

August 5th, 2025 | RAS Virtual AdCom Meeting

Agenda: <https://agd.ieee.org/mpt/Agenda.aspx?eid=19484>

Notes:

1. **Meeting Called to Order (Wensing)**
2. **Roll Call and Review of Consent Agenda Items (Wensing)**

In attendance:

Class of 2025: Alin Albu-Schaeffer, Hyouk Ryeol Choi, Yasuhisa Hirata, Lydia Kavraki, Bengt Lennartson, Eiichi Yoshida

Class of 2026: Gregory Dudek, Marcia K. O'Malley, Tetsuya Ogata, Michael Yu Wang

Class of 2027: Arash Ajoudani, Eduardo Bayro-Corrochano, Jaydev Desai, Mariagrazia Dotoli, Jee-Hwan Ryu

Society Officers (voting): Aude Billard, Nancy Amato, Frank Park, Patrick Wensing, Tony Maciejewski, Helen Wang

Society Officers (non-voting): Darwin Caldwell, Chad Jenkins, Jing Xiao, Andra Keay, Katja Mombaur, Kyujin Cho, Jen Jen Chung, Seth Hutchinson

Ex-Officio Members: Karinne Ramirez Amaro, Sabine Hauert, Hong Zhang, Allison Okamura, Hugo Rodrigue

RAS Staff and Guests: Grace Zhao, Patrick Hanna, Taraja Arnold, Kyung Mi Bae, Terence Martinez, Jasemine Park, Nicholas Milton, Venkat Krovi

3. **Approval of Agenda (Including Consent Agenda and Standing Orders) (Wensing)**

Consent Agenda Including:

- *Motion to approve inclusion of IEEE T-Haptics in the conference presentation program of ICRA and IROS.*
- *Approval of Past Minutes (May 24th, 2025)*

Motion Passed

4. **Welcome and Agenda Details - Financial Status of RAS (Billard)**
 - Welcome to the new four AdCom members
 - RAS Publications news

- i. Frank Park EiC of RAM - January 1, 2026
 - ii. Jaydev Desai EiC of T-MRB - January 1, 2026
- IROS MOU
 - i. The Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) has recommended 2 options
 - 1. No change to shares but IES pledges \$360k to 2025 and 2026 each (\$60k to travel support, \$300k to conference generally)
 - 2. Reduce IES shares to 5% and increase RAS shares to 45%
 - ii. Additional recommendation: RAS engages in conversation with RSJ/SICE for the reduction of their shares proportional to their involvement
 - iii. Need to respond to the CRC and the decision, if conflicted, will go to the VP of TAB
- RAS 2026 budget: Expenses: \$10.5M; Income \$9.95M
 - i. RAS Reserves increase by 1.5m between 2023-2024
- Discussion after the presentation focused on next steps for the IROS MOU. There was general agreement in favor of option 2 above.

5. Financial Activities Board (Xiao)

- Noted that we are at 82% spending YTD, still net positive
- Noted planned deficit for 2026
- Discussed the importance of results and deliverables, not just spending

6. RAS Administrative Budget - FY25 and FY26 (Martinez)

- RAS Staff 2026: \$1.15M
- RAS Staff Travel: \$150K
- About 7.9% increase for 2026

7. Conference Activities Board FY26 Budget Presentation (Caldwell and Ramirez)

- Increase for CEE services for all RAS sponsored (fully and partially) conferences from \$250K to \$300K
- Increase of discretionary budget for AVP travel
- New: including \$50K for auxiliary aid services at RAS fully sponsored conferences
- Discussion focused on whether the auxiliary services should be accounted for in conference budgets. There was general agreement that this should be the case.

8. Publication Activities Board FY26 Budget Presentation (Vanderborght and Zhang)

- Operations budget
 - i. 2 new journals will have only expenses in 2026
- Activities
 - i. Highlights include funds to support: Paper review system - \$150K; RAM Rework - \$250K
- Discussion focused on encouraging submissions to our new journals and potentially increasing funds to the young reviewers program (\$10K)

9. Educational Activities Board FY26 Budget Presentation (Jenkins)

- Increases to cover Robotics History project, TEABxSAC, and TEP programs
- Robotics History Project collects oral history
 - i. Budget goes to research assistants, filming, editing, and website updates
- TEP - supports seasonal schools
 - i. Many more proposals received (5→40)
 - ii. Would like to broaden categories for emerging locations and section/chapter specific TEPS
 - iii. Includes successful ICRA school satellites
- Discussion focused on why there was no spend on RAS University this past year; clarification provided that funds will be used in the next year to develop educational content

10. Industrial Activities Board FY26 Budget Presentation (Keay and Kroeger)

- Forecasting to be under budget for 2025
- No change in budget for 2026
- Discussion questioned why there was no new budget for the Career platform or CRM. A suggestion was made to add \$50K to the RAS Admin budget to support these initiatives

11. Science Technology Board FY26 Budget Presentation (Park and Okamura)

- Communications - \$75k
 - i. For attending and presenting at ICRA and other conferences
- Technology Analyst - \$75k
 - i. To look at what breakthroughs and how new work is contributing to the current robotics ecosystem
- Policy analyst - \$75k
 - i. To look at what policies exist worldwide about robotics and those related to robotics
- Subscription services - \$5k
 - i. To gain access to all the different data and information we will need
- Discussion focused on how to encourage the involvement of other scholars and researchers. The communications budget will help support this.

12. Media Services Board FY26 Budget Presentation (Righetti and Hauert)

- Loomly subscription increased - expecting to spend more for 2026
- Communications budget increasing by \$75K
 - i. RAS publications and products, podcasting, copy-editing, writing stories (including 20 blog post/articles, \$20k podcast sponsorship, 5 in-depth articles)
- Discussion focused on clarifying the status of the website re-design, where the work is still ongoing.

13. Technical Activities Board FY26 Budget Presentation (Cho and Rodrigue)

- Large increase from \$250K to \$460K
 - i. TAB assistant costs (\$55K)
 - ii. Conference support for TCs that hold conferences
- TC operating budgets, increasing to \$3K/year baseline
- Discussion
 - i. The first part of the discussion focused on how the TAB admin costs should go under RAS admin budget
 - ii. The second part of the discussion focused on how the additional conference support will work – it is allocated to the TCs to plan additional activities

14. Member Activities Board FY26 Budget Presentation (Mombaur)

- Requesting an amount between 2025 spend and 2025 budget. (Currently under budget)
- Member support
 - i. Reduced author discounts since not as many were used as expected
 - ii. New budget item for children's educational activities at conferences
 - iii. New \$12K budget item for WIRA
- Discussion centered on the growth in the member support program

15. Round 2: 2026 RAS Board Budgets - Floor open to Brief Discussion (Xiao)

- Discussion focused on the CAB budget item related to auxiliary aids. It was decided to require conference organizers to provide ADA services, but not to come from the RAS CAB budget.

16. RAS Motions (Wensing)

17. Motion to Approve FY2026 RAS Budget (Xiao)

Please see the slide attached to the meeting agenda for the full details of the motion.

Motion passed

18. Motion: Creation of IEEE Foundation Fund for RAS Sustainability (Billard)

Motion: The RAS AdCom approves establishing the IEEE Foundation Sustainability Fund for RAS, to be managed under presidential oversight, with initial funding of up to \$150,000 from the ICRA 2023 surplus and permission to accept additional donations for sustainability initiatives.

Motion Passed

19. New Business (Wensing)

Skipped due to time.

**20. Next in-person Adcom Meeting: 25 October (IROS 2025 - Hangzhou, China)
(Wensing)**

21. Meeting Adjourned (Wensing)