

2014 ICAPS Council Meeting Minutes

=====

Time: 11:45-6pm, June 21, 2014

Location: Gardner Room, Lobby Level, Sheraton Harbourside Hotel, Portsmouth, NH

<http://www.sheratonportsmouth.com/>

Attendees

Chris Beck, Daniel Borrajo, Ronen Brafman, Carmel Domshlak, Maria Fox, Malte Helmert, Joerg Hoffmann, Adele Howe, Minh Do (invited, item 4), Angelo Oddi (by skype), Wheeler Ruml (invited item 4 and end of item 3), Sylvie Thiebaut, Brian Williams, Blai Bonet. Shlomo Zilberstein (invited, item 4), Andrew Coles (invited, item 5), Daniele Magazzeni (invited, item 5).

12:15 Meeting begins

12:15 1. Formalities (Sylvie)

- Reviewed what had been done. Most todos had been done; a few tabled until later discussion. Unanimous approval of the minutes of the 2013 council meeting:

<http://www.icaps->

[conference.org/index.php/Main/ExecutiveCouncil?action=download&upname=ICAPS13Minutes13.pdf](http://www.icaps-conference.org/index.php/Main/ExecutiveCouncil?action=download&upname=ICAPS13Minutes13.pdf) (attached)

- Confirmation of new council members: Minh Do and Wheeler Ruml.

- Confirmation of new officers: Blai Bonet (secretary), Malte Helmert (conference liaison), Joerg Hoffmann (competition liaison), Brian Williams (president-elect)

12:20 2. Strategy

- Changing AI landscape (Chris)

- role of ICAPS as part of a new international AI organization: Chris summarized the events at a meeting involving many of the people who are key players in AAI, IJCAI, regional AI organizations and the conferences in the subareas. A committee was formed to construct a proposal for some form of merger. Key question is how does ICAPS want to be part of it? Issues: planning and scheduling has overlap with other fields (e.g., OR, robotics), organization may be larger than conferences. Possible actions: do nothing (wait for AAI/IJCAI/ECAI... decide what to do), encourage this larger organization to not have a pyramid subarea organization but have representation from affiliated organizations such as ICAPS (**Action Item**: Brian and Sylvie will talk to members of the committee at AAI), contact other conferences (e.g., AAMAS) to find out what they are thinking/doing (**Action item**: Ronen will talk to those from AAMAS, Chris will speak to CP and to the group of people in charge of putting forward a proposal for the new association (Manuela Veloso, Francesca Rossi, et al.)).
- ICAPS in the IJCAI-AAAI 6 month cycle. ICAPS-2015 paper submission is

between AAAI acceptance date and the IJCAI submission.

- Spam ICAPS conference. Discussed the implications and decided to tell the committee but otherwise ignore it.
- High acceptance rates for full papers: ICAPS 2014 has 46% acceptance on Full papers in the main track. The organizers state that the quality was very high. Suggestion to program chairs for 2015: recruit enough reviewers to ensure that qualified people are reviewing the papers.
- ICAPS impact factor. Hard to tell what is happening with this because very different ways of calculating impact.

- Outreach to synergistic communities such as robotics, verification, optimisation (Brian). Other communities do not perceive P&S as relevant to their needs.

Applications: verification, energy planning, underwater vehicles, etc.

- Some ideas: broaden our notion of planning to embrace its view in other communities, fund members of ICAPS community to give tutorials at other conferences (**Action item:** Blai and Carmel will consider mechanisms for how to sponsor tutorials and workshops at other conferences), invite papers from other conferences/workshops to give presentations at ICAPS, create special tracks for bridging between other areas, sponsor a challenge problem that relates P&S to other areas/applications, invite the best workshop papers to appear in the main conference somehow, create a mentoring program to assist researchers from outside the ICAPS community to prepare papers for the conference, create some progression between workshop papers and conference papers. **Action item:** Ronen and Carmel will take these ideas to the ICAPS 2015 organizers for consideration. Brian and Maria will propose a framework supporting the progression of appropriate areas from the workshop stage to the special track stage to the main track stage.

- PhD students and job market (Carmel) (see accompanying document) Suggested actions: look for connections to non-AI organizations (**Action item:** Chris will look further into the INFORMS AI society), sponsoring connections between ICAPS and non-CS AI, give students in Doctoral Consortium tips on how to sell themselves, consider giving students broader training (e.g., in continuous optimization).

3:00 3. Operations

- ICAPS 2013 report and survey results (Angelo) (survey results attached). Comments on survey: 42% said they were somewhat satisfied by the scientific value; is this of concern? In suggestions for improvement: videos should be more timely, inexperienced reviewers were mentioned. Budget figures from 2013 were presented; total shows a surplus of \$3861.
- Journal track (Sylvie) Maria stated that she thinks the limited amount of time should be allocated to workshop papers instead of journal papers. Sylvie summarized the original justification, which was to broaden participation from other fields by encouraging papers from journals not normally read by ICAPS

participants, giving the journal authors an opportunity to introduce their research and to initiate a discussion. **Action item:** Wheeler and Joerg will discuss survey questions about the journal track.

- Treasurer report (Daniel) (report attached). Summary: very healthy balance in account.
- Proceedings (Sylvie). Ronen and Sylvie investigated alternatives to AAAI for proceedings: EasyChair and AIAccess. Neither appears to be viable alternatives at this time. AAAI is working on solving some of the issues, e.g., the shipping rates and website difficulties. We will remain with AAAI for now.
- Website, competition, and video-conferencing archives (Sylvie, Joerg). 2010 website is currently off-line; it requires a software update. Competition website needs to be coordinated with Sven who is hosting the main site at USC. Benchmarks should be made part of competition site. Video recordings need to be available. Gaby is managing the video at ICPAS 2014. Maria mentioned that Andrew Coles is very good at this. **Action item:** have people in charge of this to provide continuity; Minh will work on forming a team to coordinate recording and storage. Carmel offers to provide a mirror site.
- ICAPS on facebook and twitter (Wheeler) Gaby has set up a Google and Facebook account for ICAPS. **Action item:** Malte will create the accounts and pass on “keys” to next conference organizers. Carmel will think about ways to encourage social media in ICAPS 2014.

4:00 4. Review of ICAPS 2014 and 2015

- 4.1 ICAPS-14 report [program, participation, financials] (Wheeler) New items: telepresence robots, broad representation in poster session, decoupled D.C. and support, minimized costs by handling registration on their own. Registration is on track. Possible surplus that may allow extra money to students. Excellent sponsorship. Wheeler suggested getting feedback to following year’s organizers as soon as possible. Having student volunteers is a good idea; need to make sure the effort level is appropriate. Blai suggested looking into “guidebook” application for accessing information. **Action item:** Wheeler will document the ecommerce site and their experience in setting it up. **Action item:** Ronen and Carmel will investigate guidebook app.
- 4.2 ICAPS-15 preparations [logistics, budget, sponsorship] (Shlomo, Ronen) (budget attached) Moving away from SPC to “leading reviewer” for shepherding the discussion and writing the meta-review. Special tracks will not have separate program committees. Considerable discussion about pros/cons on these. 2015 program chairs will consider what to do. Exploring joint session with SOCS. Expenses for registration and accommodations may be high because Jerusalem is expensive.

4:55 5. ICAPS-16

- 5.1 Proposals pre-discussion (proposal attached) Generally the proposal looks good. Comments: short papers get very short presentation slot (~5 min).

Recommend adding Amanda Coles as program co-chair.

- 5.2 presentation, questions (Andrew) Monitor the innovations being considered in 2015, be aware of due dates for AAAI/IJCAI/AAMAS, be conscious of the acceptance rate and quality of papers.
- 5.3 Debate and vote. Council gave the organizers the go ahead and congratulated them on an excellent proposal.

5:35 - 6. Other business

- 6.1 Gender diversity. Discussed mechanisms for encouraging women in ICAPS.
- 6.2 Community meeting preparation
- 6.3 Thanking departing members.
- 6.4 2015 ICAPS council meeting

6:00 Meeting ends