General Assembly Meeting in The Hague, The Netherland

August 31, 2016, 18:00-20:00

Minutes of the EurAI 2016 General Assembly Meeting

1. **Welcome and Opening**

   Attending Board Members: Michael Wooldridge (Chair), Gerhard Lakemeyer, Jérôme Lang, Ann Nowé, Barry O'Sullivan

   Number of Member Societies represented at the GA: 13

   Minutes: Gerhard Lakemeyer

2. **IEEE Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in the Design of Autonomous Systems**

   Before commencing with the agenda of the General Assembly, Raja Chatila, France, gave an overview of the aims and scope of the IEEE Global Initiative for Ethical Considerations in the design of autonomous systems.

3. **Minutes of the Previous GA Meeting**

   Approved.

4. **Chairman's Report**

   Michael Wooldridge reported that the transition from ECCAI to EurAI was now complete, including a new logo and website. He thanked Ann Nowé for handling the legal process.

5. **EurAI Fellows**

   Gerhard Lakemeyer, Chair of the 2016 Fellows Selection Committee, reported on the selection of new Fellows. There were a total of eleven nominations, out of which five were selected as Fellows:

   Carsten Lutz, Germany
   Nuria Oliver, Spain
   Riccardo Rosati, Italy
   Jeffrey Rosenschein, Israel
   Thomas Schiex, France

6.   ACAI 2017

There were two expressions of interest from Benelux (reinforcement learning) and Italy (learning), respectively. The deadline for bids is October 1, 2016. The final decision was delegated to the EurAI Board.

7.   Treasurer's Report

Ann Nowé presented the final 2015 budget and the 2016 budget with expenditures up to August. Expenditures were largely in line with expectations. In 2016, there was an additional expense of EUR 1966 due to the re-design of the EurAI website and logo. The 2016 fee collection from member societies was almost complete. Finally, the 2017 budget proposal was presented.

The GA approved the 2017 budget proposal unanimously.

8.   Dissertation Award

Barry O'Sullivan, Chair of the 2015 Dissertation Award Selection Committee, reported on the selection process and the awards. There were 19 submissions. The dissertation award was given to Andrea Micheli, Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Italy, for his thesis "Planning and Scheduling in Temporally Uncertain Domains." In addition, honourable mentions were awarded to Matteo Pirotta, Politecnico di Milano, Italy, for his thesis "Reinforcement Learning: From Theory to Algorithms," and to Mohamed Siala, University College Cork, Ireland, for his thesis "Search, propagation, and learning in sequencing and scheduling problems."

9.   EurAI Conference Sponsoring

There are two open calls per year for conference sponsering. 11 conferences were sponsored in 2016. The deadline for the next call will be in November 2016.

10.   ECAI 2020 Site Selection

Alberto Bugarín, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, presented the bid for ECAI 2020, to be held in Santiago de Compostela August 24-28, 2020. Fees were estimated as: EUR 425 (early registration, EurAI member) and EUR 125 (student), with a break even of 309 attendees. The presentation was followed by a brief discussion. Some flexibility was advised regarding the final fee structure.

The GA accepted the bid unanimously.

11.   IJCAI/ECAI 2018

Jeffrey Rosenschein, General Chair of IJCAI/ECAI 2018, reported on the status of the conference organization. The Program Chair is Jérôme Lang, France, and the Local Chair is Fredrik Heintz, Sweden. The conference will take place in Stockholm,

Sweden, July 13-19, 2018. The conference will be co-located with ICML (July 10-15) and AAMAS (July 11-15). There will be joint workshops and social events August 13-15. Fees are yet to be determined. A site visit is planned in September 2016.

12. ECAI 2016

Maria Fox, PC co-Chair, gave a report on ECAI 2016. Out of 633 submissions 177 were accepted as full papers and 123 as short papers. (Only 108 short papers were presented at the conference.) Authors of papers which were rejected at IJCAI had the opportunity to submit revised versions of their papers together with the IJCAI reviews and a rebuttal letter. Compared to previous years, the length of full papers was extended to 8+1 pages.

PAIS and STAIRS ran in parallel to the main conference. ECAI was co-located with "Collective Intelligence X." There were 15 workshops (out of 24 submissions). The conference had 646 registered participants, including 219 students, representing 48 countries.

12. Election of the EurAI Board 2016-2018

Michael Wooldridge, Jérôme Lang, and Ann Nowé finished their final term as board members. There were three nominations as new board members: Hector Geffner (Spain), Catholijn Jonker (The Netherlands), and Steven Schockaert (UK). The following candidates stood for (re-)election:

Gerhard Lakemeyer (President)

Barry O'Sullivan (Vice President)

Steven Schockaert (Treasurer)

Hector Geffner

Catholijn Jonker

Michela Milano

The GA elected all six candidates unanimously.

13. The next GA Meeting

The next EurAI General Assembly will be held at IJCAI-17 in Melbourne, Australia.