

Meeting minutes NJCoast Excom January 13, 2021

Before the meeting proper, Anthony Manfredi, a Corporate Mentor (retired from CECOM, now a business consultant) at Monmouth University introduced himself to those who were there. Mr. Manfredi mentors students in how to combine engineering and business, and is interested in restarting the Student Section at Monmouth. Within the Computer Science department, both a BS in Software Engineering and a BS in Computer Science are available, certified by ABET.

Attendees: Irfan Lateef, Chair of the Section; Filomena Citarella, Treasurer of the Section; John Deltuvia, Secretary of the Section; Anjali Agrawal, Chair ED15/MTT17/PHO36; Prasad Atluri, Chair COM19; Anthony Manfredi, Section Member, representing Monmouth University; TK Srinivas, Chair, IM09/C16; Ralph Wyndrum, Vice Chair, LM; Frank Feather, Chair, PE31; Kit August, Chair, SIGHT.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:10 PM by Irfan. He welcomed the volunteer team into 2021 and was hopeful that the vaccination rollout would allow face-to-face meetings before the end of the year.

Irfan announced, in lieu of Frank Laslo who did not attend but who conducted the Section elections for the 2021-2022 period, that most officers' posts were filled. An extensive search was done for a new Chair, but that search was unsuccessful. Irfan is continuing in office as the temporary chair of the Section until a suitable candidate is found. Irfan also announced that John Deltuvia is the new Section Secretary for the two-year period. Filomena Citarella is continuing in the post of Section Treasurer. Irfan then yielded the floor to the Secretary to conduct the agenda.

John stated that, as he was not at the previous meeting, and as the previous Secretary had not provided the minutes for that meeting, that there are no minutes to be approved. Irfan stated that he would reach out to hopefully secure that documentation. John also stated that WebEx records the meeting so that he can complete the minutes after the meeting, and does not have to take notes during the meeting.

Irfan then suggested that we take chapter reports, which started with Frank Feather. Frank remarked that there is a problem with the IEEE website, and that that may have deterred others from attendance. Irfan stated that it took him five minutes to get into the IEEE website. Kit stated that IEEE headquarters had discontinued 24/7 web support.

Irfan invited Kit to give her report. She said that SIGHT has many plans for the year. The IEEE has extended the deadline for her humanitarian technologies project from March 14 to June 14, and at that point, due to pandemic difficulties, the IEEE will call what is completed to that point "phase 1". At that point, she can apply for more funding, and has received a positive response to the overall project. One piece of this project is for people who are in violation of the ADA to have a mediation with the USDOJ. The technology was designed to be able to demonstrate to the violators what it's like to be hearing-impaired and have a face-to-face meeting; however, that's not happening due to lack of face-to-face meetings. SIGHT is now learning to code machine language for deep learning and artificial intelligence. A streaming program called "The Law and You" (which is also available via broadcast) will have a segment on this project in March.

Kit also announced a program to commemorate one of their early advocates for this project, a deaf county clerk from Rockland County, NY, who passed away suddenly early last year. A mock trial

competition is being designed in his memory. The students will come up with a poster in a campaign about using the captioning system designed by the project, especially to improve speech understanding particularly when limited by a mask. The pandemic particularly limits persons from accompanying deaf persons in need of medical care, so the captioning program would be a big aid to deaf people. More information is on the specialized SIGHT website.

SIGHT has also been using drop-in meetings, but has been hampered by the problems with the IEEE site. They are also collectively working on a milestone with Agu, and a milestone which they are working on with the HQ of a telecommunications company based in Colorado for Alice Longley's EM propagation model. They are fortunate to have material available from a renowned women's technology historian, Jill Tietjen, who is making her material available to Kit to aid in promoting milestones. Kit will put together a report for Irfan because Josephine Russo needs the report submitted from the Section Chair.

Irfan thanked Kit for her report and invited Anjali to report next.

Anjali reported that she is arranging for an MTT distinguished lecturer, John Martin, to give a talk on measurement equipment and 5G technology, both for applied and research perspectives. She is also arranging for a talk from an associate professor at MIT on base matter interactions that are at (garbled due to unmuted sneeze) frequency. This professor is also an MTT distinguished lecturer. She is also trying to find more talks but is short of officers and volunteers at this time.

Irfan thanked Anjali for her report and remarked that Region has informed him that all Sections are having the same volunteer problems due to the pandemic. He feels that in-person lectures and meetings, once the pandemic crisis is over, will increase motivation, but is not certain.

Ralph commented that 5G is beginning to be installed in NJ, but that signal propagation is actually less strong than earlier wireless, and may require home repeaters. The Borough of Fair Haven is having one installed on a cell tower, and the installers told him that it is very difficult to make it operate properly. Irfan and Anjali thanked Ralph for the information and Anjali hoped that the technology, once it is no longer new, will work better. Irfan then asked Prasad for his report.

Prasad reported that last year they had two DL lectures, one on security and the other on 5G, and three other talks. He also reported that they had joint talks with COM chapters in Buffalo and Chicago, which is a good dynamic for talks under pandemic conditions. His plan is to continue this cooperative talk structure until the pandemic wanes and in-person lectures can be held again.

Irfan then asked Frank Feather to report.

Frank said that employment duties combined with lack of contacts for pandemic-style talks caused a dearth of lectures in his chapter last year. Kit suggested that Frank contact her to schedule talks, as Kit has several PE contacts.

Ralph had to leave at this point and it was commented that one good thing about the ban on large in-person meetings is that it enables us to have Ralph's participation in the meetings.

Irfan then invited Filomena to talk. Filomena reported that she did not know she would have to talk, but reminded people that chapter treasurers need to get their financials ready. She will try to get IEEE HQ to simplify the reporting process. She also reminded chapter chairs to ensure all talks were reported.

Irfan then invited TK to report. TK first thanked people who responded to an email he sent out, then reported that IM09/C16 had five talks in 2020. In his opinion, all were well attended and received, even the financial advice talk that he arranged. He is currently arranging talks for 2021, possibly one in the area of healthcare and information, and another on security and services in the Internet of Things. These will hopefully be in February or March, and he has a few leads for other talks. TK hopes to have 5-6 talks this year. John commented that Frank Feather might contact TK about joint sponsorship of talks, so that Frank doesn't have to worry about setting the software and lecturers up for talks.

Irfan mentioned that several ideas have come from Region 1, and John said he would research as to whether subaccounts can be set up on the WebEx so that host keys would not be necessary. Kit reported that there is a disconnect between vTools and WebEx so that she was having several problems with talks. John responded that general attendees only need the link, and Frank Feather commented that on the day Kit had particular problems with it, the IEEE site was down (which prevented attendees from accessing the link.) Frank further stated that there was no excuse for the IEEE to have a website down for most of a day. Kit again mentioned the lack of support 24/7 by IEEE.

John stated that a guest and member (Anthony Manfredi) was present from Monmouth University and that he would like to know how to restart the Student Section. Anthony said that he manages the business school, but also represents the engineering department at Monmouth. He stated that he has a five-member team that is interested, but that he's new to this. He asked for assistance in restarting the Student Section. Irfan asked for assistance from TK, but TK stated that the first thing that was needed was for Monmouth University to recruit students, and until then, the Section cannot do anything. Kit commented that our records indicate a couple of students at Monmouth right now, and suggested that the Section co-sponsor a site meeting.

Irfan stated that he would take this offline with Frank Laszlo, himself, and TK to work through it. TK said that Kit's suggestion was very good as he had set up a meeting at Monmouth before. Once meetings are held, it can be bootstrapped. Kit stated that we could then rely on the students, who have ideas of their own and are much smarter and more clever about figuring out this stuff than we could plan for them. Irfan said that the key issue a couple of years ago was that the Student Section had to be declared defunct as it had no members. Irfan will look into it along with John after Irfan talks to Region 1 to see what needs to be done.

Kit also reported some problems with vTools automatically deleting her from the Student Section even though she was the Section liaison.

TK suggested an invitation to a meeting for the Dean of Engineering. Kit also mentioned that SIGHT is teaching people how to be inventors, especially in March as it's Women's History month, and that getting students involved in SIGHT's projects would help relaunch the Student Section. She also suggested that Anthony send his email address to her and that she would put him on her SIGHT email list so he would be kept informed of events that Monmouth students might be interested in.

John asked Kit to clarify whether or not she is taking point on this, and Kit responded that she can't do everything, but is offering help. She feels that this sort of thing is the role of PACE.

John then raised the agenda item of the problem with the Education Chapter being under numbers and that if it were to go defunct, WIE could not get funding from it. Another problem is that none of its

suggested officers are members of the Education Society and thus cannot be officers of the Chapter. Irfan commented that he had reached out to Joanne but she did not respond. Kit stated that she thought Margaret Lyons was in the chapter, but John responded that Margaret is not in the Chapter. John stated that he had proposed that Irfan – and that it would need to be run up to Region – create a Jt. Chapter out of Education, SSIT (Society for the Social Implications of Technology) and Professional Communications, and since Margaret is a member of Professional Communications, she would be eligible for Treasurer of that joint chapter. Kit stated she could not take on a role as officer in it as she is already doing a lot of IEEE work, including standards. Kit asked about the societies John mentioned.

John said that Education has a funding source because it is a chapter. SSIT is not a chapter but has more Society members in NJ Coast than either Education or Professional Communications, so SSIT is a potential source of officers for a possible joint chapter. Filomena had a housekeeping issue in that a new financial account was being proposed, but John stated that his idea was to move the Education chapter account over to the new Jt. Chapter. Filomena stated that the original intention was to have WIE and Education as a Jt. Chapter, but Kit pointed out that WIE cannot be part of a Jt. Chapter as it is an affinity group. Technical societies have money, affinity groups do not.

Irfan proposed completely doing away with the Education chapter, but Kit pointed out that when a Student Chapter exists at a college or university, the professors usually join the IEEE and the Education Chapter. Filomena asked Anthony if any of the professors would be interested and Anthony said he would check. Kit pointed out the advantages to professors such as publication in IEEE journals.

Kit pointed out that the money we're not spending on pizza helps with getting things together, and Irfan asked that Anthony tell us at the next meeting if Professors are interested and we can review this in a couple of months. Kit also suggested a joint meeting between SIGHT and interested people from Monmouth.

Irfan thanked the group for the discussion and stated that the next meeting would be Wednesday in the 2nd week of February at 6 PM, that is, February 9th, at 6 PM. He asked if there would be a reminder email, and John said, yes, reminder emails are set up in vTools, but people have to register to be sent the reminder email. Irfan thanked the attendees for coming to the meeting.