**Report of MGA SAC F2F Meeting**

July 8-10, 2016

Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Report Provider:

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Summary:

The MGA SAC F2F meeting held in Chicago, Illinois, from July 8 – 10, 2016 addressed standing action items from the previous year and additional items for the current year. The meeting comprised of majority of the SAC committee and MGA’s Eduardo Palacio; as a special note, 9 out of the 10 RSRs were in attendance. For me, the meeting was extremely informative in terms of the IEEE structure, and the larger scope of things that IEEE has to offer.

Important topics discussed during the meeting were:

* Student Retention: Declining numbers and how to increase them (based on year-to-year student membership renewals)
* How to communicate with and Industry relations with student branches
* SBs: Branding; Rebate system; Inactive/ Zero Member Student Branches; Awards

Action Items and Notes that affect or are related to Region 1:

* *Regarding SB Awards and Region-wide activities*
  + Region 1 has been strongly encouraged to increase the number of awards submissions for the coming year; RSAC and RSR have been tasked with developing a strategy
  + Region 1 has been encouraged to increase the number of region-wide activities or to increase the visibility of such activities – RSRs from Regions 3, 8, 10 (all of whom presented during the meeting) noted more than 3 region-wide events with a multiple announcement mediums
* *SAC to propose MGA that the Section Chair Approval (in addition to the Regional Director and RSAC approval) shall be required to form a SB*
  + This action is intended to increase the interaction between sections and SBs in order to increase the activity of student branches. As such, a SSR (Section Student Representative) and/or SSAC (Section Student Activities Chair) will be mandatory.
* *SAC to propose MGA that the section rebate per student/grad student member goes to the section responsible for the SB to which the Student/grad student belongs*
  + As it currently stands, the rebate for student membership and SBs is based on the home address of the student. This will affect the rebate a section earns in the future because the rebate will now be affiliated with the students’ home universities.
* *Regarding Inactive/Zero Member Student Branches*
  + Actionable item to be ratified by the MGA Board – RSAC and RSR have been tasked with determining the inactive and zero member SBs within the region; any action (inaction, probation, or dissolution) is at the discretion of the region
* *Regarding RSR Succession Plan: 2017 RSR ThinkTank*
  + A pilot RSR program where all RSRs meet one full day in advance and a few hours after the official meeting to discuss regional activities, meeting minutes and future plans for their respective regions to discuss and collaborate on student activities around the world. A well-informed and active RSR shall help increase student activity throughout the region – an increased budget may need to be allocated for the RSR’s travel expenses for this event.
  + Further, the lack of suitable candidates increases the difficulty of appointing a qualified RSR – such a candidate must have a sufficient background in the goings-on of IEEE SBs. Typically, the RSR is appointed based on a recommendation made by the RSAC – the RSAC is appointed or reappointed by the Region Director or the incoming Director respectively. While students with a strong interest can be found on boards/committees of student conference, S-PACs or from regional SB training, finding potential candidates and ensuring that they have sufficient IEEE SB training before they graduate and leave the region (more often than not) is a challenge.