

General Assembly Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina

July 28, 2015, 16:00-18:00

Minutes of the ECCAI 2015 General Assembly Meeting

1. Welcome and Opening

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

Minutes: Gerhard Lakemeyer

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous GA Meeting

Approved.

3. ECCAI Fellows 2015

The Fellows Committee, chaired by G. Lakemeyer, elected seven new Fellows:

Salem Benferhat, France

Hendrik Blockeel, Belgium

Diego Calvanese, Italy

Catholijn Jonker, Netherlands

Manolis Koubarakis, Greece

Antal van den Bosch, Netherlands

Leon van der Torre, Luxemburg

4. ACAI 2015

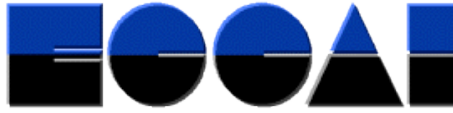
ACAI 2015 will take place in Lille, France, October 26-30. The theme of the summer school is "Constraints Solving Techniques in AI." The organizers request the following change in funding by ECCAI: instead of the previously agreed EUR 12500 for student travel, the organizers would like to use EUR 4000 for invited speakers and EUR 8500 for student travel, combined with a lower registration fee of EUR 125.

The GA approves the requested change unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report

Michael Wooldridge, filling in for Ann Nowe, gave a summary of the Financial Report. Overall, ECCAI is in good financial health with expenditures in 2014 as planned. The income in 2014 was less than planned, as the ECAI 2014 surplus was EUR 14K against EUR 30K budgeted. Fee collection from member societies was as expected except for Latvia and Ukraine, which are inactive.

The GA approves the 2014 budget unanimously.



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6. Dissertation Award

The 2014 ECCAI Dissertation Award was given to Benjamin Kaufmann, University of Potsdam, Germany, for his thesis entitled "High Performance Answer Set Programming." The selection committee was chaired by Toby Walsh.

7. ECCAI Conference Sponsoring

There was an open call for bids to sponsor invited speakers. Six out of a total of nine bids received funding.

8. Future ECAI Conferences

ECAI 2016 Status Report:

Virginia Dignum gave a report on the status of ECAI 2016, to be held in The Hague, Netherlands.

Some Highlights:

Important dates have been fixed. The conference will be held August 29 to September 2, 2016. The paper deadline will be April 15, after the IJCAI notification. ECAI will be co-located with the "Collective Intentionality Conference." The conference fee will include lunches and public transportation.

ECAI 2018:

A joint IJCAI/ECAI 2018 conference will be held in Stockholm, Sweden. The Conference Chair will be Jeffrey S. Rosenschein, the Program Chair will be Jerome Lang, and the Local Chair will be Fredrik Heintz.

ECAI 2020:

A call for bids to host ECAI 2020 will appear soon.

9. AI-Communications (IOS Press)

Nothing to report.

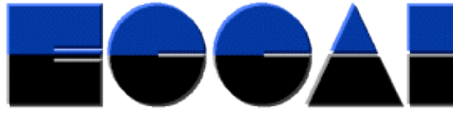
10. Plans for the Future of ECCAI

Michael Wooldridge proposes to change the name of ECCAI to "European Association for Artificial Intelligence" (Acronym: EurAI). He furthermore proposes to revise the ECCAI web-site and logo accordingly.

The GA approves these changes unanimously.

Michael stresses that the nature of the society as an umbrella organization for the European member AI societies will stay the same, but that EurAI should take a more leading role in shaping the future of AI in Europe and beyond. This would include coordinating more closely with other international AI societies and taking a more active role in Brussels.

Other ideas for possible future changes include: introduce a "senior member" category (similar to AAAI) as well as an industry membership programme; have a



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presence in social media; have more contact and involvement with leaders of member societies; have more awards.

11. Next ECCAI GA

The next General Assembly will take place at ECAI 2016 in The Hague.

12. Other Business

In a letter to ECCAI, Ulrich Furbach proposes a closer cooperation between ECCAI and the IFIP Technical Committee 12 (AI). Before taking a decision on this matter, it is decided to ask for more information regarding the possible nature of such a cooperation.