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
  o withheld due to confidentiality of proposals
  o Steering committee vote to be held online
• 10:30: Break (21 participants)

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

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

• 11:10: Releasing PC data, elected SC members, publishing votes, and other feedback
  o Data can be misinterpreted – doing research on unreliable data is – (low empirical standards)
  o Comment: Still it is important to be transparent – provided there is a registered report
  o Note: There is inconsistency between ICSE conference data collected by year: format, analysis and other data
  o Data should be anonymized – which is hard. Have to protect PC members
  o Question: Do we need to have consent of PC members share data?
  o 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.

- 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

- **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.

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- **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.