

Meeting of the Administrative Committee of the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Council

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As the primary representative of the AESS to the ITSC, I attended the meeting of the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Council Executive Committee on Sunday 15 February, in Savannah, Georgia. This ExCom meeting was held at the Westin Savannah Harbor Hotel in collaboration with meetings of the IEEE Technical Activities Board. Paul Kostek was also scheduled to attend this meeting but was not able to due to last minute schedule conflicts.

Approximately a dozen persons attended the ExCom meeting, which was chaired by the ITSC President, Dr. Charles Herget. Dr. Herget's most significant announcement was that the TAB had responded positively to the Council's request for a progression to Society status within the IEEE. A formal TAB vote will take place at its June 2004 meeting. A committee on bylaws and transition plan was formed, and a number of ITSC persons volunteered to participate on this committee.

There followed some discussion regarding the lengthy process of reviewing technical papers for the Transactions on ITS. Complains are being received from authors on very protracted review times. There are currently 24 associate editors and 78 papers in review. 39papers required a quick review, but at least one paper had been in the review process for four years! A get-well plan was proposed involving removing non-responsive Associate Editors and requiring adherence to review schedules.

The report on conference status was not presented, due to Paul Kostek's absence, but there were reports on finances and technical activities. Upcoming ITSC conferences are scheduled for Washington, DC and Parma, Italy (2004), Vienna (2005), Toronto (2006), Seattle (2007), and either Japan or San Diego (2008).

The Publication report listed goals that included establishing and maintaining a base of associate editors, striving to minimize time-to-print, seeking more papers from industry and developing a marketing plan for the Transactions.

The financial report contained no particularly unusual information. Council expenses are on track; conference and transaction income are difficult to estimate; and penalties are being charged for conferences not being closed out in a timely fashion. The critical budget issues include conference information, subscription information, and costs associated with Xplore and Council administrative charges.