



**AESS Fall 2021 Board of Governors Meeting  
October 7-8, 2021  
Hybrid Meeting**

In-Person Attendees: Walt Downing, Mark Davis, Michael Braasch, Michael Cardinale, Michael Noble, Michael Rice, Jill Gostin, Dale Blair, Kathleen Kramer, Steve Butler, Braham Himed, Peter Willett, Sarana Tse

Virtual Attendees: Joe Fabrizio, Fabiola Colone, Lance Kaplan, Marina Ruggieri, Maria Sabrina Greco, Alfonso Farina, Fulvio Gini, George Schmidt, Alexander Charlish, Stefano Coraluppi, Laila Moreira, Philipp Wojaczek, Roy Streit, Yonina Eldar

Non-voting: Francesca Filippini

Guests: Giancarmine Fasano, Claudio Sacchi

Absent: Laura Anitori, Wolfgang Koch, Lorenzo Lo Monte, Xiaopeng Yang

Staff: Judy Scharmann, Amanda Osborn

**Call to Order, Introductions, and Adoption of Agenda – Downing**

Walt Downing called the meeting to order at 8:27 am CDT.  
The agenda is adjusted to swap Member Services and 2022 appointments.  
Agenda is adopted as adjusted.

**President's Message to BoG – Downing**

Walt reviewed highlights of 2021. He provided updates for DASC 2021. There were about 100 attendees registered in-person and 250 online. They hosted a successful UAS competition for high school and college teams.

**President-Elect Message to BoG – Davis**

Mark reviewed the meeting ground rules and hybrid meeting protocols.

**Secretary's Report, approval of the minutes – Filippini**

**MOTION: Francesca Filippini moved to accepted the minutes of the Spring 2021 AESS Board of Governors Meeting as written. Mark Davis 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.**

**Finance Report – Cardinale**

Mike Cardinale presented the Finance status.  
He reviewed 2020, 2021, and the projected 2022 budget.

AESS is quite solvent. AESS can afford to spend money on worthwhile enhances to membership benefits. Conferences over performed by 241.5k.

There was a discussion about hybrid events. It was thought that we should be doing hybrid events in 2022. We need to identify the technological challenges.

**ACTION ITEM: Amanda Osborn – Check with the Pisa hotel about AV requirements and capabilities for the hybrid 2022 Officers' Strategic Planning Meeting.**

There was a question about Global Spec. This was an acquisition by IEEE that turned out to be a financial loss. There was an algorithm put in place to charge all OUs for the purchase of Global Spec and also to distribute the significant loss to the OUs.

Walt reported on the Drone Competition at DASC. AESS supported this with \$1,500 towards the \$5,000 cost of the event.

### **Technical Operations Report – Ruggieri**

Marina Ruggieri presented the Technical Operations report.

This is her last meeting. She is providing recommendations for moving AESS Technical Operations forward.

Marina recognized the Technical Operations committee; Panel Coordinator, George Schmidt; and the Vision & Perspectives committee, Joe Dauncey, chair. Giancarmine Fasano was present to make the Vision & Perspectives committee report.

We have 6 Technical Panels. Marina reviewed the major goals of committee and the 2021 objectives.

Panels at a Glance: The focus of our six panels covers nearly all of the AESS Field of Interest. All 6 of our panels are active.

Panel Coordinator, George Schmidt presented the activities of the six panels. Each panel has about 100 people involved.

The Early Career Award was presented at the DASC Conference.

**ACTION ITEM: George Schmidt – Connect the Denver Chapter or Ft. Worth Chapter to the GAP. GAP could possibly hold a meeting and make a technical presentation.**

Visions and Perspectives Committee:

Giancarmine Fasano presented the report.

Panel reps to this committee were listed.

Giancarmine presented the hypothesis behind the formation of the committee. There are possibilities to reframe the AESS. The committee believes there is a need to change. They want to define a supertopic to drive this change. Supertopic: Autonomy for Sustainability. He explained the concept and showed the benefits of the supertopic.

There was discussion about what society is best to lead this supertopic. It was pointed out that IEEE has some activities already in place. Are we the best society to lead this? It was suggested that we investigate what other societies are doing. It was pointed out that this proposal is internal to our society. We are the only society that touches on Space Sustainability. Marina wants to keep this within our society. Then we can eventually interact outside our society.

We would like to improve cross-fertilization among current panels.  
We will continue the Vision & Perspectives Committee through 2022.

### **2022 Appointments Approval – Downing**

**MOTION: Mark Davis moves to accept the appointments for 2022 as presented. Mike Cardinale 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.**  
Secretary – Francesca Filippini

Treasurer – Bob Rassa  
 Young Professionals Rep – Philippi Wojaczek  
 Graduate Student Rep – Sarana Tse  
 Awards Chair – Fulvio Gini  
 Chapter Chair Coordinator – Kathleen Kramer  
 Fellow Evaluation Chair – Joe Fabrizio  
 Fellow Search Chair – George Schmidt  
 Student Activities Co-Chairs – Bob Rassa and Kathleen Kramer  
 AESS Professional Networking & Mentoring Program Chair – Sarana Tse  
 Constitution & Bylaws Chair – Hugh Griffiths  
 Short Course Committee Chair – Luke Rosenberg  
 History Committee Chair – Alfonso Farina  
 International Directors Liaison – Maria S. Greco  
 Nominations & Appointments Chair – Walt Downing  
 Systems Magazine EiC – Daniel O'Hagan  
 Transactions on AES EiC – Michael Rice  
 QEB EiCs – Francesca Filippini and Philipp Wojaczek  
 Strategic Planning Chair – Mark Davis  
 AUTOTESTCON Board of Directors Rep (2022-2024) – Dan Walsh  
 Women in Engineering – Kathleen Kramer  
 Journal of Lightwave Technology Rep - Michael Cardinale  
 J-MASS Steering Committee Rep - Dale Blair  
 Standards Association Committee Rep – Randall Curey  
 Society on Social Implications of Technology Rep - Michael Cardinale  
 TAES Business Editor – Michael Cardinale  
 Nanotechnology Council Rep – Yvonne Gray  
 Systems Council Rep – Walt Downing  
 Sensors Council Rep – Paolo Vargas; alternate, Peter Willett  
 Conference Liaisons:  
 AUTOTESTCON – Bob Rassa  
 Radar Conferences – Kristin Bing  
 DASC – Kathleen Kramer  
 Carnahan - Gordon Thomas  
 Aerospace - Claudio Sacchi  
 MetroAeroSpace - Pasquale Daponte  
 FUSION - Dale Blair  
 PLANS - Mike Braasch  
 ICNS - Alope Roy

### **Member Services – Colone**

Fabiola Colone presented the Member Services Committee report, reviewing the goals for the committee. She presented all the initiatives set up to serve our YP and student membership. There was discussion on ways to increase membership diversity (geographical, affiliation, gender, age, technical)

There was discussion regarding the Chapter Funding support. Not all chapters are aware of this funding. We have \$35,000 available and we are below \$10K in requests.

There was discussion of the Regional Chapter Summits.

**ACTION ITEM:** Fabiola Colone – Check the total number/growth of the new members in 2020-2021 and how many are from Region 10/China.

The majority of AESS growth in membership came from Region 9. We would like to hold a Chapter Summit in Region 9, followed by one in Region 10.

### **AESS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning – Colone**

The AEES 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be January 16, 2023. Fabiola reviewed all the ideas for the AEES 50<sup>th</sup> celebration and identified leaders for each initiative and presented a timeline for each.

### **Industry Relations – Noble**

Mike Noble introduced the Industry Relations Committee.  
Mike reviewed ongoing actions, objectives, and assignments.

It was suggested to designate a committee that is responsible for reaching out to industry professionals to speak at conferences; include government speakers to entice more participation and increase attendance with added value.

It was suggested to link the Mentoring Program with corporate participation with our conferences. Try to find industry mentors with experiences in entrepreneurship, then provide recruiting opportunities for corporate partners.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mike Noble and Mark Davis – Discuss the potential partnership of the mentoring program and conference corporate partnerships.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mike Noble – Work with CCLLC on a survey to gather data for an article.

Dan Walsh has a good industry perspective.

**ACTION ITEM:** Mike Noble – Reach out to Dale Blair regarding developing a special issue with industry; ask a guest editor from the industry.

### **Publications - Kaplan**

Lance Kaplan reviewed the Pubs committee members.

Transactions:

Lance reviewed the status of TAES. Scholar One opened on March 1, 2021. Lance spoke about EJ Press statistics not carrying over to Scholar One. EJ Press will be asked to provide the information. EJ Press will remain open until December 31, 2021 and can be extended if needed.

Magazine:

Daniel O'Hagan replaced Peter Willett as EIC of the Magazine, effective July 1, 2021.

Lance reviewed recent special issues.  
Lance introduced a possible new scope.

QEB:

Thank you to Fabiola Colone for her many years of service as EIC for the QEB. The new EICs for 2022 will be Francesca Filippini and Philipp Wojaczek.

New Journals:

Transactions on Radar Systems

- We need 2 people on the steering committee.
- Phase I in November

There was a lot of discussion on the percentages of sponsorship.  
One thought is we are going to lose a lot of publications to this Journal and then we only get 24%.

Open Access Journal on Systems Engineering

- Phase II in November
- Dale Blair is going to be EIC. Bob Rassa has led this charge.

### **Nominations & Appointments – Fabrizio**

Joe Fabrizio recognized the N&A Committee and reviewed the 2021 ongoing actions. He reviewed the voting process and we took a practice vote using the Zoom Polling feature.

Per our governing documents, President-Elect Mark Davis will become President in 2022. Congratulations, Mark! The order of offices for the election are in alphabetical order after President-Elect, which will be first. The names to be considered are in alphabetical order. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. No proxy voting.

The 2022-2023 Slate is as follows:

- President-Elect: Mike Braasch, Sabrina Greco
- VP Conferences: Braham Himed
- VP Education: Alexander Charlish
- VP Finance: Mike Cardinale, Peter Willett
- VP Industry Relations: Steve Butler, Mike Noble
- VP Member Services: Laila Moreira
- VP Publications: Lance Kaplan
- VP Tech Ops: Dale Blair, Mike Braasch

President-Elect election:

Mike Braasch, Sabrina Greco

No nominations from the floor.

Each candidate had 10 minutes to address the board, with 5 minutes for questions. The board discussed both candidates.

Vote: **Sabrina Greco was elected President-Elect for 2022.**

VP Conferences

Braham Himed ran unopposed. No nominations from the floor. Seeing no objections, **Braham Himed was elected VP Conferences for 2022 by acclamation.**

VP Education

Alexander Charlish ran unopposed. No nominations from the floor. Seeing no objections, **Alexander Charlish was elected VP Education for 2022 by acclamation.**

VP Finance election:

Mike Cardinale, Peter Willett

No nominations from the floor.

Each candidate had 5 minutes to address the board, with 5 minutes for questions. The board discussed both candidates.

Vote: **Peter Willett was elected VP Finance for 2022.**

VP Industry Relations election:

Steve Butler, Mike Noble

No nominations from the floor.

Each candidate had 5 minutes to address the board, with 5 minutes for questions. The board discussed both candidates.

Vote: **Mike Noble was elected VP Industry Relations for 2022.**

VP Member Services

Laila Moreira ran unopposed. No nominations from the floor. Seeing no objections, **Laila Moreira was elected VP Member Services for 2022 by acclamation.**

VP Publications

Lance Kaplan ran unopposed. No nominations from the floor. Seeing no objections, **Lance Kaplan was elected VP Publications for 2022 by acclamation.**

VP Technical Operations election:

Dale Blair, Mike Braasch

No nominations from the floor.

Each candidate had 5 minutes to address the board, with 5 minutes for questions. The board discussed both candidates.

Vote: **Mike Braasch was elected VP Technical Operations for 2022.**

### **Recess until Friday**

Meeting recessed at 6:09 pm CDT.

### **Friday, October 8, 2021**

#### **Call to Order**

Walt Downing called the meeting to order at 8:30 am CDT.

#### **Conferences – Braasch**

Mike Braasch acknowledged the Conference Committee.

RFP for hybrid conference for Radar 2022 have been sent to Conference Catalysts and MCE.

The 2021 conference status showed exceptional surpluses considering the pandemic.

Mike reviewed the 2022 conference forecast.

Mike reviewed COVID protocols and how to communicate with attendees of conferences. We need to abide by the local regulations where the conference is held.

Mike announced the new IEEE Navigation Conference. It is scheduled in Sydney in December 2022. AESS is 50% financial co-sponsor with the IGSS Conference.

#### **Education – Lo Monte**

Judy Scharmann presented the Education Committee status report in the absence of Lorenzo Lo Monte. The main topic of discussion was the Virtual Distinguished Lecturer Program. It is felt that the VDL should become a standard offering after COVID. This would be in addition to the in-person DL Program.

There was discussion on the Hampton Roads Section activity that seems to align with AESS.

[ACTION ITEM: Walt Downing – Reach out to Nils Smith \(cc Jill Gostin and John Matyjas\) and have him reach out to the Hampton Roads Section and see if they will take on some local activity with DASC 2022. We could fund a UAS Competition.](#)

Do we want to have UAS Competition at any other conferences?

[ACTION ITEM: Braham Hamed – Investigate holding a UAS Competition at other AESS conferences, i.e., Radar Conference and maybe involve YP in the event.](#)

#### **Awards – Gini**

Fulvio presented the Awards update. He recognized the committee. Fulvio reviewed the number of nominations received thus far. Fulvio reviewed the selection committees. We are working to increase gender and geographical diversity in the committees.

[ACTION ITEM: BoG – Suggest to Fulvio names for the awards selection committees.](#)

Discussion: AESS does not have a Distinguished Service Award. The Exceptional Service Award is not an Award, but a certificate of merit. The AESS Outstanding Organizational Leadership Award has a narrow scope and it is difficult to get nominations. An Outstanding Leadership Award with a broad scope is missing.

Proposal 1: Stop the AESS Outstanding Leadership Award and create a new IEEE AESS Distinguished Service Award. Start calling the Exceptional Service Award a “Certificate of Merit for Exceptional Service.”

Proposal 2: Broaden the scope of Outstanding Leadership Award and name it IEEE AESS Outstanding Leadership Award. Create a new award called IEEE AESS Distinguished Service Award. Start calling the Exceptional Service Award a "Certificate of Merit for Exceptional Service."

There was a lot of discussion regarding the choice.

**MOTION:** Fulvio Gini moved to stop the AESS Outstanding Leadership Award and create a new IEEE AESS Distinguished Service Award. Start calling the Exceptional Service Award a "Certificate of Merit for Exceptional Service." This came from committee, so no 2<sup>nd</sup> is needed. Motion passed. A voice vote was taken: 16 yes, 4 no, 0 abstain.

There was discussion regarding the Carlton and Mimno Awards. It was felt that the AESS TPs should contribute more substantially 1-2 nominations for each award (and also the Society Awards).

The ultimate selection is up to the EICs.

#### **AESS website – Scharmann**

Judy Scharmann provided an update on the status of the new AESS website. By the end of week most back-end tasks will be completed. In the next 2-4 weeks the content migrations will be completed, the site navigation will be built, and the manual content pages will be built. next step is Mark and Judy to meet.

**ACTION ITEM:** Judy Scharmann – Set a date in early November to do a demo for the VPs with the webmaster, new VPs, EICs, and Committee Chairs.

#### **Student Activities – Tse, Moreira, Wojaczek**

Undergraduate Student Rep – Sarana presented ongoing actions that she has worked on, including membership bundles, Rising Star Conference, Radar 2022 Conference, and AESS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning.

Graduate Student Rep – Laila gave a status report.

Young Professionals Program – Philipp gave a status update. There was a discussion about affiliate members. Affiliate members cost us. We need to make an effort to convert them to full IEEE members.

#### **Discussion on 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Fabiola and her committee have begun initial planning for the AESS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: January 16, 2023.

Need leaders for each idea proposed:

- Book or Special Issue showcasing AESS past 50 years of history
- Special event at major AESS conferences
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gadgets
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary promotional video
- Create a dedicated AESS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo
- Offer exclusive partnership opportunities or selected sponsors for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- AESS Challenge
- AESS Picnic
- Wide World of AESS – to help chapters get a good idea of what other chapters are doing.

**MOTION:** Fabiola Colone moves to fund the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary AESS logo contest in the amount of \$3,000. Laila Moreira seconded. Motion passed.

**ACTION ITEM:** Judy Scharmann – Find out from IEEE if we can use a temporary logo in 2023.

#### **AESS 2022 Meeting Planning**

Officers' Strategic Planning Meeting – In Pisa, Italy in February 2022.

Spring Meeting – At the Radar Conference in March 2022.

Fall Meeting - TBD

### **Recognition of Outgoing Board Members**

Walt Downing recognized the outgoing Board members that are ending their term on December 31, 2021:

Michael Rice

Yonina Eldar

Marina Ruggieri

Roy Streit

Joe Fabrizio

Each said a few words and was recognized with a plaque of appreciation.

Fabiola Colone was recognized with the 2021 AESS Exceptional Service Award.

Peter Willett was recognized with the 2021 AESS Exceptional Service Award.

Walt Downing presented Mark Davis with his President's pin. Mark Davis presented Walt Downing with his Past President's pin. Mark presented Walt with the President's Gavel plaque and a gift. Many thanks to Walt for his service as President of AESS!

Walt Downing recognized Judy Scharmann for her 14 years of service to the AESS and congratulated her on her retirement. The AESS presented her with a gift of appreciation.

### **Old Business, New Business**

Peter Willett and Roy Streit led a discussion about Fellows.

Level of financial share of co-sponsored conferences. 10% has been a nominal threshold. AESS would like to require a minimum of 20%. So, from January 2024 on, it will be 20%. ICNS needs to go from 10% to 20%.

[ACTION ITEM: Judy Scharmann – Send Tamara Ahr a note to have Sabrina Greco invited to the November TAB meeting.](#)

### **Meeting Adjourned**

**MOTION: Mark Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Braasch 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm CDT.