

Supplementary Report from R10-RSR

Highlights of some of the important issues raised in the October SAC Meeting in San Diego of particular relevance to R10

1. Membership

- R10 was recognised as region with strongest growth in student membership, but also the worst retention statistics of student members.
- Point raised by Laura Durrett (Manager, Student Services) that perhaps there is connection between poor retention and frequent complaints received by R10-RSR of members in India not receiving Spectrum Magazine on time or sometimes not receiving at all – that perhaps the retention issue is also a service issue. May be students did not renew because they did not see membership benefits and services received as worth the membership fee paid.

2. Potentials Magazine

- Currently standard issue magazine for all student members in R1-7, with cost of publication (US\$5) included in a membership due higher than that for R8-10.
- RAB proposed to introduce Potentials to R8-10 and standardise membership dues – SAC considered adverse effects of effectively “raising” membership dues in countries with low income and rejected the proposal.
- SAC also rejected proposal for moving to an online-only version of the magazine to replace hard copy, considering not all countries’ universities provide free internet access and the proposal may bring adverse effects of shifting costs to burden students.
- SAC did however accept the need to increase awareness of Potentials Magazine in R8-10 to facilitate gradual global phase-in in the future if suitable proposal arises. R10-RSR was invited to join the Potentials committee to add some international perspective and has gladly accepted the invitation. Hopefully we can see more R10 student activities/articles featured in the future.

3. REP List

- Reference list of IEEE Recognised Education Programs.
- R8-10 identified as having poor compliance.
- Consequence of this poor compliance: student members graduate but because their course is not on the REP list, they can only join as associate members rather than full members. They may decide it’s not worth joining and we have a worsened retention problem.
- Why do we have this problem: difficult to obtain list of courses that pass standard of accreditation over different education systems in so many countries.
- SAC proposed plan of attack:
 - 1) require new SB’s to fill in relevant forms of program assessment upon branch formation.
 - 2) close the gap in existing list (existing but not accredited SB’s) – approval to upgrade associate members to members status at section/regional level.