

Meeting minutes NJCoast ExCom November 11, 2021

Attendees: John Deltuvia, Secretary of the Section; Prasad Atluri, Chair, COM19; TK Srinivas, Chair, IM09/C16; Manu Malek, Chair, LM Affinity Group; Frank Laslo, Treasurer, LM Affinity Group; Anthony Manfredi.

Before the meeting proper, John and Frank discussed how the Officer Reporting Tool blocks members from being in one officer role for too long, and that Irfan and Filomena still have another year to go in their terms. There was also some discussion about more knowledge being needed about how to post on IEEE TV.

Due to the Chair and Treasurer being unable to attend, John started the meeting at 6:03 PM. There being only four members present, the quorum count of eight was not reached. He stated he had sent around the meeting minutes from October. Due to the lack of members, John proposed that the approval of those minutes be postponed until January, and there were no objections.

John stated that he only had one chapter report by email, and that was ComSoc. He read that report, appended to these minutes. TK reported that there was nothing to report other than talks had been completed for IM09/C16. Manu reported that the life members tried to set up a meeting two months ago, face to face, but that's when the variant hit so it had to be cancelled.

John then turned to the confusion about Section officer term length, and mentioned that Frank was there to confirm that Irfan and Filomena are good to the end of 2022. Frank said that that was correct.

John then turned to the poll on the end-of-year gathering. There was an overwhelming majority to take up Princeton/Central Jersey's offer to go with them to the Rutgers Inn in New Brunswick on Dec. 15 at 6:00 PM. John was hoping that Irfan would explain more at this meeting, but since he didn't make it, John explained that Irfan had made the executive decision as Chair of Section that our Section will join with the Princeton/Central Jersey Section's gathering. His reasoning was, since they have everything set up, why go looking for a venue at this point? Fran O'Connell of PCJS said they were only expecting 40 people from their section as a maximum, so there was plenty of room for us. Money was likely to be normal or less. There is no quorum to decide, which means that it goes to the Section officers, Irfan decides the details, and has me send a notice, at which time people will get a notice.

Prasad raised a question about how much it would cost the Section, but John pointed out that the Section hasn't spent any money on pizza for two years, so that money has built up. In addition, Princeton already has the venue, so we're splitting costs on an established venue anyway. Princeton is already taking the risk more than us, since it's in their area this year instead of at the Colts Neck Inn in our area. John said that if the Covid numbers go up by the 15th and it's cancelled, that he assumes that Fran, as a former PJCS Chair, has been savvy enough to put a clause in the contract to put us at none to minimal financial risk should that occur.

John declared that we'd managed to go through the agenda in 15 minutes, and this is why he keeps telling Bala that John would make a lousy Chair. He opened the floor for questions.

Frank Laslo wanted to know if there was anything about the treasury reports, and thought there was an email with some dates. John said that if there was an email, they forgot him, and he's the IM09/C16 treasurer. He said that if there was one, he may have missed it, and if Frank saw one, to please forward

a copy. John also said that he had talked to Filomena and that she had been trained on the new system and that reporting had to be done by the end of 2021 instead of the middle of January 2022. Frank said he was having problems getting into the new NextGen system.

Frank mentioned that the October minutes mentioned something about the local operating procedures. John said that Bala kept referring (as Director-Elect of Region 1) to “your local procedures”, and that John had tried to explain to Bala that we don’t have them. Frank proposed starting up that project and John agreed that he likes local operating procedures because that way we know what we’re doing. John mentioned that some of the chairs have been saying that we haven’t been getting people to the Section meetings because they’re online, but that he saw several in-person meetings where there was no quorum either. John feels that it needs to be laid out that the Executive Committee meetings are business meetings, not a social club; the socializing is in the chapters. He explained that he brought the number of meetings to a vote in 2021 and it was voted down, but he thinks that since everyone has their own treasurer, we really need only two Section meetings per year.

TK opined that we need to bring in new volunteers, and that there needs to be a vision of where things are going and how to motivate people. He said that that is mainly the responsibility of the Section leadership. He said that a notice has to be sent out, and John said a notice was sent three weeks before the meeting. TK replied that there needs to be a vibrance in the Section meetings and there used to be more of a life to them. He said that the chapter level groups had some talks, but nothing was done in Section other than to report to and from Region. He said that was his point.

John replied that that was his point too – that the actual work gets done at the Chapter level. TK replied that he sees the Section as more than that, that the Section Chair needs to guide the Chapters in a coherent way according to a vision. John pointed out that the Section Chair would like to step down; that the Section Treasurer is overwhelmed; the Section Secretary does not want to be Chair, and we don’t have a Section Vice Chair. So, unless someone knows someone who wants to be Chair and do the vision thing, there is a serious problem here. TK agreed there is a problem; that he doesn’t know of anyone who wants to run the Section that way; and that he doesn’t want to do it again.

John said that one problem is that most of the people at the meeting have already been Section Chair at one point or another. The problem as he sees it is that the Section needs to connect better with Monmouth University, because that is a potential source of new volunteers.

TK said that had been tried, but that the people from Monmouth University tend to move to other geographic areas after graduation, so that is not a potential solution. There needs to be a sense of continuity, and that might work better.

Prasad opined that he did not believe we could get much participation from Monmouth, but TK said that a student chapter was possible.

TK opined that, while the work of current volunteers is done by the chapters, the Section Chair needs to coordinate with industry in order to recruit new members.

John pointed out that there is another university in our area that has a computer science department, Georgian Court University in Lakewood. He suggested that might be a place for outreach as well, for both computer and WIE, because it’s primarily oriented to women students.

Manu said that what TK said makes a lot of sense and need to be done to breathe some new air into the Section, but that it requires a Section Chair who is energetic and willing to spend the time and energy.

TK suggested that Prasad take up the Chair, but Prasad responded that TK's vision was too ambitious of a vision for him to take up.

TK said that there are two important areas in the Section. He said that one area is Section Secretary and that John is doing an outstanding job. Another area is Treasurer, and again, Filomena is doing an outstanding job. Prasad again reiterated that even with that support, he is not interested in the Section Chair position. Prasad suggested contacting (shaker?) John asked for clarification on the name, and TK pointed out that this person does not attend meetings, indicating that this person does not have the energy for the role. John again asked for clarification, and Prasad said it's Jacob who is in his chapter (note: OU Analytics does not show anyone in ComSoc in our Section named Jacob.) John suggested that if Jacob has some energy, that Prasad get him to attend a meeting.

Prasad said that based on the energy level, we need to target people in their forties or fifties for Section Chair. He also thanked Frank for his chapter work.

Manu feels that to be vibrant physical contact is required.

Prasad also noted the disappearance of BTL and Ft. Monmouth as factors, and John agreed with him. John also said that from what he sees, the Section never realized that it would have to cut back with the loss of those two major employers in our area. He feels that we're planning for much bigger things than we can do anymore, and that's why we need to cut back on the energy spent on section, when everyone can do everything in the chapters.

TK said that it doesn't work that way, that Section needs to give direction. John asked why that is – TK knows what to do, he's a past Section Chair. TK also feels that we don't need to cut back because he feels that there is new industry sufficient to replace BTL and Ft. Monmouth.

John said that we need a new Industry Relations Coordinator, and that Irfan was that before he became chair, and that position has not been filled.

TK suggested Raghu for some sort of position. John pointed out that Raghu only attended one meeting this year, and had registered for this meeting, and is not in attendance. John tried to reach out to Raghu but there was no response, whereas John called TK, and he showed right up. TK and John agreed that Raghu is very good at recruitment. TK was asked if he would contact Raghu, but TK said he was just making a suggestion.

John then called for a non-binding resolution from this meeting that Irfan talk to Raghu about how to find a new Chair for when Irfan steps down, and how to reinvigorate the suggestion. The resolution passed without objection.

TK had to leave the meeting, and Manu suggested that Anthony give his opinions. Anthony stated that he was a former employee at Ft. Monmouth, and agreed that the loss of Ft. Monmouth made a whole new scenario. He said that he stopped at Monmouth University, and that Dr. Daniella Rosca is still the adviser to the standalone Student Chapter, but that there are a lot of new students that are now key players. He's talked to deans in the business school as well because business is related to engineering. However, due to Covid, it's still pretty sparse in the hallways there. John mentioned how the Section

used to fund the Student Chapter, and Anthony said a lot of student organization funding has been cut at the University. John thanked Anthony for his report.

John closed the meeting at 6:43 PM.

APPENDIX

COMSOC report

1.Co-sponsored a VDL talk along with other ComSoc chapters arranged by New York section ComSoc chapter on the topic of “Connecting Space Assets to the Internet:Challenges and Solutions” by Prof. Mohammed Atiquzzaman from University of Oklahoma on October 29, 2021. It is a very interesting presentation on a project sponsored by NASA and DARPA for using satellites for IP communication.

2.Co-sponsoring a technical talk arranged by New York section ComSoc chapter on the topic of “Algorithm and Hardware Co-Design for Energy-Efficient Deep Learning” by Prof. Yuan Bo from Rutgers University on November 30, 2021.

S. R. K. Prasad Atluri