

IEEE AESS Publications Supplemental Publications Material

Board of Governors Meeting
Orlando, Florida
October 4th, 2013

Peter Willett, IEEE AESS VP Publications

● Outline

- Excerpts from Officers' Meeting Report
 - Transactions
 - Magazine
 - Tutorials
 - QEB
- Strategic Issues Not in Strategic Plan
 - Thoughts from Dave Dobson
 - XML tagging
 - Page Charges for Transactions
 - Change in vendor structure for Transactions

● **Transactions**

- Delay from acceptance to appearance is too long. Ideally it should be 6-9 months, presently double that:
- With a 3-month review time (usually initial plus revision) with a 3-month author-delay in between, there are usually 9 months even before the paper comes to the administrative editor.
 - EIC efforts (website trolling, editor replacement) have been reducing this delay to what seems to be a minimal level.
 - The AES Transaction is one of the most industry-oriented IEEE journals: you can't hurry industrial authors and reviewers like you can hurry an academic.
- As to the acceptance-to-appearance delay:
 - We are re-vendoring the Transactions post-acceptance publication stream.
 - Starting January we will have pre-posting articles on IEEEXplore, requires limited "XML tagging".

- While the AES Transactions has an excellent “half-life” it is less able to respond to the needs of authors seeking publication of time-sensitive results.
 - Growth of “Letter” type of submission that gets front-of-the-queue service for appearance.
 - Pre-posting.
- While the Transactions produce ample revenue via IEEE Xplore, ways must continually be found to control costs and to increase revenue.
 - Re-vendoring (separate discussion).
 - Mandatory page charges (separate discussion).
 - Discussion of Open Access last Officers’ Meeting.
- Require creative response to changing technical areas. Core areas are: Radar, Tracking & Fusion, Guidance & Control, and Navigation. Introduce new areas as they are identified.
 - New areas are always welcome. Presently we are seeing growth in Signal Processing Systems
 - Added new AE, and turning away papers that do not align with AESS scope

- Author malfeasance: Parallel submissions to multiple journals simultaneously; serial submissions of previously rejected material; plagiarism; inappropriate submissions: co-authors unaware, or scurrilous contents.
 - However, there is an IEEE plagiarism checker that EIC Lance Kaplan is investigating. (I see it in my role as SE for Signal Processing Letters):
 - The checker makes a score of common phrases with other published works and offers a “percentage similarity”.
 - It adds these together, a high total means that the editor needs to check more deeply.
 - Lance has found several authors on the IEEE-wide “naughty” list.
 - One recent complaint handled was that an Aerospace Conference paper was (allegedly) plagiarized in a MS thesis.
 - Since AESS publication was (allegedly) plagiarized – not plagiarizing – this is not really something we can address
 - The author was directed to bring matter to the university.
 - There is one particularly ugly fight between two authors and acolytes, both in the tracking/fusion area.

- **Magazine**

- All senior editorial staff now have accounts at TAES
 - Transactions EIC sometimes rejects submissions without review as not original enough – but should these be resubmitted to Systems?
 - With “consultation” can decide if it is appropriate for Magazine, no longer just Peter & Dale.
- We have seen an increase in “system integration” papers.
 - E.g., these might describe the way an avionics system might be upgraded.
 - My suspicion is that these are a cheap way to get an archival publication out of a student project.
 - Policy: they might be of interest to our readers only if they describe something that exists, or at least will. Many are just imagined designs, like senior projects: probably fine design, but no real hope of ever being built.
 - It is important to remember that each acceptance represents a glimpse of our policy that is visible to other potential authors.

- Format of magazine?

- Electronic or paper?

- Monthly or bi-monthly?

- This is up to the BoG to decide. However:

- The Magazine is the one physical thing that we give *all* our members.

- The Magazine is for reading ... while it is archival and we are proud of its content, its primary “message” is contact.

- The Magazine is distributed to AESS conferences, chapters & sections, and there are frequent requests for copies.

- The Allen Press contract runs to 2015, so any change in publication format would have to wait until then, anyway.

- **Tutorials**

- Previous concern over lack of submitted articles?
 - Most recent Tutorial (August 2013) had only one article: “Review of Range Based Positioning Algorithms”
 - Tutorials are our most-cited works, previous one (2010) had 2 Tutorials already cited more than 20 times.
 - Braham has three papers under review and four more awaiting submission.
- Delays?
 - Sabrina and Peter have been helping with the review management.

- **QEB**

- Lack of submitted articles?
 - Need help from BoG.
- Possible step is for Cosimo to have access to all Magazine data and articles for content?
 - This was suggested in April, but I do not think we acted on it, unfortunately.

● Dave Dobson's Thoughts

- From a recent letter to Teresa and me, I think it's worth sharing and discussing.
- Distribute Magazine to all student branches.
 - 2350 student branches.
 - Students are the future, why not interest them now?
- Suggested articles (of interest to students)
 - Recap of AESS student activities (Junior Aerospace Conf., student papers in Systems, etc.)
 - Discussion of types of systems our society is interested in.
- "Why does AESS, not a device society, engage in Systems and SoS?"
 - I thought we did, so I'm not sure what Dave means by this.

- **Full XML tagging beginning January 2014**
 - basically the whole article is entered in parallel as XML
 - useful for searching
 - necessary for pre-posting
 - IEEE requirement
 - Allen Press will do this for both Transactions and Magazine

● Page Charges for Transactions

- Old policy was that Business Editor (Jose Bolanos) sent letters to authors (and authors' employers?) to collect voluntary charges of \$150 per page.
- New policy is \$200 a page beyond 10 for Regular and beyond 6 for Correspondence
- A Letter is \$250 per page up to four. For this extra charge it gets put in the front of the publication queue.
- Issue: Dilation of articles.
 - Articles are submitted as single-column double-spaced for review, and also as double-column single-spaced as good-faith estimate.
 - Somewhere in the post-acceptance process 12 page papers would end up as 19 (largely through gross enlargement of figures).
 - Authors were ... very happy to see this and eager to contribute more than their share.
 - Solution was for EIC to go through each issue and estimate page charges owed based on submitted version.

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● Page Charges for Transactions (cont.)

● Issue: Collection of page charges.

- IEEE creates the bills.
- But I need to see the collections on an article-by-article basis so I can encourage non-paying authors to find the funds, and to blacklist those who don't. I am not entirely sure what I will do with this; not publishing until they pay is one option?
- IEEE is unfamiliar with this need for an out-of-house publication. They are trying to be helpful in that they have told us that they will send us a spreadsheet of payments.
- But none has come as of yet.

● Re-Vendoring the Transactions

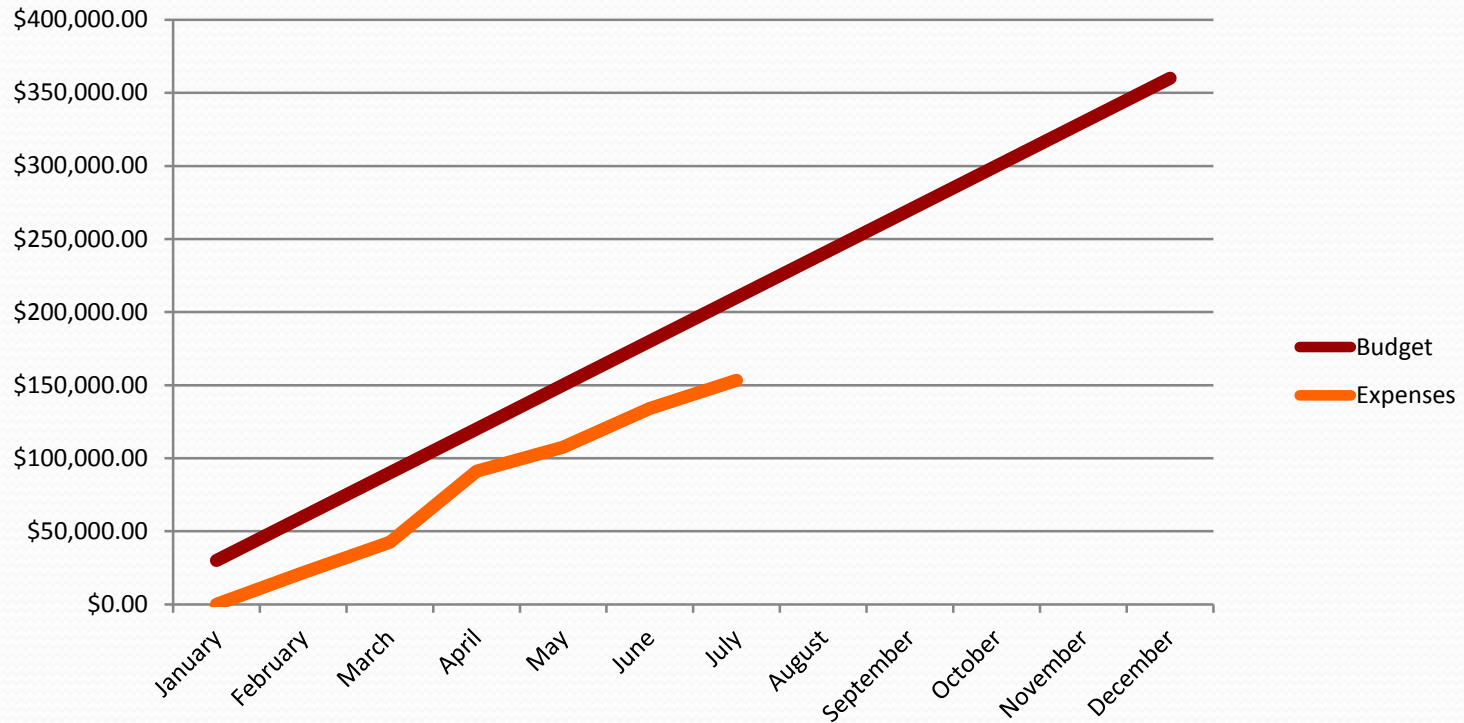
- SJW (Susanne Walsh) is Administrative Editor
 - billing, planning, etc.
- Present vendors are:
 - Allen Press for Managing Editor (post-acceptance processing):
 - Note each EJPress accepted paper
 - Get files from author
 - Send material for copy-editing and typesetting
 - Before Allen Press handled by Andy Lim (after Dave Dobson)
 - Coordinate with IEEE for posting & tagging.
 - Minnesota Technical Typography for typesetting.
 - Take the files and create the document.
 - Architectural Elements (Colorado) for copy-editing.
 - Correct and reformat as necessary.

● Re-Vendoring the Transactions (cont.)

- There was considerable financial benefit to re-vendoring the Magazine.
- Previously the Magazine had a number of small vendors and the chain had not been re-examined for a considerable time. We wanted to put up for bids, and also to consolidate.
- In the summer of 2012 (credit Bill Walsh and a lot of help from IEEE) we got the requisite 3 bids (IEEE, Allen Press & Sheridan) and opted for Allen Press as most realistic and cheaper.
- Up till re-vendoring the cost was approximately \$420k per year.
- We've budgeted around \$360k, and the figures according to the plot on the next page we will get closer to our expectations of \$300k or less.
 - The extra charge for the Tutorial issue may inflate this somewhat.

AES Systems Magazine

Expenses – Estimated vs. Actual



● Re-Vendoring the Transactions (cont.)

- Another reason to consider re-vendoring is the new XML tagging.
 - MTT has been not so cooperative, they do not want to provide the tags until the end of the time they revise the copy-edited version ... we thus miss out on some impact-factor benefit from pre-posting.
- Due to the budget being somewhat lower than the Magazine we did not need three bids.
 - However we did get a bid from IEEE that was very realistic.
 - It was similar to Allen Press, due to other factors we decided to go with the Allen Press bid.
- Started October 1.
 - Previous annual expenses based on a nominal 3200 pages were \$343,396.00.
 - The cost estimate from Allen Press based on the same assumptions is \$269,660.00.
 - Bill Walsh did a fantastic job negotiating bid cost reductions.

BACKUP SLIDES

- **(From BoG May 2013)**

- **there is no doubt that OA will eventually have very large effect on the “revenue” side of the budget**
 - costs will not change
- **IEEE has already taken steps to help its societies by absorbing much of the future impact itself**
 - up to mid-2000s IEEE took no overhead out of the ASPP (IEL, MDL, etc.)
 - then IEEE took an overhead of 20%
 - starting in 2014 the rate will be 30%
 - this appears as a decrease in costs in “Pursvc-Corp Recovery” on tab 1800 of 10budg_0413.xls, from \$197k in 2013 down to \$58k
 - this is offset by a decrease in revenue in line “Subscriptions - APP/IEL/MDL” on tab 380 (Transactions), \$433k down to \$343k and the same line on tab 381 (Systems), \$164k down to \$132k
- **bottom line is a decrease in cost of \$139k against decrease in expense of \$122k**

● (From BoG May 2013)

- presently (for order of magnitude) IEL nets about \$180M per year, voluntary subscriptions about \$15M
 - clearly, this will decrease when OA starts
 - presumably, “grandfathered” (non-OA) content will continue to be paid for under sun-setting IEL subscriptions
- recently IEEE's single-item purchase revenue has gone up (to about \$3M), due mostly to employing a service to clamp down on illegal posting of copyrighted material (so people must buy from IEEE)
- we knew this already, but "S/C Fees (Bundled)" on tab 381 went from \$82k in 2012 to zero, against \$74k on "Society/Council Fees" on tab 382 this is because AESS membership income used to go to the magazine, then was (frankly, more justly) budgeted as society income