Minutes of the Control Systems Society Board of Governors Meeting
May 24, 2021
Zoom in lieu of New Orleans, USA

1.   Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

President T. Parisini called the meeting of the Control Systems Society (CSS) Board of Governors (BoG) to order at 8:05 AM (Eastern Time, US) on May 24, 2021. He welcomed all attendees and reminded BoG about the objectives of the meeting. Meeting procedures were reviewed, including the mechanism for voting on motions using Zoom. The following members of the BoG were in attendance:

- Abramovitch, D
- Alleyne, A.
- Annaswamy, A.
- Balakrishnan, V.
- Beck, C.
- Cassandras, C.
- Chesi, G.
- Cortés, J.
- Di Benedetto, M. D.
- Franco, E.
- Gayme, D. F.
- Giua, A
- Glavaski, S.
- Heemels, M.
- Hespanha, J.
- How, J.
- Ito, H.
- Jia, S.
- Krstic, M.
- Leonard, N.
- Lin, Z.
- Mostofi, Y.
- Pappas, G.
- Parisini, T.
- Prieur, C.
- Scherpen, J. M. A.
- Seatzu, C.
- Speranzon, A.
- Spurgeon, S.
- Sun, J

Additionally, the following visitors attended the meeting:

- Baillieul, J.
- Bitmead, B.
- Bullo, F.
- Chiu, G.
- Chong, E.
- Egerstedt, M.
- Ferrara, A.
- Fleisher, A.
- Fujita, M.
- González, O.
- Ishii, H.
- Martinez, S.
- Valcher, E

2.   Approval of Minutes

Quorum was established, and the meeting agenda approved with unanimous consent. Next, the minutes of the BoG meeting of December 2020, held virtually in Jeju Island, Korea were approved with one abstention.

3.   Approval of Record of Electronic Motions of March, April, and May, 2021.
Next, the record of approval by BoG of various electronic motions was approved unanimously.

4.   Consent Agenda

Parisini asked the BoG for approval of the consent agenda, and received unanimous approval.

Action Items

Past President A. Annaswamy presented the following motion.

● **Motion:** *To approve the 2022 Executive Committee Slate*

**The following three individuals were requested to recuse themselves from the meeting, and invited back in after the discussions: Carolyn Beck, Magnus Egerstedt, and Yannis Paschilidis

> President: Thomas Parisini
> President Elect: Magnus Egerstedt
> Past President: --
> VP-Conference Activities: Carolyn Beck
> VP-Finance Activities: João Hespanha
> VP-Member Activities: Marika di Benedetto
> VP-Publication Activities: Yannis Paschilidis
> VP-Technical Activities: Jing Sun
> Director of Operations: Jorge Cortés

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, Annaswamy provided the background on the Nominating Committee and its duties and procedures. A short discussion of the candidates followed. The motion passed unanimously.

President Parisini then presented the following motion.

● **Motion:** *To approve amendments to the CSS Constitution and Bylaws related to the introduction of the Vice President for Diversity, Outreach, and Development.*

Parisini went over the background of the motion. At the virtual BoG meeting of CDC'20, BoG approved kicking-off the formal procedures to establish a new Officer position: the Vice President for Diversity, Outreach, and Development. The amendments have been taken past IEEE Technical Activities Volunteer Engagement & Governance for vetting. The Constitution requires that these amendments are sent to all BoG Members 30 days in

advance of the vote, which Parisini did over email on April, 2021.

There was no follow-up discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

President Parisini then presented the following motion.

● **Motion:** *To renew the Bundle Agreement with the PaperPlaza platform to manage all CSS journals and conferences for years 2022-2026.*

Parisini provided background and proposed to extend the contract with Paperplaza, which expires in December 2021, for the next 5 years. The Paperplaza system helps CSS manage the review process and related activities for all journals and conferences. The new Open Journal of Control Systems will start its operations in January 2022. He described in detail the specific costs associated with the renewal of existing contracts and the addition of new features (a. adaptation of peer review system to manage CSS awards, b. collecting IEEE membership numbers, c. ability to include line numbering on manuscripts submitted to CSS journals, d. ability to include EiC private comments on papers). Parisini explained the cost/benefit of continuing with Paperplaza and opened the floor for discussion.

J. How asked about having additional support staff at Paperplaza to resolve technical glitches, since sometimes Pradeep Misra, as the main POC, is too busy with other work. D. Gayme inquired about improvements to the editorial interface. Parisini asked for specific examples of issues encountered, and went into more detail over the improvements (see a.-d. in paragraph above) to the interface. Gayme specifically asked about the possibility of porting reviewers, and Parisini pointed out that such capability already exists.

M. Krstic said that people involved in award nominations can easily get confused by the current PaperPlaza interface and was glad to see this issue addressed in the new contract. He also asked for clarifications regarding the costs for journals and conferences, as he was expecting constant costs for operating journals and varying ones for operating conferences. Parisini presented the journal and conference SOW and explained the differences, noting that the ones for journals are estimates based on the expected number of submissions, and that the actual cost will be computed once the exact number of submissions are known. Annaswamy commented on the awards process and stated that she has been working with Pradeep to get that fixed.

The motion was approved unanimously.

President Parisini presented the following motion.

● **Motion:** *To approve the setup of a Virtual Conference Platform and a Cloud Service fully integrated with the CSS PaperPlaza Conferences Platform for the period June 1, 2021 – December 31, 2022.*

Parisini recalled how COVID has driven us towards virtual platforms for our conferences. Even after the pandemic is over and in-person conferences resume, we want to enable options for virtual attendance to increase outreach and facilitate participation. During the pandemic, virtual workshops, for instance, have seen enormous participation, especially by students. This motion seeks to support conference organizers. PaperPlaza offers a solution integrated with the

Review Management System that includes: a cloud delivery network (CDN), to collect and stream videos; an integrated live video (LV) platform (similar to zoom, but fully integrated into the virtual conference platform); and the build of a virtual platform (VP). Under the proposed motion, CSS will sign the contract for CDN (set up plus monthly charge), and individual conferences are charged for LV and VP. The idea is to run this as an experiment, starting with CCTA'21, until the end of 2022, and at that time revisit the issue. A. Giua commented that this motion simply provides a choice to the General Chairs (which might indeed decide to use some other service). He also pointed out that this platform could be used for other initiatives, such as the CSS Day.

M. Egerstedt stated that this could work well for CDC'21, which at the moment is planning for an in-person conference with a number of online/hybrid components. This would provide the conference organization with a mechanism to quickly pivot to virtual if necessary. J. Scherpen brought up the issue of how to make the hybrid format viable for large conferences. She pointed out that hybrid conferences are the best option, but also the most expensive. Parisini responded that, while that was a very important discussion to have, it should not be mixed with the present motion, which is an addition, an added value to the current conference format, and does not replace the in-person component. Both Parisini and Egerstedt stressed that this will facilitate making the conference contents, papers and presentations, available to participants in a coherent manner. S. Glavaski asked about the features included in the CDN, making emphasis on the importance of making available plenary talks and tutorials to increase outreach once the conference is over. Giua explained that this is indeed the idea, and that the content will be available through a link. Annaswamy pointed out that this motion is addressing a paradigm shift. The pandemic has accelerated our move to virtual, and the exploration of different means to make content available to our conference attendees and society members. She envisioned the CDN facilitating a move to paperless conferences, without physical books of abstracts, for instance, and many other potential future changes to address. Parisini emphasized the fact that BoG would only be approving this for 1.5 years on a trial run basis, and mentioned people in industry specifically as a body that could benefit significantly from the opportunities for outreach that this enables. E. Franco asked about the cost of recording the talks and Giua clarified that the motion only covers the CDN cost, i.e., the availability of the space where the multimedia can be stored and accessed later. Egerstedt added that a lot of AV companies now provide standard service for recording.

The motion was put to a vote and approved unanimously.

At this time, President Parisini excused himself from the meeting for 90 minutes because of a vaccine appointment. Past President Annaswamy took over chairing the meeting until Parisini's return.

Vice President for Publication Activities A. Alleyne introduced the following motion.

- **Motion:** *To approve a one-time increase of 300 pages to the page budget for the IEEE Control Systems Letters for the year 2022.*

Alleyne provided background as to why the one-time increase is needed. Given IEEE's policy for publication of accepted papers and the increasing number of submissions to L-CSS, it is

likely that the current backlog will get worse if no further action is taken, hurting the rapid publication scope of L-CSS. Increasing the 2022-page count from the current 2500 to 2800 will address the backlog, ensuring that all papers submitted in 2021 (as well as a tail of 40 Early Access papers from 2020) are published in 2022.

F. Bullo asked whether this motion meant to address the additional inflow of papers jointly submitted to ACC/L-CSS, and Alleyne answered that indeed this was one of the main reasons for the increase.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Vice President for Publication Activities Alleyne introduced the following motion.

- ***Motion:*** *To approve a one-time increase of 400 pages to the page budget for the IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control for the year 2021.*

Alleyne provided background on the need for the page increase. Despite corrective measures taken, the backlog is slowly increasing. The journal is now scheduling papers for June 2022. This has been partially exacerbated by two successful special Issues. In addition, there is an increase of approximately 5% of the total number of submissions. Combined with the following motion, the page budget increase will push the backlog back to a reasonable figure (6-7 months for TNs and 9 months for FPs).

J. How asked why the increase was not made permanent, and Alleyne clarified that page budgets are approved by BoG every year, so the new figure can be taken as a reference for the proposals in future years.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Vice President for Publication Activities Alleyne introduced the following motion.

- ***Motion:*** *To approve a one-time increase of 200 pages to the page budget for the IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control for the year 2022.*

Alleyne explained that the background for the motion was the same as for the previous one. How asked whether the target of 9 months for the new backlog was reasonable, and Alleyne offered the view that we have L-CSS for rapid publication for short papers and acknowledged that the issue of backlog duration requires a longer, dedicated conversation.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Vice President for Publication Activities Alleyne introduced the following motion.

- ***Motion:*** *To approve the budget for the IEEE Open Journal of Control Systems for its first three years.*

Alleyne explained that the budget is for editorial support and on a 3-year planning cycle because this is the time it takes to get an impact factor. He described the specific items covered

(salary for editorial assistant, travel, office expenses, and a computer for the assistant).

E. Valcher questioned whether IEEE would allow the expense on a computer -- according to her experience this had not been the case in the past. The vote on the motion was tabled by Annawasmy for later until clarification on this pont could be provided.

Vice President for Publication Activities, A. Alleyne, introduced the following motion

- **Motion:** *To approve the Article Processing Charge (APC) waiver for the IEEE Open Journal of Control Systems for 45 papers over the first three years.*

Alleyne explained thate journal the Open Access (OA) landscape in our area is competitive and evolving. The motion seeks support for APCs to provide a strong push for the launch of OJCS. Waiving APCs at the start of the journal launch is consistent with other OA journals from IEEE that have launched recently to encourage early adoption. The requested number amounts to 15 APCs per year for the first three years. Annaswamy reinforced these points and provided similar background on recently launched OA journals.

M. Heemels asked about when OJCS will be open for submission and Alleyne answered that the official launch date is January 2022.

The motion was approved with one abstention.

Vice President for Conference Activities A. Giua introduced the following motion

- **Motion:** *To appoint Rush Patel as General Chair of the Young Professionals Virtual Control Conference 2022.*

Giua explained that a motion to organize the Young Professional Virtual Control Conference (YPVCC 2022) sponsored by CSS in 2022 was approved by BoG at CDC 2020. The goal is to engage more young professionals in CSS. The conference is designed to be virtual, asynchronous and interactive, and offer a venue to try new ideas. The aim is to keep the conference registration low and have the requirement that the 1st author is a YP. He showed Patel's biography, and Annaswamy commented that Patel has already started to think about the organizing committee and setting up a website.

Glavaski asked what the definition of YP is, and Annaswamy clarified that the IEEE definition is anybody that has received a BS degree in the last 15 years. Glavaski emphasized the importance of reaching out to more people and young professionals -- regardless of age, just early in their career. Alleyne emphasized the intended connections with industry professionals. Annaswamy noted the experimental nature of the conference and the fact that we will make adjustments as we move forward with the lessons learned.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Vice President for Conference Activities Giua introduced the following motion

- **Motion:** *To appoint Karl Ludwig Fetzer as Program Chair of the Young Professionals Virtual Control Conference 2022.*

Giua explained the motion had the same background as the previous one and shared Fetzer's

biography. Annaswamy provided additional positive information based on interactions with both Fetzer and Patel.

The motion was approved with one abstention.

Vice President for Conference Activities Giua introduced the following motion

- **Motion:** *To approve March 24-27, 2022 as the dates for YPVCC 2022.*

Giua explained this motion has the same background as the previous ones. He explained the rationale for the date selection: on the weekend before Spring recess for many universities, which should be a slower time for many YP in academic settings. In addition, dates are from Thursday through Sunday, with shorter two-hour days on Thursday and Friday and longer four-hour days on Saturday and Sunday. The aim is to allow industry professionals to flex their time (or take minimal vacation) during a normal work week and attend a full day over the weekend without taking vacation.

Gayme stated that the time distribution on weekends would make participation difficult to people with families (because of the need for care during the weekend) and that a more homogeneous schedule would be better. Annaswamy noted that this was an excellent point, and explained that the motion only concerned dates for now -- the conference organizers should take this into account when scheduling the meeting times.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Vice President for Conference Activities Giua introduced the following motion

- **Motion:** *To approve the preliminary budget for YPVCC 2022.*

Giua explained the main items in the preliminary budget, which has a projected surplus of 28% of the expenses. The plans for registration fees does not include a CSS differential member fee, a fact that was noted by R. Bitmead as something counter to our intent to attract new CSS members. Giua stated that the fees are so low that implementing the CSS differential did not seem to make much sense in this case. Bitmead also asked about the time zone where the conference will take place as it is important for family accommodation. Annaswamy stated that the timezone will be chosen to maximize attendance. Giua offered to collect comments and relay them to the conference organizers so that they can best accommodate them.

The motion passed with one abstention.

Vice President for Conference Activities Giua introduced the following motion

- **Motion:** *To approve the preliminary budget for CCTA 2023*

Giua described the main items in the budget. The target of 400 registrants is aggressive but realizable. The organizers plan an aggressive publicity campaign, featuring a unique and desirable location, to hit the target.

The motion passed unanimously.

Vice President for Conference Activities Giua introduced the following motion

● **Motion:** *To appoint Sarah Spurgeon as Program Chair of CCTA 2024.*

Sarah Spurgeon was asked to recuse herself from the meeting until invited back in.

Giua provided background on the selection of Spurgeon as PC for CCTA 2024 and presented her biography.

The motion passed unanimously.

Vice President for Member Activities M. Di Benedetto introduced the following motion

● **Motion:** *To reduce the CSS Membership Fee for IEEE Student Members (including IEEE student grade and IEEE graduate student grade) from $12.50 to $5.*

Di Benedetto explained that the motion sought to attract new students as major contributors to society membership growth. The initiative is similar to what many other IEEE societies already offer.

There was robust discussion following Di Benedetto's presentation. Annaswamy emphasized that student membership and retention has always been important to CSS. How asked about why not making student membership free and Di Benedetto answered that having a non-zero amount retains some value to the fact of becoming a member. Annaswamy reinforced the idea of having some value associated with it, and she and S. Jia raised the possibility of further lowering it to $1. Scherpen asked whether reducing the costs to attend CSS conferences will also help increase student membership and Annaswamy said that this is being explored among the various initiatives for the CSS Fund. Parisini pointed out the importance of publicity and making sure students are aware of the reduced rate. Bitmead suggested the alternative of keeping the student membership fee as it is now but instead offering an incentive (like a CSS t-shirt) that is worth more than the fee. G. Pappas offered another suggestion, consisting of offering incentives to faculty (e.g., reduced membership fees) that bring students in. D. Abramovitch asked whether the difference between $12.5 and $5 will really make any difference, and Annaswamy pointed out that there are many different factors to this and it is difficult to exactly pinpoint the role that each plays. She remarked that many IEEE members are not society members. Gayme noted that students do not necessarily see a value in student membership, and concrete initiatives, like dedicated events at conferences or other incentives, can help in making it more tangible. Krstic asked about what students we are trying to attract. He pointed out that a large portion of the student membership increases in other societies can be explained by the additions coming from China. In his view, there is a correlation between student numbers and the impact factor of journals, and wondered if students tend to join societies where the standards for publishing are not as high as in CSS. Egerstedt noted that we have recently rolled out the CSS differential registration fee for conferences, and that we will soon be able to evaluate the impact of it. He also remarked that societies that target China are seeing upticks in memberships, and stressed the importance of numbers -- for the health of the society, CSS needs to find new members. Marika welcomed the variety of suggestions and analysis. She pointed out that lowering the student membership fee is only one action of many, and that she plans to propose more directions.Parisini expressed the idea that this is a signal for

our community. We need to explain to our students the value of membership and stress the importance of volunteer activities and getting involved. Answering a question on the chat about how long this initiative will be in place, J. Cortes stated that it will be evaluated yearly. Glavaski said that the topic requires a deeper discussion which involves understanding what is the makeup of our membership and analyzing all the current trends. Franco and N. Leonard stressed the importance of hearing from the students and offering opportunities to them for leadership. Krstic shared statistics from Automatica regarding paper downloads: for every US-based download, there are 5 from China. All other countries lag even further behind than the US. He also pointed out the regional focus on the papers authored by students from China in terms of papers read and cited, so tackling initiatives that broaden their perspective are needed.

The motion passed with 1 abstention and 1 negative vote.

The motion tabled earlier in the meeting regarding the budget for the IEEE Open Journal Control Systems for its first three years was considered again. Alleyne pointed out that IEEE allows for expenses required to "provide editorial services", and that resources needed to carry out the editorial activity certainly fit into this category. Annaswamy suggested that we leave it to the EIC to determine what exactly is needed. Parisini brought up that the budget for TCNS has an entry specifically for office-related expenses.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Informational Items

CSS Financial Status

Vice President for Financial Activities J. Hespanha presented an overview of the financial status of the society. In spite of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, CSS continues to be in a strong financial standing, with a net surplus of $3,170K. Year-to-date results for 2021 are on track and the 2022 budget cycle has started. Membership revenue has gone down, but not as much as expected. The revenues for the journals have increased, with surplus forecast for the newest ones (TCNS and L-CSS). The total amount of money that our conferences move has decreased, but the surplus is above $1.5M, which is bigger than before the pandemic. Society projects continue to grow. We are limited by spending within the budget due to various IEEE rules. The CSS Fund is an additional mechanism that is not limited by these rules. For 2022, we are planning to increase the dollar amount of many of the projects proposed.

Bitmead pointed out that we need to come up with an ambitious plan of activities to start spending the money in the CSS Fund. He brought up a number of ideas aimed at increasing outreach and diversity such as travel grants, scholarships, and waiving of APCs for authors from low-income countries. He emphasized the importance of thinking bigger and coming up with large initiatives. Hespanha said these were all great ideas. Parisini reinforced the importance of spending the money of the CSS Fund to make an impact at a broader scale -- understood as impact on society and the world as a whole. Gayme pointed out that, based on her experience, the information and process about how to apply to the CSS Outreach Fund could be made more easily accessible. C. Prieur raised the idea of reducing conference registration fees for people attending from low-income countries. Hespanha reminded BoG about the IEEE requirement of

having a surplus of 20% of expenses in the budget, and suggested the mechanism of targeted travel awards. Annaswamy shared that we sought to implement something like this amongst our initiatives last year but IEEE did not allow it for technical reasons. Such initiatives are exactly the types of things that the CSS Fund should support, and she stressed the importance of thinking big and asked for input from BoG members and the community. Glavaski asked about the involvement with the Smart Cities program, and Annaswamy replied that it is an IEEE initiative, and CSS is one of the various societies involved in it since the beginning. Annaswamy also encouraged TCs to submit proposals through the Outreach Fund, and Parisini remarked that the new VP for Diversity, Outreach, and Development would be the natural go-to-person for coordinating these initiatives and making the approval process more easily accessible to proponents.

Before the next informational motion was presented, George Chiu, General Chair of ACC 2021, joined the meeting and welcomed everyone to ACC.

OJCS Vision

Parisini invited the EiC of the Open Journal of Control Systems, S. Martinez, to present an overview of the vision for the journal. She made a presentation where she discussed the journal's identity, plans for special issues and article types. Regarding identity, she stressed OJCS as a technical open access publication venue for CSS and as a promoter of open access to control systems research, software, and data. Potential additional targets are offering alternative publication types to CSS and providing a platform to communicate on the broader impacts of control systems research and education, with a special emphasis on the interplay between data science/learning/control. She then described different publication types: standard tech journal articles (no length limitations), position papers, survey papers, open-source software, open-testbed tutorial papers, research case-study in systems and control papers, education in control/STEM/outreach Papers, reproducible R-articles, and methodological M-articles. She emphasized the OJCS will have a rigorous review process in line with the high quality standards of CSS journals.

Annaswamy was positive about the vision and plans for the journal. Alleyne emphasized the value of the data repository to enable availability and reproducibility. He also mentioned that he could see the education in control papers as a valuable tool for teaching controls that provide a more comprehensive set of resources (e.g., pre and post surveys) than typical papers with an education focus. Prieur asked about having a common data repository, and Martinez clarified that the idea is to use existing ones (like github), and ask the authors to create a DOI that the journal can link to. This brought up the possibility of some authors not maintaining the data or even removing it after some time. Valcher mentioned other alternatives that would preclude this, like IEEE's Code Ocean and Techxriv, and she stressed that some degree of editorial board oversight for the code would be necessary. Parisini asked about the review process of additional material, and Martinez answered that this what is addressed by the different publication types (e.g., a regular paper has a normal review process whereas, in addition, a reproducible R-article has to go through an additional stage of replication by the community). Annaswamy linked this with the new YPVCC conference, which will also face the review and evaluation of experiments/methods/data, and stressed that the lessons learned could also be used for OJCS. Alleyne closed the discussion by stressing the value for industrial engagement of facilitating the sharing of data and models.

2021 BoG Election

Annaswamy informed BoG that a ballot consisting of nine candidates was sent by IEEE on April 15, 2021 to all IEEE CSS members for the election of six members to the Board of Governors. The election is currently underway (electronically), closing on May 27, 2021. Results will be known by June 3, 2021.

Batten, Belinda	Panayiotou, Christos
Ebihara, Yoshio	Pettersen, Kristin
Horch, Alexander	Tarbouriech, Sophie
Lee, Jay	Van den Hof, Paul
Leve, Fred	

President's Updates

Parisini started by reiterating the call for ideas of the CSS Fund. He then turned to a new initiative called CSS Day and invited the Vice President for Member Activities J. Sun to present it. Sun described the CSS Day as an initiative to promote CSS, inspired by the Power and Energy Society's PES Day. CSS Day consists of a day dedicated to activities that celebrate CSS impact, improve CSS visibility, engage a broader engineering community, and expand diversity. A task force, co-chaired by VPTA and VPMA, has been formed to work on the implementation details. The pilot lunch is set tentatively for October 19, 2021. Currently, the initiative is in the brainstorming phase, with a final decision regarding holding it in 2021 to be made in July, 2021. Activities will involve chapters and technical committees, public lectures with highly engaging speakers and topics, could leverage the Distinguished Lecturer program, and other outreach activities (Women in Engineering, YP). Annaswamy emphasized the importance of showcasing success stories, visions for the future of control, and re-invigorating the video clip contest.

Parisini next discussed the upcoming TAB Periodicals Review and Advisory Committee (PRAC) and society reviews. TAC, TCST, TCNS, CSm are being reviewed by PRAC in June. All reports have been submitted on time. The society will be reviewed in November.

The last topic in the presidential updates was the moving landscape of open access publishing. He pointed out that maybe 5 years from now, all our journals (currently hybrid with the exception of OJCS) will be OA. This is a transitional time. IEEE's position is to embrace the OA movement. Parisini remarked that it is important to keep in mind that IEEE is not just publications; more than 50% of the income from publications is re-invested in member activities, conferences, standards, education, etc. He also said that transformative OA agreements (like the recent Elsevier-UC one) are becoming a reality, and stressed the importance of being proactive to influence IEEE policy. He described ACM OPEN, which is a tier-based model where the more papers an institution publishes, the more the institution pays. This could serve as a reference point, taking into account the particular aspects of our society (e.g., reinvesting the income back to membership activities, high quality control). He closed by saying that he was working with the EIC of CSm in preparing a column on the

topic.

A robust discussion followed. Bullo emphasized that IEEE is composed of volunteers, and as such, it is up to us to steer its policy by getting involved in the decision making process. Bitmead echoed the complexity of the OA landscape, and brought the possibility of a pay-to-submit model as a way of curving the ballooning number of papers submitted (not just in the OA context, but in general). Annaswamy expressed concern that OA is often equated with fast turnaround and lower quality. Parisini said that we know how to do this properly, as exemplified by L-CSS. Y. Mostofi asked if OA would speed up publication by eliminating the gap between when a paper is electronically published and actually published. Parisini said that removing the issue number in our journals would also contribute to reducing this gap given our current understanding of IEEE's policy regarding publication of accepted papers. This was echoed by Valcher, who added that she is part of the IEEE Publication Services and Products Board, where some recent changes have been discussed to make sure early access papers are taken into account for the computation of journal impact factors.

Krstic brought up the point of the stigma associated with certain OA publications as second-tier venues. He was referring to the practice of some publishers of encouraging prestigious journals to redirect rejected papers towards OA journals within their purview. In turn, these OA journals are not staffed by top researchers in the field, and do not promote excellence. He emphasized the importance of making sure our new journal is not viewed as a venue of second chances. Martinez stated that at OJCS they will strive for speediness, but that the editorial board is fully committed to maintaining high quality standards. Bullo pointed to the growing community in China that generates new papers and submissions, and the need to involve these researchers as reviewers, in leadership positions at BoG and ExCom, etc. Parisini finished by asking everybody to consider, assuming that the business model of OA is sustainable, the need to make publishing in our high-quality journals accessible to researchers from low-income countries.

Activity Reports

No additional activity reports were presented during the meeting. BoG members were referred to the material contained in the agenda and reports document for full details on all activity reports.

Other Business

The next BoG meeting will take place in association with CDC2021. Time and date are still to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42pm (Eastern Time, US)