

2020 ICAPS Council Summer Meeting

June 17, 2020, 14:05-16:15 UTC, Remotely via Zoom

Attendees:

Council Members:

Laura Barbulescu, J. Benton, Minh Do, Jeremy Frank, Patrik Haslum, Malte Helmert, Daniele Magazzeni, Eva Onaindia, Gabriele Röger, Wheeler Ruml, Scott Sanner, Matthijs Spaan

Non-Council Attendees:

Susanne Biundo, Robert Goldman, Hankz Zhuo for item 3

Sheila McIlraith, Christian Muise, Jonathan Schaeffer, Nathan Sturtevant for item 4

New members:

Erez Karpas, Shirin Sohrabi

Item 1: Welcome new council members

Welcome Shirin and Erez to the council!

Reminder that nominations/volunteering for offices is open.

Item 2: Approval minutes from 2019

There are some action items in the minutes that are still open. The minutes were approved without amendments.

Item 3: ICAPS 2021 update

Minh for the ICAPS 2021 team:

- (some parts of) the conference might need to be online depending on the development of the Covid situation. The presentation is of plans for a physical conference in Guangzhou.
- the website is online
- tentative conference days: June 7-12
- no journal track planned
- possible excursion to AI lab in Shenzhen during pre-conference days
- co-location with SoCS 2021 (back-to-back or with joint sessions)
- possibly joint activities with local research societies
- two options for conference support companies
- budget overview; sponsorship from usual sources may be harder to get, but Hankz is confident Chinese companies will provide sufficient sponsorship.
- seeking feedback regarding learning track chairs
- plans for soliciting competition challenges

Remarks/questions from the council:

What type of visa is required for participants/presenters?

Regarding the budget: recording costs need to be clarified; proceedings costs will be higher; conference awards are missing; Erez will share the ICAPS 2020 budget with the 2021 organizers for comparison.

What about conference insurance?

Minh & Hankz are keen to organise a "challenge problems" competition (with application problems provided by local companies). There seem to be some similarities between the proposed competition and previous ICAPS competitions. The organizers should work out a more specific proposal and discuss it with the competition liaison (Scott). Concern that they are taking on too many different roles, suggestion to have a separate team of organizers for the competition.

One question was when decisions regarding in-person/virtual/hybrid need to be made. The venue can be canceled without any fees up to three months before the conference. Since it is unclear how the situation evolves, the discussion was deferred to the fall meeting at ICAPS 2020.

Journal track needs to be discussed.

Item 4: ICAPS 2022 update

Sheila briefly presents the plans for 2022 in Banff. The team is (more or less) complete. They are observing how the Covid situation develops and how the intended conference center updates its cancellation policy. The team will present a more extensive proposal in October.

Council is very happy with the team.

Question: is there any alternative to Banff Center? If for some reason Banff Center doesn't work, it could be held in other cities in Canada (nearby, or even in Toronto).

Item 5: Directors' insurance

Jeremy presented D&O insurance options.

A directorate and officers insurance protects the assets of the officers when they are sued. In contrast, an employment liability insurance (EPLI) protects from law suits from employees.

EPLI is not relevant because ICAPS inc. does not have employees.

The council authorizes Jeremy to sign a contract along the lines of option 3 he presented (only directorate and officers insurance) according to his discretion.

Item 6: Any other business

Erez briefly summarizes the results of the survey by the 2020 organizers regarding a virtual ICAPS. In the long term, 85% of the participants prefer physical meetings (strongly or somewhat). There is not much support for a hybrid conference.

The ICAPS 2020 organizers will have a meeting on June 19 to decide to go virtual or to further postpone the decision.