



**AESS Fall 2020 Board of Governors Meeting  
May 6-7, 2021  
8:00 – 11:00 am EDT  
Virtual Meeting**

Attendees: Walt Downing, Mark Davis, Joe Fabrizio, Francesca Filippini, Michael Braasch, Lorenzo Lo Monte, Michael Cardinale, Michael Noble, Fabiola Colone, Lance Kaplan, Marina Ruggieri, Michael Rice, Jill Gostin, Maria Sabrina Greco, Alfonso Farina, Dale Blair, Fulvio Gini, Wolfgang Koch, Kathleen Kramer, George Schmidt, Laura Anitori, Steve Butler, Alexander Charlish, Stefano Coraluppi, Braham Himed, Peter Willett, Sarana Tse, Laila Moreira, Philipp Wojaczek

Non-voting: Bob Rassa

Absent: Xiaopeng Yang, Roy Streit, Yonina Eldar

Staff: Judy Scharmann, Amanda Osborn

**Call to Order – Walt Downing**

Walt welcomed everyone. Walt acknowledged that this was our first meeting without Mike Wicks. We all miss him.

Judy announced her retirement and introduced Amanda Osborn, who will be taking over for Judy on January 1, 2022.

**Review of Meeting Procedures – Mark Davis**

Mark reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

**Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes/Adoption of Agenda – Francesca Filippini**

**MOTION:** Francesca Filippini moved to accept the minutes of the Fall 2020 Board of Governors Meeting as written. Mark Davis 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. MO-0273

**MOTION:** Francesca Filippini moved to accept the meeting agenda as presented. Marina Ruggieri 2<sup>nd</sup>. Seeing no objections, the motion passed. MO-0274

**President's Comments – Walt Downing**

Walt presented remarks about the AESS strategic theme, "Growth Through Engagement and Teamwork." Walt presented the 2021 AESS Board of Governors, the Officers, and other positions and reviewed the Committee compositions. We discussed the Board diversity and reviewed term lengths and limits for all positions.

**Finance Report – Bob Rassa/Mike Cardinale**

Bob gave a summary of our surplus for 2020. Total surplus: \$2,235.7k. Bob reported on GlobalSpec, which has lost significant value. AESS will share in the financial loss. Bob reviewed the highlights from 2019 and 2020.

Bob reviewed financial details related to Membership and Chapters. There will be savings in Publications in 2022 by moving to IEEE Manuscript Central. The bottom line is the Society is quite solvent. Considering our healthy financial state, Bob recommends that we think of things we can do for our members. There was a question about the 1%, 3%, and 50% rule, as to whether there were projects being considered. Since we are cash flush, we don't really utilize this. Bob mentioned the NextGen financial system. It was put in place on May 1. It means a change in conference finance; and the financial chairs will be required to take NextGen training.

### **Industry Relations Report – Mike Noble**

Mike recognized the Industry Relations Committee.

Mike reviewed the final objective assignments. These final assignments are updated in the Action Item spreadsheet.

We have been sponsoring government industry panels at conferences. Mike presented information on the panel that occurred at the Aerospace Conference. We may consider keeping the virtual panels, since we can get top level people with busy schedules.

We are having an industry panel at the upcoming Radar Conference.

Mike reviewed committee ongoing actions. The status has been updated in the Action Item spreadsheet.

**ACTION ITEM:** Judy Scharmann/Mike Noble – Check for the IEEE Global Industry Strategy document. If there isn't one, remove it from our other documentation. Kathleen said there is one. Kathleen: Send Rob Sabatini's contact information to Mike Noble. AI-0983

Future actions:

We need to discuss the value proposition for Industry and have a dialogue with top senior industry officers.

**ACTION ITEM:** Industry Relations Committee Members: Send contact information for top officers of your company/industry to Mike Noble. AI-0984

**ACTION ITEM:** Mike Noble – Develop the idea from Fulvio to sign multi-year MOUs between our flagship conferences and top industry companies. AI-0985

### **Publications Report – Lance Kaplan**

Lance recognized the Publications Committee.

Lance reviewed the status of the TAES.

Michael Rice started his 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term on Jan. 1, 2021. TAES has two new Associate EiCs: Gokhan Inalhan and Lyudmila Mihaylova. TAES has new Senior Editors and new Associate Editors.

Lance reviewed the Barry Carlton Award winners for 2016 and 2017.

There is a healthy trend in the number of submissions.

Lance reviewed other metrics.

Lance reviewed the status of the AES Magazine.

The special issues are driving a lot of interest to the Magazine. If you have ideas for special issues, please let Peter know.

Lance announced the winner of the 2019 Harry Mimno Award: "An Overview of Cognitive Radar: Past, Present and Future," by Sevgi Zubeyde Gurbuz from U Alabama (Tuscaloosa), Hugh Griffiths from UC

London, Alexander Charlish from Fraunhofer, Murali Rangaswamy from AFRL, Maria Sabrina Greco from University of Pisa and Kristine Bell from Metron [December 2019].

Daniel O'Hagan will take over as Magazine EiC in July 2021.

Peter is proposing to update the scope of the Magazine.

The "Spotlight" idea was discussed. Have a feature article. It was suggested to start this in the magazine. We will need an AE for this.

Lance gave a review of the QEB. Fabiola Colone is EiC.  
It was thought that we need to add an Industry column. Fabiola can work with Mike Noble for ideas.  
We need more inputs from Chapters.  
We may need to tweak the layout.  
We are looking for an Associate EiC.

General Business:

We transitioned the Magazine to ScholarOne. We are phasing out EJ Press.

Lance reviewed all the admin tasks going on in the Transactions and Magazine.

Lance reviewed the New Journal proposals in the works.

- 1) Transactions on Radar Systems
- 2) Open Access Journal on Systems Engineering

Other issues:

- 1) Open Access – IEEE is moving forward to mandatory Open Access.
- 2) Author Misconduct – There was a member of IEEE who used TAES as a means to degrade a number of researchers in our community. A complaint was brought to IEEE and they found this person guilty of violation. They have been suspended for 3 years from IEEE. They were not placed on the prohibited author list. This is disconcerting.

**MOTION: Lance Kaplan moved to budget up to \$1,000 per year to pay for recognition of the top associate editors each year in TAES. Mike Braasch 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. MO-0275**

**Amended from \$500 to \$1,000.**

**MOTION: Lance Kaplan moves for AESS to commit to financially co-sponsor the proposed IEEE Open Access Journal on Systems Engineering with other IEEE units at the following levels: SC (40%), SMC (40%), AESS (20%).**

**Mike Braasch 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. MO-0276**

**MOTION: Motion to extend the meeting by 30 min if needed. Mark Davis 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. MO-0277**

Discussion on Open Access: we are going to lose revenue. It is recommended that we don't want to be the last hybrid; and we should move to Open Access as soon as possible.

The Chinese government said that Chinese researchers must submit 25% of their work to Chinese journals. This will affect us.

It was recommended by IEEE to stand pat for now with our hybrid journal. We should involve Laura Creighton in this discussion, since she did this analysis. This may be an old recommendation.

Regarding a move to complete OA, what about authors who say they cannot pay the fee? IEEE prohibits the society from subsidizing this. If an author cannot pay, we cannot pay. We will have to eliminate the author. IEEE may be considering concessions.

Interviews in the Magazine: we should highlight the interviews in the BoG presentation.

There was discussion on the new Open Access Journal on Systems Engineering.

There was discussion on the economics of charging to publish in Open Access. It was pointed out that there is a black market with all of our journals.

### **Education Report – Lorenzo Lo Monte**

Lorenzo recognized the Education Committee. He reported on ongoing actions.

There is a new AESS LinkedIn page.

The ILN is in place, but the transition has not been smooth.

Lorenzo is working on new DL criteria for the next Board meeting.

The new AESS YouTube Channel will be led by Alex Charlish.

Lorenzo reported on the success of the Virtual Distinguished Lecturers (VDL). He wants to continue it and make it a permanent offering.

He would like to open the VDL to non-DL speakers as well.

We would also like to offer virtual short courses. Mark is giving a virtual short course right now; which is a positive financial benefit to local chapters.

Walt presented the VDL program to the IEEE TAB President's Forum.

### **Awards – Fulvio Gini**

Fulvio recognized the Awards Committee.

Fulvio reviewed the ongoing committee actions.

We are going to implement online nomination forms for all our awards with the new website.

Fulvio reviewed the new awards.

Fulvio reviewed the 15 awards and who is in charge of the selection process.

Proposal:

Change Society Pioneer Award to IEEE AESS Pioneer Award.

Change IEEE AESS Outstanding Technical Panel of the Year Award to IEEE AESS Technical Panel of the Year Award.

Chapter of the Year Award to IEEE AESS Chapter of the Year Award.

Change IEEE AESS Outstanding Organizational Leadership Award to IEEE AESS Organizational Leadership Award.

Change IEEE Aerospace & Electronic Systems Society Engineering Scholarship to IEEE AESS Engineering Scholarship.

It was agreed to simplify the names of the awards.

The Society Pioneer Award is cast in bronze and it would cost a lot to change it.

It would be great to consider more organizational awards, like for Chapters. The more we do for Chapters the more visibility.

**MOTION: Fulvio Gini moved that the award titles be changed; with the exception of the Pioneer Award, if the plaque change will be costly. Braham Himed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. MO-0278**

**ACTION ITEM:** Judy Scharmann – Change the following on the AESS website and send to TAB ARC to include in the IEEE Awards Manual:

- Change Society Pioneer Award to IEEE AESS Pioneer Award.
- Change IEEE AESS Outstanding Technical Panel of the Year Award to IEEE AESS Technical Panel of the Year Award.
- Change Chapter of the Year Award to IEEE AESS Chapter of the Year Award.
- Change IEEE AESS Outstanding Organizational Leadership Award to IEEE AESS Organizational Leadership Award.
- Change IEEE Aerospace & Electronic Systems Society Engineering Scholarship to IEEE AESS Engineering Scholarship.

**AI-0986**

It was questioned why “IEEE” is in front of AESS. We could also remove IEEE, but we should leave it since they are already called this.

Proposal: Give mandate to the Awards Committee to discuss about fusing the certificate of merit and the organizational award into a new IEEE AESS award called “IEEE AESS Meritorious Service Award,” with a scope that covers both awards. There was discussion and agreement.

**ACTION ITEM:** Fulvio Gini and the Awards Committee – Prepare a proposal to merge the Organizational Leadership Award with the Certificate of Merit to a new award, “IEEE AESS Meritorious Service Award.” Determine the history and rationale of the 2 awards to be merged. **AI-0987**

Proposal: Barry Carlton and Harry Mimno Award, it is very difficult to obtain nominations. It is proposed to find a way to involve the Technical Panels in the nomination process. This is supported by the EICs. We need broad participation by the panels and not just one person nominating. Panels operate in very different ways. Fulvio can work with Marina to make sure the panels get involved. It was thought not to mandate a nomination from each panel.

Fulvio is seeking names for selection committees. We have zero women on our selection committees, so we need to correct that. We would like more gender and geographical diversity.

Fulvio presented all the 2021 Award recipients.

Recessed at 11:45 am EDT and will reconvene tomorrow, May 7 at 8:00 am EDT.

## **May 7, 2021**

### **Nominations & Appointments – Joe Fabrizio**

Joe reviewed the timeline for the N&A Committee.

Joe presented the Board of Governors slate for 2022-2024. It is well represented in all areas of diversity. We still need to have more women on our slates for the future. Joe asks for feedback on how to do better with gender diversity.

Joe reviewed the ongoing actions of the committee.

The Officer election will occur at the Fall Board of Governors meeting.

Joe reviewed the current officers. We have three officers terming out: VP Education, VP Conferences, VP Member Services.

Marina Ruggieri is going off the board; but she can be elected to another term as VP Technical Operations.

Please get in touch with Joe if you are interested in an officer position.

We have an election starting next week.

Our current board has 30% women. Many are appointed. We need to have more women elected to the Board.

### **Strategic Planning Meeting Report – Mark Davis**

Mark Davis provided input from the Strategic Planning Meeting held in January.

He presented the strategy for 2021 and the next 5 years.

IEEE is promoting the hybrid conference idea. Mark presented this idea as an AESS Initiative.

Mark summarized the email traffic of April 30 between the Board.

An In-Person conference is our primary objective.

Are there benefits to have a hybrid portion to increase wider geographical visibility?

Mark showed the positive impact of the International Radar Conference surplus going from in-person to virtual.

Mark reviewed a possible budget for a Hybrid Conference Initiative in 2022. He suggests that he will send out an RFP to IEEE MCE and Conference Catalysts.

**MOTION: Mark Davis moved to approve approximately \$20K funding to establish a hybrid adjunct for the 2022 IEEE Radar Conference. Mike Braasch 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. MO-0279**

There was extensive discussion about this motion. Some points of discussion:

- The \$20K is for the non-recurring cost of a virtual platform.
- Conferences are not a collection of videos, or an inexpensive way to publish. Conferences are for people to meet.
- This \$20K is not seed money.
- Lorenzo will recuse himself from this vote. He commented on the unusual aspects of NYC. There are unions and we will be forced to hire union at the rate of \$300 per hour. It will be around \$80K for AV.
- The fact that NYC is unique might influence us. This might not be the best place to try a hybrid conference. We want to mitigate unintended consequences.
- Possibly we will say in order to publish a paper, you must attend in person.
- The quality of attendance will suffer in hybrid model.
- If people know in advance that the conference is hybrid, how will that affect paper submission?
- We are social beings and we really need to meet.

After much discussion, a voice roll-call was taken.

Braham Himed yes

Steve Butler yes

Fulvio Gini yes

Marina Ruggieri yes

Mark Davis yes

Mike Cardinale no

Alfonso Farina yes

Joe Fabrizio yes

Michael Rice yes

Kathleen Kramer yes

Alex Charlish yes

Stefano Coraluppi no

Dale Blair no

Fabiola Colone yes

Francesca Filippini yes

George Schmidt yes

Jill Gostin yes

Laila Moreira yes

Laura Anitori yes  
Sabrina Greco yes  
Mike Braasch yes  
Lorenzo Lo Monte abstain  
Peter Willett no  
Sarana Tse yes  
Philipp Wojaczek yes  
Mike Noble yes

Yes 21  
No 4  
Abstain 1  
Motion passed.

Lorenzo asked the Board to understand the costs will be high.

### **Technical Operations Report – Marina Ruggieri**

Marina recognized her committee.

Panel Coordinator: George Schmidt. Our six panel chairs are:

- ASP, Roberto Sabatini
- Cyber Security, Kathleen Kramer
- Glue Tech, Claudio Sacchi
- GAP, Randall Curey
- NSP, Michael Braasch
- RSP, Nathan Goodman

Marina reviewed the goals and objectives for 2021.

Marina highlighted the new “Vision & Perspectives” committee. “Vision & Perspectives” has a point of contact from each panel:

- ASP, Giancarmine Fasano
- Cyber, Joe Dauncey, Chair
- GAP, Matt Spencer
- Glue Tech, Ernestina Cianca
- NSP, Zak Kassas
- RSP, Willie Nell

All panels are active and reporting and in communication with Marina and George.

Panel chairs have been invited to the meeting. Claudio Sacchi and Roberto Sabatini are in attendance. George reviewed the activities of each of our Panels.

Michael Rice said that the Aerospace Conference really doesn't know who we are. We have work to do here.

[ACTION ITEM: Judy Scharmann – Arrange a purchase of AESS shirts for the Board. Send out a Google form to collect sizes for Board shirts. Arrange for shirt purchase to distribute at the Fall Board of Governors meeting. AI-0988](#)

### **Member Services Report – Fabiola Colone**

Fabiola recognized the committee.

Fabiola gave an overview of membership statistics.

AESS membership is up 6.2% in 2021. More than 100 of the new members are students. We have the highest number of student members over the last 5 years.  
92 student members are from R9.

Fabiola reviewed the six goals and six objectives of the committee.  
Fabiola would like the entire board engaged in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AESS: January 16, 2023.  
[ACTION ITEM: BoG – Send ideas for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AESS \(January 16, 2023\) to Fabiola Colone. AI-0989](#)

The January 2023 issue of the Magazine could be a special issue for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

DASC has a student competition and it is an example of an activity to membership goals. Fabiola invited Roberto to apply for Chapter funding for the student competition at DASC.

As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it was encouraged for all Panels to create their own logo.

### **Conferences Report – Mike Braasch**

We welcomed Melissa Ceglia from IEEE. She is present for the Conference presentation.  
Mike recognized his committee.

Mike gave a status update of AESS financially sponsored conferences.

We inherited the Aerospace Conference about 15 years ago.  
The location is not convenient for travel. It is very US centric. It was suggested to work to make it more international. The committee is very cooperative.

Mike spoke about the revised Conference Guidelines. All agreed to post.  
[ACTION ITEM: Judy Scharmann – Post new AES Conference Guidelines on the website. AI-0990](#)

We have a new chapter in Utah. We might consider a European Aerospace conference in the Fall and Aerospace in the Spring. Or maybe MetroAerospace covers it.  
But having a European event would maximize attendance. Everyone liked the idea. We could also have an edition in Asia Pacific, on a rotational basis with Europe.

The NSP is looking to start a conference. We can maybe create a European centered event. They can work with ASP to create an event. (After the pandemic.) Maybe use a hologram for main speaker. Rob Sabatini is willing to help. Bob Rassa is willing to help.  
[ACTION ITEM: Mike Braasch/Rob Sabatini/Bob Rassa – Work on the NSP starting a conference in Europe, working with the ASP to create an event. AI-0991](#)

**MOTION: It is moved to extend the meeting by 30 min. Marina Ruggieri 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. MO-0280**

[ACTION ITEM: Mark Davis - Create an RFP for a hybrid Radar Conference 2022. Focus on in-person and have a hybrid “add on.” Hybrid is somewhat new so we don’t have a lot of data to refer to. AI-0992](#)

This is more for the MCE Digital Events Team and the Conference Unit from Conference Catalysts.  
We would like to see data on any hybrid conferences that we have had.  
We are looking for lessons learned. CLLC has run several.

### **Old Business – Walt Downing**

None.

### **New Business - Next Meeting Date – Walt Downing**

Walt discussed thoughts for the next Board meeting in the fall. If we are in person, we can have it at one of our conferences or TAB.

- DASC in San Antonio in late Sept.
- Fall TAB meeting in Orlando. We can afford to have some officers and board to attend TAB meeting series.
- Desire to go to Europe. It is uncertain.
- ISSE is in Vienna in October. We have had our Board meeting tied to this Systems Council conference in the past. It might be easier to go to Europe.

It really depends on the vaccine rollout. US will likely be able to travel. Europeans might not be able to travel. Academia will be vaccinated in Italy.

Bob Rassa will be contacting officers for budget inputs. Please let Bob know budget changes.

### **Motion to adjourn**

**MOTION: Mike Braasch moved to adjourn the meeting. Marina Ruggieri 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. MO-0281**

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am EDT.