DRAFT Minutes

SSIT Telecon
11 March, 2014

1. Welcome and Introductions (Jacob)

   The meeting was opened at 1905 GMT, 15:05 EST by President Laura Jacob. Attendees present in person and on the phone introduced themselves (listed at end of the minutes).

2. President's Comments (Jacob)

   Laura discussed opportunities for SSIT that came up during the February TAB Meeting Series.

   More involvement with IEEE Future Direction Committee (FDC), as many of their initiatives seem to be natural fits, including an overlap with Smart City initiatives. SSIT member Clint Andrews gave a Distinguished Lecturer talk at last Smart Cities event, and will be working with IEEE FDC. An invitation was extended for involvement with Software-Defined Networks initiative but there was concern that the topic area was not a natural fit even though there was opportunity for involvement. The primary focus seemed to be on cloud computing. Laura asked for opinions offline ASAP.

   SSIT was invited to join the Biometrics Council, potentially a good fit with SSIT, though there are a couple of problems. An appropriate, active point person would need to be defined. Laura asked if someone would want to work in this area and feed the relationship; also need to determine how to financially support the relationship. Biometrics Council wants $3K/year to join but next year's SSIT budget is already in deficit, so another line item can't be added. Biometrics has offered to let SSIT work with them even if SSIT can't official join the council. Harold suggested that maybe a fee waiver should be requested. Ken and Luis could the point person(s) and they and Laura decided to take discussion offline. There was a suggestion of identifying ways to be better involved (as members-without-fee) and presenting as a proposal for next year. Elya suggested that we have them organize a track at one of our conferences.

   Laura has been working on expanding social media presence. As an experiment, SSIT will do a Google Hangout On-Air next Monday (1600 EST) by an SSIT member, John Villasenor, and another engineer. It is more of a discussion than a lecture format. The event has been published on Facebook and will be sent out to mailing lists for SSIT Board members and members.

3. February 2014 Telecon Minutes (Terman)

   Since Lew and Kristen were both traveling on the day of the last meeting, there are no minutes. Additionally, due to technical issues, there is no recording of the meeting. It was decided to try to re-create the minutes for next month through notes (Greg will send).

4. Treasurer's Report (Hudgins)

   Jerry was unable to be present, but will begin to discuss budget items next meeting. Jerry requested, via proxy, that people begin to think of needs for 2015.

5. Membership (Kun)

   Luis received a letter from Signal Processing Society asking him to join SPS, and thought this was a nice model for SSIT to pursue (mining for possible members through existing IEEE members).

   Luis said he thought it would be a good idea for members to record the conferences/meetings that they attend to open doors for SSIT. It would lead to having a larger base than 3-4 conferences a year. It would possibly help to have record of conferences that are not IEEE conferences, but in which IEEE members participate.

   Laura added that there is now an SSIT YouTube channel, and requested pertinent videos. Luis asked for ideas for potential video topics. There were some short videos made in the past (2006?) highlighting SSIT members and the value of the society. Jim said the channel should be "curated" by identifying other videos on YouTube and either pointing to them or using them as a reference (as opposed to just copying them). Also suggested was curating videos from people who are speaking at conferences. Laura suggested linking to SSIT Distinguished Lectures that have been recorded. Jim and Laura will continue discussion off-line.

6. Publications (Herkert)

   Joe mentioned a possible collaboration with the Consumer Electronics Society. He and Katina had a call with their president. Since there is currently a backlog for T&S, and since CES' magazine is new and needs papers. SSIT could reject some papers that will not be published for a long time, and would not be timely by the time that they work through the T&S publication queue, and forward them to CES magazine (with permission of author, with understanding that the papers may need to be re-purposed). Additionally, Katina could do a column in the CES magazine that is SSIT-focused. There was discussion that the articles placed in CES could be listed in T&S. SSIT members could read (only) these articles through Xplore access without being able to access to the rest of CES content. This could serve as a potential model for relationships with other societies in the future.

Another idea that came up was to make T&S available to CES members, and vice-versa, at a discount (add-on).

Elya noted that Product Safety Engineering Society is discussing a similar arrangement. Joe will follow up with Stefan Mozar.

Joe said a 2013 budget item was approved for around $4K - $5K for the re-design of T&S. This never happened because work was re-directed to Web site design, and it was important to ensure consistency between the two areas. This year, SSIT is ready to move forward with this for the first issue of 2015. Joe asked if this is possible to use the money that was approved in last year's budget. Harold said no - the money does not move forward if not spent in the year budgeted. Laura said it should be bundled into the 2015 budget. Jim said it could possibly be a candidate for IEEE "new initiative (NIC)" funding. Laura said that it may well be rejected because a similar SSIT project (the Web site redesign) was denied by NIC since it was considered standard society maintenance, and fears that a magazine re-design will be deemed the same. Terri and Joe will research this.

7. Conferences (Joffe)

Elya spoke about conference strategy since there are at least two proposals for hosting the 2015 and 2016 ISTAS conferences. The 2014 conference is going well, with 80 papers accepted out of over 200 submissions.

He said more focus has to be placed on selection of venues for the next several years, and holding financially viable conferences that generate surpluses. There is currently a proposal from UK/Republic of Ireland and the Kerala chapter in India, but Elya felt it may not be a good idea to have two consecutive conferences outside the US, or to have new chapters hold conferences before they have stabilized. Both every year or every third year outside of North America was discussed.

Luis said membership could be increased by having conferences outside North America – perhaps in addition to ISTAS.

Greg said that each chapter should submit a 2-3 page proposal for hosting the 2015 conference with a high-level indication on budget, and that a decision should be made at the April telecon. Elya thought establishing the conference venue/organization 24-36 months out is healthy, and that such a strategy needs to be established.

Laura asked that Elya and Luis discuss more about this offline..

21st Century Weiner (Adamson)

Greg said the conference going well, with 140 accepted papers, but that reviewers are needed.

8. Other Standing Committees
    a. Chapters (Hall)
        i. Phil sent a written report and requested that that be used in lieu of meeting minutes.   We currently have 20 Chapters, with additional opportunities in Italy, Nepal, and Mauritius. Has created a LinkedIn site for SSIT Chapter Chairs only. Will try to have a Chapters filler page in T&S, depending upon on space availability.

    b. Distinguished Lectures (Arkin)
        i. Ron said he hasn't reported in a while, because it makes sense to gather information over a time period of 5-6 months. There has been 16 DLs, with a variety of geographies and subjects. He said for a level of investment, the program is doing well from a budgetary standpoint, and that the speakers are making good use of the money by adding the DL trip to an already scheduled trip. There is still approximately $1700 left to be used through June.

        Laura said she wants to get the DL lecture onto the Web site, and that it may be useful to work the DL into the YouTube channel.

    c. Fellows (Foster)
        i. Nothing to report.

    d. Awards (Kjell)
        i. No report (not on call).

    e. Nominations (Engel)
        i. No report (not on call).

    f. Web (Bookman)
        i. No report (not to call).

9. Long Range Planning Committee / Strategy Committee (Adamson)

    Greg will give report at next meeting.

10. Old Business

    Nothing to report.

11. New Business

    Luis would like to discuss conferences, and he and Laura will take it offline. Luis has suggestions for three Technical Co-Sponsorship conferences

    Elya suggested that a PowerPoint should be put together to be presented to the local IEEE communities in order to evangelize SSIT.

    Phil suggested that a media sub-committee be put together as a mechanism to pull many areas together. Laura will follow up and look for a chair. This will be put on the agenda for next telecon.

12. Next Meeting / Adjournment

    Meeting adjourned at 2022 GMT, 16:22 EST. The next meeting will be at:

    8 April at 1900 GMT, 3 PM EST.

Attendees: Laura Jacob, Greg Adamson, Ron Arkin, Harold Flescher, Ken Foster, Phil Hall, Joe Herkert, Jim Isaak, Elya Joffe, Luis Kun, Lew Terman, Kristen Russell (Staff)