

Minutes of the IEEE South Saskatchewan Section Exco Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 21st, 2020 at 5:00pm

Venue: Webex 126-264-1551

Attendance: Irfan Al-Anbagi, Raman Paranjape, Kin-Choong Yow, Jason Whitelaw, Brent Maksymiw, Douglas Wagner, Lei Zhang, Moeed Shamim, Shahedur Rahman, Tessa Herzberger, Reagan Ong

Regrets: Kaylee Turnack, Adam Tilson, Amin Hassan, Archana Panchu, Chris Pikula, Usman Munawar, Victor Edoho, Zhanle Wang.

1. Call to Order (Irfan Al-Anbagi)

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2. Acceptance of the previous minutes

Motion – To accept the minutes as circulated.

Carried. [Raman/Jason. All in favor]

3. Acceptance of the meeting agenda

Motion – To accept the agenda as circulated.

Carried. [Jason/Raman. All in favor]

4. Section Update (Irfan Al-Anbagi)

Irfan shared that he had submitted the nominees for the IEEE Sections Congress that is to be held in August 2020 in Ottawa. The SC2020 Organizers advised all participants not to purchase air tickets yet as the conference may change to an online conference. Several other conferences in June/July have been changed to online conferences.

Irfan also shared that the next meeting will be held on the second Thursday of June. That will be the last meeting before adjourning in Summer (July/August). Our meetings will resume in September.

5. Financials Update (Jason Whitelaw)

Jason reported that there is no special update about our account and bank statements. He asked the committee for ideas on how we can pay for food for future meetings in order to encourage attendance. He outlined two possible solutions (1) to arrange for food delivery from a single restaurant to each committee member's home, or (2) let everybody order food on their own and then claim reimbursements. Jason highlighted that the cost for option (1)

may be double of what we usually spend. Raman suggests that maybe we can send rebates to each member at the end of the year. Reagan suggests that we could also send gift cards.

Motion – To subsidize each member the cost of a meal (\$20) if they attend the online meeting.

Carried. [Jason/Lei. All in favor]

Irfan pointed out that in order to claim these expenses, our committee meetings must be reported to IEEE. Kin Choong confirmed that we are already doing so.

6. CCECE update (Raman Paranjape)

Raman reported that we are now waiting for the next conference approval committee meeting to approve our bid. Raman said that according to Alex (the Area Chair), there are no other bids except ours.

Raman highlighted that we need to invite a keynote speaker. He asked the committee for recommendations.

7. Discussion on Moving Forward (Irfan Al-Anbagi)

Irfan asked for updates and suggestions to conduct events. Raman reported that he will try to organize online talks in June. He had invited Dr. David Gerhard (Head of UofR's Computer Science Department) but Dr Gerhard had not responded yet. Reagan reported that the Rockwell webinars can accept anyone with an ieee.ca domain in their email address. This offer will be valid until the end of June. Moeed and Reagan will work out a plan to announce to all members.

Reagan elaborated on how we can organize a Virtual Scavenger Hunt. This will be incentivized and we can give out gift cards to the winners. Kin Choong reminded everybody that we need to be careful of how to verify winners so as to avoid disputes. Reagan replied that she will check out various button pushing websites.

Tessa also talked about Virtual Trivia. She will need suggestions on trivial questions. Googling for an answer will not be allowed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm [Raman/Doug]