Business and Reports

A motion was introduced to adopt a jointly sponsored newsletter with the Computer Society, subject to review in one year. After some discussion, the ADCOM decided to table the motion to the April meeting.

Bekey gave a status report on the 1986 Conference. 287 contributed papers were submitted, 212 accepted. 110 invited papers were also submitted. 2 proposed invited sessions were rejected. There will be a total of 24 sessions, in 7 tracks.

Jarvis summarized the Council's accomplishments in 1985, and emphasized its positive relationships with all the parent societies.

Klefter reported that the net worth of RAC is now $26,600. He also expressed the opinion that a harder push should be made for voluntary page charges.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm

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