

**Midwest Symposium on Circuits and Systems Steering Committee
Minutes of meeting held in Cancun, Mexico, Monday, August 3, 2009**

Steering Committee members present (15):

Majid Ahmadi, Jose Delgado-Frias, Shervin Erfani, Igor Filanovsky, Randy Geiger, Takao Hinamoto, Mohammed Ismail, Kenneth Jenkins, Wasfy Mikhael, Hector Perez-Meana, Nader Rafla, Gabriel Rincon-Mora, Edgar Sanchez-Sinencio, Michael Soderstrand, Baris Taskin

Guests Present (5):

Mario Edgardo Magana, Saeid Nooshabadi, Ruben Alejos Palomares, Jose Luis Vazquez-Gonzalez, Chimyoun Wang for M. Omair Ahmad,

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Prof. Hector Perez-Meana, chair of MWSCAS 2009. Prof. Perez-Meana welcomed everyone to Cancun and then asked Prof. Wasfy Mikhael, Chair of the MWSCAS Steering Committee, to conduct the meeting.

Approval of minutes from 2008 meeting

As the first order of business, Prof Mikhael passed out copies of the minutes from the 2008 MWSCAS Steering Committee Meeting submitted by Prof. Carla Purdy. The minutes of the 2008 meeting in Knoxville, TN, were approved unanimously.

Old business:

- 1. Finance Committee Report:** Prof. W. Kenneth Jenkins presented the report on behalf of Finance Chair Prof. Greg Wierzba.
 - a.** Prof. Jenkins reported that Prof. Wierzba would like to retire from his position on the MWSCAS Steering Committee and also to retire from the position of Finance Chair. His teaching schedule is such that he is no longer able to attend meetings in the summer. The committee noted his long and valuable service to MWSCAS and regretfully accepted his resignation.
 - b.** Prof. Jenkins reported that the funds of the MWSCAS are currently held in an account at Michigan State University. There is no interest earned, but a \$5 per month maintenance fee is assessed by the university. Holding the funds at a university has a distinct advantage compared to having an account at a bank. An account at a bank would require significant paperwork, filing of income tax returns, and various other filings. Prof. Jenkins suggested that we continue to maintain the MWSCAS account with a university and suggested that we move the funds to Penn State University. Prof. Jenkins volunteered to be the new Finance Chair and to be one of two people who would sign on the MWSCAS account at Penn State University.
 - c. MOTION (PASSED Unanimously):** Michael Soderstrand moved and Wasfy Michael seconded that the MWSCAS account be moved from Michigan State University to Penn State University and that Ken Jenkins be the new MWSCAS Finance Chair with power to sign on the account and that a person at Penn State University would be found by Prof. Jenkins as the second signer on the account

provided Penn State University is willing to waive the customary 15% overhead fee on such accounts.

2. **Report on MWSCAS 2008:** Prof. Don Bouldin submitted the report for MWSCAS 2008 and it is posted on the MWSCAS web page (<http://www.mwscas.org>). All are encouraged to go to the web page to review the full report.
3. **Report on MWSCAS 2009:** Prof. Hector Perez-Meana, General Chair, along with technical program chair Prof. Ruben Alejos Palomares and student paper contest chair Prof. Mario Edgardo Magana presented the report for the MWSCAS 2009.
 - a. A total of 417 papers were submitted to the conference, 321 were accepted (initial acceptance rate: 77%) and 290 total papers were published in the symposium proceedings (acceptance rate: 70%). Total registration as of Monday afternoon was 220 registrants including full and student registrations.
 - b. Based upon the current accounting, the conference finance appear to be in good shape and after returning the \$5 per registrant to the MWSCAS fund the conference will at least break even and should see a small profit.
 - c. Prof. Wasfy Mikhael pointed out that the \$5 per registrant returned to the MWSCAS steering committee was to be done only if the conference broke even or made a profit after the sending of the \$5 assessment.
 - d. Prof. Mario Edgardo Magana presented a report on the student paper contest. Six judges were involved in the judging of the contest and a meticulous process was used to select the 12 papers that competed in the contest from the many submitted papers. Of the 12 papers selected for presentation in the contest, all but one were presented. One of the 11 presented papers, however, was disqualified because the presentation was not made by the student author. That left 10 papers selected for the presentation. The judges were able to select clear winners and will award first, second and third place awards at the conference banquet. In addition to cash awards in the form of travelers checks, the winners will also receive a certificate and their names will be posted on the MWSCAS web site.
 - e. Prof. Michael Soderstrand asked about the winner of the Myril B. Reed Best Paper award from the 2008 conference that should be presented at the conference banquet at this 2009 conference. The committee noted that they had not received any communication from previous chair Don Bouldin regarding the winner from 2008. Prof. Said Nooshabadi noted that he had emailed chair Don Bouldin after the steering committee meeting last year requesting that Prof. Bouldin forward the name of the winner to the 2009 chair, but it appears this was not done. Prof. Michael Soderstrand agreed to call Prof. Bouldin and see if a winner had been selected. If the winner is present at the conference, we would give the award at the banquet. Prof. Randy Geiger stressed that the winner should not be announced if he or she is not present at the conference. We should then wait until next year to present the award.
4. **Report on MWSCAS 2010:** Prof. Jose Delgado-Frias presented the report for the 53rd IEEE International Midwest Symposium on Circuits and Systems to be held in Seattle, Washington, August 1-4, 2010. Prof. Delgado-Frias passed out a copy of the Call for Papers and directed everyone to the web site (<http://mwscas.eecs.wsu.edu>).

- 5. Future Symposia Report:** Future Symposia Chair Prof. Hoda S. Abdel-Aty-Zohdy was not present to make her presentation.
- a. Prof. Randy Geiger noted that he had talked extensively with her a couple of weeks ago about MWSCAS and that she reported that there were currently no viable proposals for any future symposia.
 - b. Prof. Said Nooshabadi reminded the steering committee that he had suggested Korea for 2011 at the previous steering committee meeting and that he had followed up on that and submitted a proposal to Prof. Abdel-Aty-Zohdy through email, but had not received a response.
 - c. Prof. Nader Rafla requested permission to present a proposal for MWSCAS 2011 or 2012 to be held at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. Prof. Geiger expressed some concern that we were not following proper procedure by making such a proposal to the steering committee before it had been properly screened by the Future Symposia Chair Prof. Abdel-Aty-Zohdy. Prof. Wasfy Mikhael expressed the urgency of selecting a location for 2011 as the arrangements would need to be made almost immediately for the hotel and other long-term commitments.
 - d. Prof. Rafla made a brief presentation which included playing a dvd on the attributes of Boise Idaho which was played in the background as the discussion continued.
 - e. **MOTION (Passed 12 for, 1 against, 3 abstentions):** Prof. Wasfy Mikhael moved and Prof. Kenneth Jenkins seconded that the 2011 MWSCAS be awarded to Boise Idaho with Prof. Nader Rafla as the General Chair under the condition that Prof. Rafla would send a formal proposal to Prof. Abdel-Aty-Zohdy for review. Further, if Prof. Abdel-Aty-Zohdy did not have any recommendations or objections by September 3, 2009, that the awarding of the conference to Boise Idaho would be complete. However, if Prof. Abdel-Aty-Zohdy had concerns that would require a vote of the steering committee, such vote would be done by email and completed by September 3, 2009 so that there would be ample time to prepare for the 2011 conference.
 - f. Prof. Mohammad Ismail proposed Ohio State University for the 2012 or 2013 conference.
 - g. Prof. Kenneth Jenkins suggested that we obtain proposals for the 2012 conference at Ohio State and the 2013 conference in Korea. He noted that ISCAS will be in Korea in 2012 and that it would not be good for both ISCAS and MWSCAS to be in Korea the same year.
 - h. No formal action was taken, but the steering committee requested that Prof. Ismail send an official proposal to Prof. Abdel-Aty-Zohdy to host the 2012 conference and that Prof. Said Nooshabadi send an official proposal to Prof. Abdel-Aty-Zohdy to host the 2013 conference. Next year each should have a General Chair selected and have the recommendation of Prof. Abdel-Aty-Zohdy so that the proposed General Chairs can make a formal request to the steering committee to host the conference and the steering committee would then be able to take action on awarding the conferences to Ohio State University and Korea respectively.

New business:

6. Prof. Wasfy Mikhael received a number of suggestions by email that might help improve future MWSCAS symposia:
 - a. Randy Geiger pointed out that MWSCAS has traditionally been a conference that catered to graduate students making their first presentations. He urged future symposium chairs to look for more ways to get graduate students involved in the conferences.
 - b. The chairs of MWSCAS 2010 in Seattle and MWSCAS 2011 tentatively in Boise were strongly urged to make use of the experiences of previous chairs and committees and to take advantage of help available from IEEE. Also, those making proposals for conferences at Ohio State (2012) and Korea (2013) should ask previous chairs for copies of their proposals so they can address all the issues that are important for proposal evaluation.
 - c. Future symposium chairs are also urged to develop a clear policy on how many papers may be presented per registrant. While there is no official policy and this has always been left to the conference chairs, tradition has limited authors to four or fewer papers per registered author. Also, chairs are urged to consider measures to assure better attendance at conferences. Now that we publish papers before the conference, we have seen a slip in attendance from the days when the proceedings were published after the conference and contained only those papers presented by one of the authors at the conference. Chairs of future conferences are urged to consider these problems and look for innovative but reasonable solutions such as having the CD-ROM available with papers at the conference, but only passing along the ones presented to IEEE for publication.
 - d. Chairs are also urged to look at opportunities to have selections of papers from MWSCAS published in journals. This has been done successfully in the past by Peter Aronhime (2002), Carla Purdy (2005) and Mohamad Sawan (2007). Chairs of future conferences are urged to contact any of these people to discuss how this was accomplished and how it might be done for your conference.
7. **Retiring Members:** The following people have requested that they no longer serve on the MWSCAS steering committee. The remaining steering committee members want to thank each and every one of them for their years of service to MWSCAS and express how sorry we are to lose them and wish them well in their future endeavors. We hope that they will continue to be active in the conference even though they are no longer members of the steering committee.
 - a. **Peter Aronhime**, chaired the 1985 conference in Louisville, KY. Peter has been very active ever since. He arranged for papers to be published from the 2002 conference and also has helped extensively in developing the history of the conference that appears on the MWSCAS web page (<http://www.mwscas.org>).
 - b. **Don Bouldin**, chaired the 2008 conference in Knoxville, TN. Don has been an active participant in MWSCAS for years and ran an excellent conference last year.
 - c. **Gregory Wierzba** is one of the longest continuous members of the MWSCAS steering committee. For years he has served as Finance Chair and has been

outstanding in his management of the MWSCAS account and his support for the conference.

- 8. New Members:** The following new members were elected to the steering committee unanimously:
- a. Prof. Saeid Nooshabadi**, Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST), Oryong-dong, Buk-gu, Gwangju 500-712, Republic of Korea, 82-62-970-3147, FAX 82-62-970-2204, saeid@gist.ac.kr, <http://infcom.gist.ac.kr/people/faculty.php?key=saeid>.
 - b. Prof. Ruben Alejaos Palomeres**, Department of Computing, Electronics and Mechatronics, University of the Americas, Puebla (UDLA), Sta. Catarina Martir, Cholula, 72820 Puebla, Mexico, Building IA Office 250 G, 52-222-229-2680, FAX 52-222-229-2138, ruben.alejos@udlap.mx, <http://hosting.udap.mx/profesores/ruben.alejos>.
 - c.** Steering committee members are encouraged to nominate new members to the committee. To do so, please contact Prof. Wasfy Mikhael several weeks before the next steering committee meeting in Seattle in 2010 with the nomination and resume for the proposed member. Then ask the member to come to the steering committee meeting as a guest. At the end of the meeting, the proposed members will be asked to make a brief statement and then will leave the room for discussion and voting. Criteria for membership is listed on the MWSCAS web page, but basically requires a demonstrated commitment to participation in MWSCAS on a regular basis.
- 9. Adjournment:** At 7:20pm Prof. Perez-Meana moved for adjournment which was seconded by Prof. Soderstrand. Hearing no objections, Prof. Mikhael adjourned the meeting and all went by bus to Senor Frog's Restaurant for a wonderful dinner and entertainment.

Respectfully submitted
Michael A. Soderstrand