Minutes ICSE Steering Committee meeting

December 8, 2022

Chair: Laurie Williams
Minutes: Will Tracz
Participant count: 21 (at start)

- 9:03: Welcome new members:
  - 2026 General Chairs: Rafael Prikladnicki and Marcos Kalinowski

- 9:05: Approving May minutes - Moved to approve by Mathew Dwyer

- 9:10: ICSE 2024 (Rui and Ana and Peggy)
  - Lisbon, Portugal – April 12-21 2024
  - Website on https –
  - Slack account set
  - Organizing Committees and Chairs
  - CFP by end of Month
    -
    - 9:20: Expanding the PC for ICSE Research track and other PC concerns
      - Handling reviewer load and impact of each reviewer; if there is lack of availability of some reviewers during discussion despite reminders;
      - time dependencies across rounds [Peggy and Abhik]
        - Multiple deadlines and registration deadline WRT digital library entry
        - Some complications with workshop deadlines

- 9:50: ICSE 2026 (Rafael and Marcos)
  Program chairs Spreadsheet shows Demographics – ICSE involvement breakout
  - [Most of the discussion cannot be shared due to confidentiality for the individuals being considered]
  - **Question** – do we want PC chairs from the same country as the General Chairs?
  - **Observation** – this is good data to determine threshold on involvement with ICSE community but more important is experience in organizational roles in large conferences.

- 10:20: ICSE 2027 proposals
    - withheld due to confidentiality of proposals
    - Steering committee vote to be held online
- 10:30: Break (21 participants)

- 10:40: Have a single submission style for papers,
    - avoiding to flip between ACM and IEEE.
    - Very often authors get confused and also the paper size is different. (Ladan and Tom)
    - Question – what is the extra page issue (11 pages IEEE and 10 ACM have same content)?
    - Issue: is initial submission format an issue if final publication is required
    - Different format is used for digital library metadata.
    - Recommendation: say 10 pages (or differentiate submission format vs publication format)?

- 10:55: Signed reviews (Laurie)
    - Double-anonymous reviewing: Should reviewers names be known?
    - Signing ensures not cutting corners / accountability
    - Current guidelines forbid signing reviews and consensus was to keep it that way
    - Does signing a review (or creating a side channel) disclose other reviewers?
    - Ask reviewees for feedback on the reviews.

- 11:10: Releasing PC data, elected SC members, publishing votes, and other feedback
    - Data can be misinterpreted – doing research on unreliable data is – (low empirical standards)
    - **Comment:** Still it is important to be transparent – provided there is a registered report
    - **Note**: There is inconsistency between ICSE conference data collected by year: format, analysis and other data
    - Data should be anonymized – which is hard. Have to protect PC members
    - **Question**: Do we need to have consent of PC members share data?
    - **Question**: Could we have an elected SC chair or member? (but we sort of have elections for members from IEEE and ACM) … separate meeting on the topic to be held in January

    - **Question**: Do we need to increase diversity? Do we need to focus on the process?
    - **Question**: Should ICSE use Open Review?
    - Is it possible to have an open election for SC chair from SC members- or Member at large – or observers / ombudsmen sworn to secrecy.
    - ICSE Town Hall has less discussion time than FSE.

- 11:25: ICSE 2022 (Matt)
    - Closed: surplus $104K
    - Total attendance 2025
    - Part of surplus goes to future conferences.

- 11:30 ICSE 2025 (Tim and Lionel)
    - Will report back on next meeting (May) due to Pandemic reasons.
    - **Note**: need SEIP chair – one from industry as a minimum

- 12:00: New Operating Rules and Guidelines (Laurie)
    - Voted on two SEIP chairs on SC;
    - Voted on carbon neutral/sustainability;
    - Publication issues: number of volumes (General Chair issues)
    - **Problem**: getting DOIs available sooner – e.g, latency from getting information from IEEE to ACM DL (Structural inefficacy due to flip flop)
    - **Solution**: Could always have a subset of services allocated to IEEE and ACM)
    - **Question**: If you don't present a paper in ICSE – it doesn't go into the DL? (once it goes into a DL it is hard to go out)
    - **Observation**: It's complicated – can present virtually if legitimate reason not to attend.
    - PC Chairs and General Chair can't submit to any event,

- 12:30: What will be the steady state for annual deadlines for SIGSOFT/TCSE conferences?
    - ICSE – FSE – ASE
    - Will be posted for everyone

- 12:45: Monthly meeting (and time-of-day)
    - Need to set up agenda and attendees
    - Need to set up time of day

- 12:50: Peer review process (any changes to that)

    - Must have consistency between tracks

- 1:05: Organization of the conference into tracks etc.

- 1:30: Journal first - overall and consideration of expansion? [Laurie]
    - No action to be taken WRT Journal First (e.g., IEEE SW wants to be part of ICSE)
    - General model is working – Stage time is limited
    - **Observation**: If make ICSE a journal only place then could eliminate review process
    - This year about 500 presentations – need a large venue.
    - Could limit general presentation and poster for others but still have a paper in the conference
    - Do IEEE SW papers belong in the SEIP track?
-
- 2:00 ICSE 2023 (John, Max) which includes a discussion on hybrid conferences
    - Melbourne May 16-20
    - 23 Workshops – 10 Co-located Events. showcase “Future of SE”
    - 794 submissions, 22 desk rejects, 46 withdrawn after rebuttals
    - Dominance of AI-related papers
    - **In-person vs Virtual vs Hybrid**
        - The venue has capability
        - All events will be between 9-5 Australian Eastern Time
        - All sessions will be recorded
        - Propose no remote attend
    - **Suggestions**:
        - Posters at end of session with shorter talks
        - Careful to ask for exceptions for remote presentations.
        - **Note**: Some countries state if possible to present remotely – then can’t attend.
        - **IEEE Trend**: 75% 80% in person – people reserve hotel rooms early but register to the conference late and do show up. 40% attend conference sign up in the last month of t

- 2:30 ICSE SC Task force on dearth of papers on early phases (via Jo Atlee)
    - Need to set up a committee
    - Observation: some CS departments don’t consider SW Engineering not respected
    - What is our objective? – SE ranking only 6th of 8 areas – and PL is most important area in CS depts.

        - See: https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2022/12/266925-subfield-prestige-and-gender-inequality-among-us-computing-faculty/fulltext
        - People not submitting to ICSE if there are specialized conferences
    - New topics have emerged in Software Engineering and some topics not submitted to ICSE
        - Large bulk were MSR
        - E.g., Requirements Engineering, SW Processes, SW Architecture, SW Management, Systems of Systems, modeling, Quantum Computing, Cyber Physical Systems.
        - **Problem**: Papers get accepted are very narrow with un-assailable evaluation
        - **Problem**: Reviewers have expectations on incremental works – so harder from new papers to get through.
        - **Problem**: Thesis supervisors are telling students "This is the way to get into ICSE" – e.g., have to do with AI, download 1000 files from GitHub.
        - Few submissions – and most rejected.
        - **Question**: How do we get them back?
        - The community is doing "Lamppost" research – but real issues are still out there in the dark
        - **Observation**: Pressure to publish yearly – easier to go incremental
        - **Observation**: Industry papers are less likely to be accepted
        - **Proposal**: Get more industry papers and have awards.

- **Side Discussion:** How go get more industry involved (Hausi, Darko)
    - Have workshops during conference
    - Have tutorials during conference
    - Don't make SEIP a separate track but make ICSE embrace Industry
    - Invite other conference PC Chairs to summarize their industry contributions
    - **Note**: Hausi has some experience to share.