

Society Review 2010

AES Issues & Response

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Jr Past President

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Response Process

- SRC Review comments received March 30, 2010
- AES provides its own comments and rebuttals, incorporates text into the review document, and sends back to the SRC administrator by May 1, 2010
- Comments are reviewed by the SRC and the final report is forwarded to the TAB Management Committee and TAB for approval, one month after receipt of AES “rebuttal”

AES Process

- Review each SRC recommendation at this officer/BoG meeting
- Generally agree on response approach
- RCR will draft responses and send to officers for comment/suggestions
- AES will return form to SRC

Comments received in x areas

- Purpose & Field of Interest
- Strategy & Operations
- Conferences, Publications & Education
- Membership
- Governance
- Finance
- Best Practices

Purpose and Fol

Recommendation to AESS:

The phrase “the practice of system engineering” is **awkwardly stuck on the end of the AESS FOI** statement. The committee recommends that AESS consider integrating the words “system engineering” less awkwardly into its FOI. Even though AESS has a focus primarily on military technology and systems, it should **consider expanding its interests into related commercial technologies** as an approach to increasing its membership and serving broader interests of existing members. Alternatively, in the interest of improving the services offered to its members, AESS **should find a way of partnering with non-IEEE commercially-oriented organizations.**

Strategy & Operations

Recommendation to AESS:

AESS should prepare a **written Strategic Plan with Tactics that include detailed objectives, responsible members and delivery dates.**

Conferences, Publications and Education

Recommendation to AESS:

Conferences

Although ~66% (as of year end 2009) of the AESS members are located in the United States and they often obtain financial help from United States agencies, AESS should **actively explore holding more conferences outside Regions 1-6.**

AESS should **develop a Conference Operations manual** that complements the IEEE Conference Manual and contains such information as their procedures and best practices for the benefit of conference organizers as well as to ensure continuity from year/year as officers and the VP of Conferences are changed.

Conferences, **Publications and Education**

Publications

The Society should monitor its experiences with Allen Press and **communicate any lessons learned to the Periodicals Committee**, and the TAB/PSPB Products and Services Board.

Education

Once AESS gets on a firmer financial footing, it should consider **increasing support of its popular Distinguished Lecturer** program. It could also increase its number of local lectures where travel is not required. AESS might also want to consider videotaping and posting some of the lectures.

Membership

Recommendation to AESS:

The Chapter web site page has buttons labeled with the IEEE region number, behind each of which are the chapters in that region. This would be more helpful if the general region was also indicated (i.e. “Europe and Africa”, “Northeastern USA”). The Wikipedia entry is the minimal entry input by the Technical Activities Department some months ago. The Society should consider **improving this entry to be more informative, and consequently, generating more interest and attracting more people to their site.** The web site layout is **not in compliance with IEEE guidelines and in particular the Society logo is both much larger and considerably more prominent than the IEEE logo.**

AESS and the other two co-sponsoring societies of the IEEE Judy Resnick Technical Field Award (TFA) need to do much more **to stimulate nominations for this satellite-based TFA,** which currently engenders a small number of nominations.

In the interest of appealing to its GOLD members, the Society should consider creating an **Early Career Award.**

Finance

the Society will have run a **net deficit in three of the past four years**. In addition, their reserves have been decreasing steadily from \$3.4M in 2006 to a 2010 budgeted \$1.6M. This is a concern.

Recommendation to AESS:

AESS should **balance its 2010 and future budgets** and look for additional sources of income.

Governance

Recommendation to AESS:

The Society should consider developing a formal mechanism to **remove BoG members who are inactive.**

Article VII Section 3 of the AESS Constitution states “A majority of the voting members of the BoG is thirteen and this shall constitute a quorum.” Since the BoG consists of 26 voting members, a **majority, which is defined as “more than half the group”, should be fourteen and not thirteen. This section of the Constitution and other sections of the By-Laws that refer to a quorum need to be revised.**

Governance - 2

Article IX Section 2 of the AESS Constitution refers to the procedure to approve a change in the Society's By-Laws. No mention is made regarding the **time period from the date of approval by the BoG to the date the change is to appear in the Society Transactions or Magazine and the time period allowed for members to comment on these changes.** This should be clarified.

This same section, Article IX, Section 2, refers to the adoption of a By-Law or Constitution by two thirds mail vote of the BoG. It should state that an affirmative vote is required. This section should be modified to be consistent with IEEE By-Laws I-300.4(4) (the so called "e-mail voting bylaw,") sections (1) and (5), and also with the IEEE "Best Practices for Conducting Meetings by E-Mail." In essence, there is a requirement that **all the voting members should be made aware of the comments of the other voting members before a final vote is cast.** This is to be consistent with Robert's Rules where a discussion is called for after a motion has been made and seconded and prior to final voting.

Best Practices

- AESS has an **Undergraduate and a GOLD/Graduate student representative** on its BoG.
- AESS has initiated an **attractive On-Line Tutorial program** that is offered free to its members. While it may be premature to declare it as a Best Practice, the effectiveness of this program merits evaluation on a periodic basis.
- AESS **supports engineering activities in high schools and colleges** by providing funding for specific engineering programs in the United States and India.
- AESS **shares distinguished lecturers with the Systems Council, and has joint Chapters and technical committees with the Council**
- The **President sends out an email to all new members**, welcoming them to the Society and asking them if they are interested in serving on panels (committees). The response to this request is quite good.
- The **Society involves its Chapters in providing potential members for the BoG and panels.**
- The **Distinguished Lecturers provide a brief overview of the society** as an introduction to their talks. This helps to recruit new members.
- AESS has a **Vice President of Education and a Vice President for Industry Relations** Education and Industry Relations volunteer appointments have helped to develop and grow these areas within the Society.