January 11th, 2026
RAS AdCom Meeting (Puerto Morelos Quintana Roo Mexico)

Agenda: https://agd.ieee.org/mpt/Agenda.aspx?eid=19722

Notes:

1. **Meeting Called to Order (Wensing)**

2. **Roll Call and Review of Consent Agenda Items (Wensing)**

   In attendance:

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

   Class of 2027: Arash Ajoudani, Jaydev Desai, Mariagrazia Dotoli, Dongheui Lee, Jee-Hwan Ryu

   Class of 2028: Antonio Bicchi, Peter Corke, Lydia Kavraki, Serena Ivaldi, Zhidong Wang

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

   Society Officers (non-voting): Chad Jenkins, Jing Xiao, Jim Ostrowski, Sabine Hauert, Hong Zhang, Allison Okamura, Hugo Rodrigue, Jen Jen Chung, Frank Park

   RAS Staff and Guests: Terence Martinez, Amy Reeder, Patrick Hanna, Lukrecija Lelong, Grace Zhao

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

   Agenda Approved (no items on consent)

4. **Welcome and Agenda Details (Amato)**
   - Welcomed in-person and online attendees.
   - Noted that the meeting would focus on long-range planning discussions, conference to journal transfer processes, and approval of new ad hoc committees.
   - Formally thanked Immediate Past President Aude Billard for her leadership.
   - Highlighted key accomplishments during her term including:
     - Launch and development of new journals.
     - Strengthening partnerships across the robotics community.
     - Progress toward RAS University.
     - Growth of the Education Activities Board.
     - Creation of the Science and Technology Watch Board.

5. **Long Range Planning (Cho)**
    - Introduced a discussion on strengthening the RAS entrepreneurship ecosystem.
    - Highlighted changes in the robotics publication landscape and increasing competition from commercial publishers.
    - Emphasized the importance of maintaining strong society-led venues and increasing the visibility of RAS activities.
    - Proposed positioning RAS as both an academic excellence hub and an innovation hub.
    - Suggested initiatives to increase participation from startups, investors, and industry.
    - Discussion topics included:
        - Industry engagement at conferences.
        - Innovation awards and recognition mechanisms.
        - Industry problem sessions and technology showcases.
        - Strengthening entrepreneurship exposure for students.
        - Potential structural changes to better integrate innovation activities.

6. **Discussion: Conference to Journal Transfer Process (Zhang)**
    - Reviewed the current process for transferring journal papers to conferences.
    - Noted significant growth of the program across multiple journals and conferences.
    - Identified challenges including:
        - Lack of standardized procedures.
        - Use of multiple submission platforms.
        - Manual data transfers between systems.
        - Security concerns with transfer codes.
        - Lack of centralized documentation.
    - Proposed development of a standardized process and centralized coordination of the transfer workflow.
    - Discussed potential improvements including:
        - Centralized information hub for conference organizers and editors.
        - Better automation across submission platforms.
        - Addressing last-minute withdrawals of transferred papers.
    - AdCom members emphasized the importance of maintaining the program while improving operational processes.

7. **Coffee Break & AdCom/ExCom Photo**

8. **Changes to RAS Policies & Procedures Manual (Wensing and Chung)**
    - Provided a status update on proposed revisions to RAS governance documents.
    - March 2025 bylaw revisions have not yet received final IEEE approval.
    - IEEE raised concerns regarding language related to diversity, equity, and inclusion committees and nomination procedures.
    - RAS leadership is monitoring developments at the IEEE level before making further decisions.
    - Possible options include revising language or relocating certain provisions to the Policies and Procedures manual.

9. **Approval of New AdHoc Committees (Amato)**
    - **Motion:** To approve the formation of three Ad Hoc Committees
        - Ad Hoc Committee on the RAS Stressed Publication Model
        - Ad Hoc Committee on the RAS Regional Strategy
        - Ad Hoc Committee on the RAS Conference Strategy

      Motion Passed

    - **Motion:** To approve an Ad Hoc Committee on the RAS Entrepreneurship Ecosystem (RAS-E^2)

      Motion Passed

      The detailed purpose, composition, and actions of these committees can be found in the agenda tool.

10. **New Business (Wensing)**
11. **Meeting Adjourned (Wensing)**
12. **Next Virtual AdCom Meeting: 11 March 2026**
    Next in-person AdCom Meeting: 6 June 2026, Vienna, Austria