

Minutes of ICAPS 2005 council meeting: 6/7/2005 and 6/8/2005

Present: Chien, Steel, Traverso, Knoblok, Smith, Koenig, Zilberstein, Myers, Biundo, Ghallab, Muscettola, Rajan, Rao Kambhampati (only 6/8/2005)

## Agenda

1. Financial status (ICAPS 05, incorporation)
2. Publication of award winning paper, agreement with Mike Hamilton
3. Summer school
4. ICAPS 06 (including insurance)
5. ICAPS 07 bid
6. Trends in submission
7. Council activities in general

### 1. Financial status

#### Status of corporation

Paolo Traverso reported that factoring in the expenses for the 2005 conference, there are expected to be about 100K left in reserve. There was some discussion on the council as to whether the council should spend some of the reserve monies. The majority opinion however was that we need a much of these reserve funds to ensure continuity of the conference series and to handle any unforeseen emergencies.

#### Incorporation

Craig Knoblock pointed out that ICAPS has been incorporated legally but incorporation should be filed with the IRS. The IRS should recognize incorporation in order to be able to insure ICAPS. Once incorporation is recognized, the surplus should be at least partially invested.

### 2. Publication of award winning papers

The council felt that the connection with publication of journals should be left to the conference chairs. Connection with AIJ is good. The arrangement should be done in advance.

Enrico was volunteered to write a set of guidelines to future chairs to remind them to create the connection with journal ahead of time.

There was some discussion regarding continuing with AAAI for proceedings publication. Sven pointed out that AAAI would like an agreement for 3 to 5 years. They would make available electronic versions of papers. It was decided that the council will look at AAAI's proposal and make a decision in this regard.

## Untitled

### 3. ICAPS summer school

Sam Steel pointed gave some specifics on the 2006 summer school. He said that the budget is being made such that the school registration fees will cover school budget. Craig pointed out that NSF is likely to be willing to support students going to the summer school from the US, and that there may be European organizations to support European students.

### 4. ICAPS 2006

#### Status of CP-AI-OR collocation

Steve Smith pointed out that although discussions are still afoot with CP-AI-OR collocation with ICAPS, at this point it seems likely that CP-AI-OR will be held in Cork, Ireland. Apparently this decision was made by CP-AI-OR based on the impression that there may not be enough rooms in Cumbria with KR and ICAPS being held there at the same time.

#### Insurance for ICAPS 2006

Craig Knoblock pointed out that insurance for 2005 can be extended to 2006 but not for insurance abroad. He suggested that the local arrangements people in UK might look at UK-based insurance for the conference. Cost of 2005 coverage is: \$1700 (policy) and \$150 (rider to list Hyatt as co-insurer).

### 5. ICAPS 2007 proposals

There were discussions as to whether votes by email should be accepted. The council decided that since those votes would have been cast before the council discussion, they should not be counted.

Malik Ghallab then summarized the two proposals-one to locate the conference in Freiburg and the other to locate it in Providence, RI. There were some budget related questions regarding the Freiburg proposal. There was also discussion as to the feasibility of some of the novel features proposed in the conferences (e.g. Commentaries in Providence proposal).

The council also discussed the acceptance rates. Goal of the proposals was to increase submissions while keeping acceptance ratio around 30-35%. The council felt that the program committees should be more actively engaged in encouraging a diverse set of submissions.

Some council members, including Susanne and Kanna, suggested that the 2007 organizers should be encouraged to continue the Knowledge Engineering competition that was started in 2005. There was also a suggestion for a workshop on validation of knowledge engineering methods.

After this discussion, a formal vote was taken. Malik Ghallab counted the votes and announced that:

THE DECISION FOR ICAPS 2007 IS PROVIDENCE, RI.

6. Trends of submission - statistics from ICAPS 05

Malik suggested that the council should capture statistics on ICAPS conferences and asked for a volunteer to collect statistics? Karen will do it for ICAPS 2005, Shlomo should do it for ICAPS 04 and Enrico for ICAPS 2003 and collect all statistics in a format. Data should be given to ICAPS 2007 and ICAPS 2006 conference chairs.

The council noted that the number of submissions went down a bit this year. The biggest reduction seemed to be in MDP and stochastic planning. Submissions on Scheduling went up. Mixed Initiative planning had only 2 papers. There were not many papers on applications.

The council then discussed ways of making the reviewing process more supportive to application oriented papers. The council then decided that it may be worth keeping the application papers in a separate track. Steve Smith said they will look into this for 2006.

7. Council activities

Malik suggested that the council should take more active role in publicizing and advocating ICAPS and automated planning. Several potential activities were discussed including (1) starting a new journal devoted to automated planning and scheduling. (2) making a web version of "Readings in Planning". Paolo Traverso and Steve Smith agreed to look into the feasibility of this. (3) Making a website with "success stories" of automated planning. There was a suggestion that this can start with the information used in ICAPS 2005 inaugural presentation. Amedeo agreed to look into this. (4) List of open challenges in automated planning. Nicola agreed to look into this.

The council also discussed ideas to further vitalize the conference. These included more awards recognizing excellence, and to consider the idea of "conditional accepts" for conference papers (a la ICML). Susanne, Kanna, Shlomo and Steve agreed to look into the issue of additional awards for excellence, including a dissertation prize, and a "test of time" paper award.

Next council considered mentoring activities for students doing PhD in planning and scheduling. The idea of developing a web site with links and listing of all these students was suggested. One council member said that ICAPS could also encourage "exchange visits" between groups for these students.

The council discussed summer school and decided that the model being used for 2006 needs to be looked at as the possible sustainable long term model. The council also agreed that an impact analysis of summer schools is needed.

8. Meeting Adjournment.

## Untitled

Malik announced that there will be a phone meeting of the council in the last week of November. The call for proposals for 2008 conference will have to issued by February 2006.

The council adjourned.