

**Minutes of the Control Systems Society Board of Governors**  
**Meeting December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Cancún, Mexico**

Before the meeting started, President Thomas Parisini invited the General Co-Chairs of CDC, Elena Valcher and Andrea Serrani, to welcome everybody to the conference.

**1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

President Thomas Parisini called the meeting of the Control Systems Society (CSS) Board of Governors (BoG) to order at 1:02 PM (Eastern Time, US) on December 5, 2022. He welcomed all attendees, asked them to introduce themselves, and reminded BoG about the objectives of the meeting. Meeting procedures were reviewed. The following members of the BoG were in attendance:

- Abramovitch, Danny
- Bazanella, Alexandre Sanfelici
- Beck, Carolyn
- Cassandras, Christos
- Cortes, Jorge
- Di Benedetto, Maria Domenica
- Ebihara, Yoshio
- Egerstedt, Magnus
- Franco, Elisa
- Heemels, Maurice
- Hespanha, Joao
- How, Jonathan
- Ishii, Hideaki
- Ito, Hiroshi
- Kerrigan, Eric
- Krstic, Miroslav
- Mostofi, Yasamin
- Parisini, Thomas
- Paschalidis, Yannis
- Pettersen, Kristin Y.
- Prieur, Christophe
- Sun, Jing
- Van den Hof, Paul
- Wan, Yan

Additionally, the following visitors attended the meeting:

- Allgower, Frank
- Annaswamy, Anuradha
- Doyle, Frank
- Ferrara, Antonella
- Ferrari Trecate, Giancarlo
- Fujimoto, Kenij
- Prandini, Maria
- Tufuga Ashley
- Zaccarian Luca

2. Approval of Minutes  
Quorum was established, and the meeting agenda passed. Next, the minutes of the BoG meeting of June 7, 2022, held at ACC 2022, were approved unanimously.
3. Approval of Record of Electronic Motions of August, 2022.  
Next, the record of approval by BoG of an electronic motion voted on in August was approved unanimously.
4. Consent Agenda  
Parisini asked the BoG for approval of the consent agenda, and received approval unanimously.

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### Action Items

The VP-Publication Activities Yannis Paschalidis presented the following motion.

- **Motion:** *To re-appoint Alessandro Astolfi as the EiC of IEEE TAC for a 3-year term (2023-2025).*

Paschalidis gave a brief background of the experience and biography of Astolfi. Anu Annaswamy inquired about plans for future candidates for the position and Parisini explained this is an ongoing process considered by ExCom. Magnus Egerstedt praised the job done by Astolfi as EIC.

The motion passed unanimously.

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The VP-Publication Activities Y. Paschalidis presented the following motion.

- **Motion:** *To approve a new Editorial Services contract for IEEE TAC for a 3-year period (2023-2025) at the cost of \$80K per year.*

Paschalidis went over the background of the motion. Parisini explained that the requested budget is a maximum amount, which would be reduced accordingly if the 3 years are not completed.

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

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Vice President for Publication Activities Y. Paschalidis presented the following motion.

- ***Motion:*** *To approve a new Editorial Services contract for IEEE L-CSS for a 2-year period (2023-2024) at the cost of \$46K per year.*

Paschalidis explained that approval is sought only for a 2-year contract to align it with the term of the EIC.

The motion was approved unanimously.

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Vice President - Publication Activities Y. Paschalidis presented the following motion.

- ***Motion:*** *To approve the 2023 page budget requests of the CSS journals.*

Paschalidis explained that the proposed page budget requests are in-line with IEEE and EiC projections. The financial impact of up to \$21,000 (on top of ACC BoG approvals) is based on the per page cost of TAC in 2022, which is an upper bound on the cost for other journals. The actual cost will not be known until August 2023. Parisini explained that the reason to seek approval for the page budgets now is to avoid having to vote on it later electronically. Egerstedt expressed support for the motion, emphasized the healthy inflow of papers to our journals, and noted that the motion would help reduce backlog. Joao Hespanha explained that the \$21,000 estimate is pessimistic, since it assumes nobody will download the papers published under the page increase. Parisini reminded BoG that there are ongoing conversations to remove the printed versions of TAC and TCST, and also remove the issue numbering, which will have a positive effect in publication times.

The motion was approved unanimously.

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Vice President for Conference Activities C. Beck presented the following motion.

- ***Motion:*** *To approve an allotment of CSS funds to support live streaming of Plenaries, Tutorial Sessions, and Pre-Conference Workshops at CDC and CCTA in years 2023-2025.*

Beck explained that CSS will provide support for plenaries, tutorial sessions, and pre-conference workshops at both CDC and CCTA to be offered in both live and virtual modes. The goal is to enable conferences to reach a larger audience and provide more opportunity to industry professionals and students to participate. This is not meant to be mandatory for GCs, but to provide a resource in case they want to implement it. Parisini explained that these types of initiatives pave the way for people that do not have a paper to present to attend our conferences.

Egerstedt pointed out this idea was already discussed prior to the pandemic. Among other

things, it could help reduce the carbon footprint of conferences. Beck emphasized that this initiative is not meant to disincentivize in-person attendance, which will still be encouraged with an appropriate conference registration fee structure. Abramovitch shared his experience in the organization of ACC, explaining that the factors to consider are number of cameras and bandwidth, which can be costly, especially for workshops (which happen simultaneously in multiple rooms). This is why at ACC, the organization decided to instead offer organizers the possibility of holding the workshop online two weeks prior to the actual in-person conference, with high attendance rates. Paschalidis liked that this initiative is limited to plenaries, tutorials, and workshops, and expressed support for lowering registration costs for virtual participants without a paper. Parisini explained that, since CSS will pick up the cost, this will not impact the conference budgets. Jonathan How asked about the mention in the background to the consistency of this initiative with the mission of the CSS Fund. Parisini explained that this means that it should be inclusive and outreach to developing countries. Frank Doyle asked about CSS's vision about the future of our conferences and Beck explained that the process of defining one is ongoing: in fact, she recently organized a conference taskforce that produced a number of recommendations regarding format of talks and increasingly hybrid options. Parisini explained that this initiative paves the way to increase the number of attendees from all around the world who do not have papers to present. Egerstedt acknowledged that the new post-pandemic normal is not the same as the old one, and that this is an opportunity to be forward-looking and rethink the format of our conferences, which is a conversation that VPCA Beck has started. Abramovitch emphasized that a big part of the implementation is the required infrastructure: for instance, the idea of the CDC22 organizers to ask every participant to record a video before the conference makes it very easy to implement. Maurice Heemels expressed concern about the impact on in-person attendance. Beck emphasized that the idea would be to mitigate this by incentivizing in-person attendance for people with papers via the conference registration fee structure. Christos Cassandras questioned why the initiative is only for 3 years, and Parisini responded that extending it would be a decision for the leadership in the future.

The motion passed unanimously.

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Vice President for Conference Activities C. Beck presented the following motion.

- ***Motion:*** *To approve the revised budget for CCTA 2023.*

Beck explained that the revision to the budget is due to inflation adjustments in reception costs and audio/visual costs, as well as adjustments for increased anticipated attendance at breaks. This has resulted in an increase in registration fees of approximately 13%. How inquired about the reasons for deciding to increase the registration cost. Beck explained that, given the relatively isolated location of the venue, registration includes all lunches, making it easier for attendees to remain engaged with the conference program. How pointed out that an alternative arrangement could have been to offer the possibility of opting out of lunches to offer a lower registration category, as the increased proposed rate might be seen as a hurdle for participation. Beck explained that the contract was on room rates and mostly driven by reception costs and food consumption prices. Parisini stressed that the inflation numbers are unseen, and that with the revised budget, the General Chair seeks to plan cautiously for the expected increased costs.

The motion was approved with one negative vote.

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Vice President for Conference Activities C. Beck introduced the following motion.

- **Motion:** *To approve the reappointment of Amir Aghdam as Chair, Conference Editorial Board, for years 2023-2025.*

Beck provided background for the motion and went over the biography of the candidate. Parisini praised the performance of the CEB Chair during his tenure and expressed support for his renewal.

The motion was approved unanimously.

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Vice President for Conference Activities C. Beck introduced the following motion.

- **Motion:** *To approve a new Editorial Services Agreement for CEB for a 3-year period (2023-2025) at the cost of \$61.7K per year.*

Beck explained that the editorial support staff funds have not been changed during the last 5 years. The proposed contract increases the budget by a 21% inflation-adjusted cost to accommodate increased compensation for the CEB Chair's assistant.

This motion was approved unanimously.

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Vice President for Conference Activities C. Beck introduced the following motion.

- **Motion:** *To approve a multi-year agreement with Papercept for conference paper management for 2023-2026.*

Beck explained the need for renewal while providing brief financial details and basis for estimated prices. She also described the range of services and features provided by PaperPlaza to conferences. Parisini explained that the contract is consistent with the bundle of services approved at ACC'21. He also explained the idea that CSS will not charge the conferences for this service, effectively reducing conference costs, thereby allowing GCs to lower registration fees. Jorge Cortes inquired about contingency plans should Papercept disappear or be bought by a different company that decides to change the terms. Parisini explained that the value is in the data, which belongs to CSS, and that this should be in a format that is portable and usable in other platforms. He added that the discussion of plans to this effect should be considered in the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC). Annaswamy seconded Cortes' concern and the importance of dealing with it at the LRPC. Frank Allgower said this indeed is an important problem for all societies using PaperPlaza.

The motion was approved unanimously.

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Vice President for Conference Activities Beck introduced the following motion.

- **Motion:** *To approve a multi-year agreement with Conference Catalysts (CC) for conference website design, management and archiving for 2023-2026.*

Beck gave an overview of the services provided by Conference Catalysts regarding the website design, support, and archiving for our conferences. She also supplied contract and base rate projections. She mentioned the plan to help remove the line item from conference budgets with CSS support. Egerstedt gave remarks in support.

The motion was approved unanimously.

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Vice President for Conference Activities C. Beck introduced the following motion.

- **Motion:** *To approve a 12-month agreement with Conference Catalysts to provide CSS with web management support.*

Beck explained this motion supports the management of the CSS website by Conference Catalysts (CC) and the increased cost is in line with inflation rates. Cortes asked about the level of satisfaction of CSS with the services provided by CC. Parisini responded that CSS is reasonably satisfied. Cassandras mentioned there are other web management companies that do a great job and that checking out the competition would be a good idea. Parisini explained that CSS recently did a search for alternatives but eventually decided against them because of pricing concerns and the ways conference websites are archived (and what that would require should CSS change providers). Annaswamy reinforced the point that CC has gotten better in addressing CSS concerns. She also highlighted that the responsibility for content creation lies with us, and that there are lots of details and information in our website to keep track of. She advocated that we need a better organizational structure to facilitate this. Parisini explained plans for reinforcing the Electronic Information Committee, whose chair, Fabio Pasqualetti, has been doing an excellent job, and the importance of a single point of contact with CC as a best practice. This issue will be treated at the LRPC.

The motion was approved unanimously.

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Vice President for Conference Activities C. Beck introduced the following motion.

- **Motion:** *To approve the appointment of Jorge Cortes as the General Chair for CDC 2026.*

Cortes recused himself from the discussion. Beck explained the background and covered the candidate's biography. Parisini and Egerstedt expressed statements in support.

The motion was approved unanimously.

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Vice President for Conference Activities C. Beck introduced the following motion.

- **Motion:** *To approve the appointment of Masaaki Nagahara and Daniel E. Quevedo as the General Co-Chairs for CCTA 2027.*

Beck presented the biographies of the two candidates. Egerstedt questioned the need for having two General Co-Chairs. Beck pointed to the combination of experience in conference organization with the geographic diversity of the team.

There was no discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

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Vice President for Conference Activities C. Beck introduced the following motion.

- **Motion:** *To approve Japan as the location (Osaka or Kitakyushu current options being considered) for CCTA 2027.*

Parisini remarked that Japan is a great location for CCTA for its connections with industry. Dates and precise location are still to be determined. Egerstedt sought clarification on needing to come back for BoG to approve the dates and venue, which Beck confirmed.

There was no discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

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Vice President for Conference Activities C. Beck introduced the following motion.

- **Motion:** To approve the appointment of Colin Jones as the Program Chair for CCTA 2025

Beck gave a brief overview of the background and biography of the candidate, emphasizing the conference organization experience. Parisini gave remarks in support of the candidate's ability and future leadership potential with the society.

The motion passed unanimously.

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Vice President for Conference Activities C. Beck introduced the following motion.

- **Motion:** *To approve the appointment of Na Li and Christoforos Hadjicostis as Program Co-Chairs for CDC 2025: Christoforos Hadjicostis as Program Chair for Contributed Papers and Na Li as Program Chair for Invited Papers.*

Annaswamy brought up the fact that none of the two nominees are from South America and emphasized the importance of getting a strong attendance to the conference, given it is the first time that it is held in Brazil. Paschalidis, one of the two General Co-Chairs, explained that the other General Co-Chair is from Brazil and president of the Brazilian Society of Automation, and he is engaging with local chapters and universities. Parisini expressed enthusiasm for the fact that this is the first time ever CDC in South America and the opportunities for outreach it presents.

The motion passed unanimously.

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*Vice President for Conference Activities* Jing Sun introduced the following motion

- **Motion:** *To approve a new Technical Committee on Stochastic Systems and Control.*

Sun explained the background of the proposal. Stochastic systems and control play increasingly important roles. The proposed TC will vertebrate the CSS technical activity in the area.

There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

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*Vice President for Conference Activities* J. Sun introduced the following motion

- **Motion:** *To approve a formal Technical Committee Chair appointment term: TC chairs will be appointed for 3-year terms and they can serve up to two consecutive terms.*

Sun explained the current process for appointment of TC Chairs and the fact that there is no formal description of term limitations in the CSS Constitutions and Bylaws. The purpose of this motion is to fix that. This was a recommendation brought up in the last society review undergone by CSS. Egerstedt emphasized that in fact we need a process for appointment that is well formalized. He also noted that TCs are a natural way to create engagement opportunities for future leadership of volunteers.

The motion passed unanimously.

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CSS President T. Parisini introduced the following motion

- **Motion:** *To pay the American Automatic Control Council (AACC) the 2020, 2021, 2022 missing installments of the agreement concerning the simultaneous submission of papers to Letters of the Control Systems Society (L-CSS) and the American Control Conference (ACC).*

Parisini explained the background for this motion. In 2019, CSS and AACC agreed to implement the simultaneous submission of papers to L-CSS and ACC, mirroring the mechanism for CDC. The agreement sought to make this revenue-neutral by having CSS make a payment of \$15K/year to AACC (since IEEE acquires the copyright of the papers that appear at L-CSS, and CSS benefits from income of future downloads from Xplore of these papers). Due to some miscommunication, the first three installments (2020, 2021, 2022) have never been paid to AACC, something this motion seeks to resolve. Going forward, and to avoid this repeating, AACC will subtract the amount from the yearly post-ACC payment to CSS. Frank Doyle asked why a vote was needed if the agreement dated back to 2019 and Parisini replied that the \$15K amount was not explicitly mentioned in the original MOU.

The motion passed unanimously.

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CSS President T. Parisini introduced the following motion



- **Motion:** *To establish the Graduate Collaboration Fellowship Program as an official award within the Awards Program of the Control Systems Society.*

Parisini explained that the Graduate Collaboration Fellowship Program, supported by the CSS Fund, had already been approved by BoG at ACC'22. What this motion seeks to do is to have it be part of the CSS Awards, consistent with similar initiatives at IEEE and advised by the TAB Committee. The approval of this motion will start the implementation of the fellowship program for the next awards deadline on May 15, 2023.

There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

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CSS President Elect M. Egerstedt introduced the following motion

- **Motion:** *To appoint Anuradha M. Annaswamy as the Chair of the CSS Graduate Collaboration Fellowship Award Sub-Committee.*

Annaswamy recused herself from the discussion. Egerstedt explained the need for completing the roster with this appointment now that the Graduate Collaboration Fellowship has been approved as a CSS Award. He praised the candidate's leadership and past service to CSS.

The motion passed unanimously.

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CSS President T. Parisini introduced the following motion

- **Motion:** *To renew the MOU for the sponsorship of the Internet of Things (IOT) Technical Community as a Participating Sponsor for 2023-2025.*

Parisini explained that the current MOU is expiring in December and CSS is a participating sponsor. He explained that the Internet of Things initiative fosters the exchange of research, development, deployment, education, regulatory, and business aspects, organizes and supports the organization of conferences, and facilitates the networking of researchers, developers, standards engineers, regulators educators and other experts. He mentioned too that the initiative is close to becoming self-sustaining.

There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

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CSS President T. Parisini introduced the following motion

- **Motion:** *To approve that IEEE Control Systems Society becomes a sponsoring society of the IEEE Transportation Electrification Council (TEC) for 2023-2027.*

Parisini explained that the Transportation Electrification initiative is becoming a Council. TEC is industry focused and is expected to attract industry. CSS has already two technical committees focused on transportation. He explained the strategic partnership advantages of becoming a sponsoring society: transportation is a growing field, enhanced engagement in the broader context of transportation, access to programs and events sponsored or organized by

the TEC Council.

The motion passed unanimously.

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Before the presentation of the informational items, Parisini invited everyone to stay for the presentation of certificates of outgoing BOG & ExCom members.

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## **Informational Items**

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### **Appointed BoG Members**

Annaswamy described the process of elections according to the Bylaws. Prior to the December BoG, the Nominating Committee provides the names of three members to be appointed to the Board of Governors for a two-year term commencing on January 1 in the following year. The three appointed members from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024 are Mario Santillo, Afef Fekih, and Fabricio Gonzalez Nogueira.

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### **CSS Nominating Committee Election**

Parisini explained that according to the Bylaws, four members of the society shall be elected by the BoG from a slate of not less than six candidates to the 2023 Nominating Committee. He detailed the dates for nominations and the election, and reported the results. The four members elected are Bob Bitmead, Maria Domenica Di Benedetto, Tariq Samad, and Jing Sun.

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### **CSS Graduate Collaboration Fellowship**

Parisini summarized the main details of the three-year Graduate Collaboration Fellowship Program approved by BoG at ACC'22 and established as a CSS award at BoG'22. The program aims at promoting diversity in CSS, has gone through all the required IEEE approvals, and fits within the scope of the CSS Fund at the IEEE Foundation, which will provide the funding. The program will fund 10 fellowships per year from accredited academic institutions in developing countries. The awardee receives up to \$10,000 of financial support for visiting groups overseas to carry out collaborative research. The host/mentor is a researcher in a different country, willing to supervise the student in collaboration with the student's advisor. Parisini encouraged BoG members to be proactive and disseminate the information about this initiative in their networks. He also invited members to share ideas on driving growth of this program. He envisions that a successful launch of this program would attract industrial partnerships and donations to the CSS Fund. VP Diversity, Outreach & Development (DOD) Hideaki Ishii emphasized the uniqueness in this award in that it is for people in developing countries. He invited members to reach out and submit nominations.

The ensuing discussion focused on the advertisement of the new initiative. Franco questioned if advertising can begin on social media networks and requested a flyer to begin promotion. Parisini advised all aspects are official and advertisement is welcome. Paschalidis suggested leveraging the CSS membership list, particularly regarding countries that could nominate

students. Egerstedt emphasized the importance of chapters and asked Di Benedetto about the possibility of chapter involvement in promoting this program. Di Benedetto agreed with the need for chapter involvement as a first step to identify students. Hiroshi Ito sought clarification regarding the length of each fellowship, which is 1 year. Ishii will prepare a flyer detailing the basic information and guidelines that can then be distributed. How asked about how will CSS perform assessment of the success of the program. He suggested asking for a final report as a way of making sure things go well in terms of research progress. Parisini explained that the award will be given in installments to the awardees to make sure things are proceeding well.

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### **CSS Day**

Sun gave an overview of the first-ever CSS Day, which took place in October 2022. The program seeks to extend CSS outreach and impact. Events included a President's Forum discussing the future of conferences and publications, 9 lectures on control history, 6 events involving chapters, 4 technology showcases, and 2 panel sessions on Young Professionals. There were 1440 registered participants, with 39% people that do not regularly attend CSS conferences. J. Sun thanked the CSS Day Taskforce on behalf of herself and Di Benedetto.

Parisini provided his personal thanks and remarks on overall satisfaction and desire to continue with several chapters involved. Egerstedt highlighted the statistics on reaching people who do not attend CSS conferences as a strong positive and asked about data received regarding the activities and attendance. Sun explained that detailed data from Google Analytics is available, which still needs to be parsed, but shows around 200/300 views per session. In general, participants appreciate the historical overviews, chapter activities, and discussions more rather than the more technical sessions. Kristin Petersen asked about how often CSS Day should be held. Parisini said this was a great point that should be discussed in the LRPC since the amount of effort required to put it together is significant.

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### **TC Outstanding Student Paper Prize**

Sun explained that this is the second year that TC Student Paper Prizes are awarded. This year 8 TCs participated. A CSm article announcing the awardees will appear in the December issue.

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### **Updates on CSS Finances**

Hespanha explained that CSS is expected to end the 2022 fiscal year with a strong net. The bulk of the society's surplus is generated by publications (periodicals) and conference activities (proceedings). He pointed out that CSm does not make (and is not expected to make) a profit, that L-CSS has started to generate revenue, and that the recently launched OJCS will still need some years to generate revenue. Parisini asked Hespanha to explain the spending mechanisms of the society within IEEE. Hespanha went through the budget process, surplus restrictions/rules (50% and 3%), and society project advanced spending. For 2023, the forecasts for operations (including publications, conferences; excluding CSS initiatives) is a revenue of \$8,404K, expenses of \$7,512K, with a resulting operational surplus of \$892K. He detailed planned society projects amounting for a total of \$289K. The 2023 first-pass budget approved by BoG earlier this year is in the process of being finalized, pending approval from IEEE. How questioned

where the spending approved by BoG today will come from. Hespanha explained that the spending will be spread over many years, in accordance with the scope of the initiatives approved today.

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### **Joining CSS while registering at CDC 2022**

Di Benedetto gave a brief overview of the recently implemented feature that allows conference participants that are already IEEE members to join CSS when registering for CDC or CCTA. The 46 new CSS members joined at CDC, which represent 64% of the total increase (71 CSS members) in membership from October 2021 to October 2022.

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### **Support to student activities at CCTA 2022 & CDC 2022**

Di Benedetto reported on the recently implemented the Student Workshop Award, an initiative to offer students a free workshop at CCTA and CDC. At CCTA 2022, 15 students received both travel awards and workshop support awards. At CDC 2022, there were 92 students receiving travel awards, 79 receiving workshop awards (with 33 students receiving both). Parisini praised the initiative and said that these are very good numbers.

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### **Distinguished Industry Lecturers**

Di Benedetto advised two names will be nominated by the end of December for the Distinguished Industry Lecturer program, a joint initiative of the Industry Activities Committee and the Distinguished Lecturer Committee

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### **CSS PhD Education Support Program**

Di Benedetto described an idea for a future initiative together with the VP DOD to offer fellowships for educational activities (e.g., registration to PhD international schools plus travel) to students from Africa and regions in developing countries. This idea builds on and could take advantage of the successful involvement of chapters in CSS Day.

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### **Other Business**

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The next BoG meeting will take place in association with ACC 2023. It is scheduled for Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel, San Diego, California.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm (Eastern Time, US)