

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Held at ECAI-2004, UPV, Valencia, Spain
on
Wednesday, 25 August 2004, 19:30-22:00

1. Opening and Welcome

Rob Milne opens the meeting and welcomes the participants.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Last General Assembly

The minutes of the last GA, held in Bremen, are approved.

3. Chairman's Annual Report

Rob Milne presents the chairman's Annual Report. It is available at http://www.eccai.org/admin/chairreport_2004.pdf.

4. Treasurer's Annual Report

Rob Milne presents on behalf of Kris Van Marke the financial balance sheet for 2003 (available at http://www.eccai.org/admin/ga_budget_2004.pdf). He further reports about the positive status of membership fees.

5. Budget for 2004 and 2005

Rob Milne presents on behalf of Kris Van Marke the budgets for 2004 and 2005 (available at http://www.eccai.org/admin/ga_budget_2004.pdf)

6. Report on ECAI-04

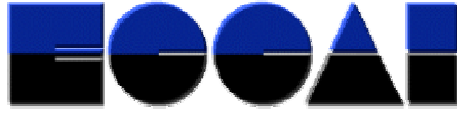
Ramon Lopez de Mantaras presents the ECAI-04 status. ECAI-04 has been very successful in terms of organisation and participation. The attendance has been as follow: 653 paid participants and 72 invited / local organizers. There were 84 fake registrations, but the organisers were aware of the problem and this did not constitute a problem for the budget. A lot of participants were not members of one of the societies. Some of the non-members were from outside Europe, but there is surely a potential for the societies for getting more members. The tutorials had 65 participants and the workshops 468 participants. The STAIRS conference had 38 participants.

The countries with most participants were Spain, France, Italy, and UK. Interestingly Brazil had 9 participants and USA 23.

The participants of the assembly commented that probably the tutorials were too expensive, but unfortunately it is difficult to reduce the costs of tutorials.

7. ECCAI Fellow Program

Werner Horn presented the fellow program. He explained that the societies and old fellows could nominate new fellows. 12 new fellows were selected this year. In total there are now about 70 fellows.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

8. ECAI-2006 in Italy Progress Report

Anna Perini gave an update of the ECAI-2006 organization. A new conference location, Riva del Garda, was proposed. It has nice facilities and up to 18 rooms are available in parallel. The organisers presented the transportation access. In particular buses from Verona airport will be provided. The train stops at Rovereto and then it is possible to get local buses. There is the possibility of a change of dates from August to July. The organisers will check available dates with other conferences.

The hotels have similar price than Valencia. The budget is still considered valid even if the location is changed.

There was a suggestion of a session of survey papers. For instance it could consist of summaries of all a papers of an area, or survey of the different areas, or basic knowledge to understand the sessions.

9. The ECCAI Dissertation Award

Ulrich Furbach presented the dissertation award program. This year most of the theses were focused on agents. There were 7 submissions. The main problem of the program is in finding the reviewers.

10. The ECCAI Travel grant Programme

Ulises Cortés presented the travel grant program. There were 32 valid applications and 21 grants were awarded. The grants are distributed as evenly as possible among the societies.

11. AICom: Electronic Access Scheme

Rafaela Subaie presented herself as the new representative for IOS. The societies have been contacted to try to improve the access to AICom. AICom can promote events organized by the societies.

A new suggestion is to allow the members to go directly to AICom from the societies web pages.

A comment was made that the cover is not nice.

IOS will publish the proceedings for the next two ECAI conferences.

12. Status of ETAI: The Electronic Transactions on AI

Erik Sandewall presented ETAI. ETAI is an electronic journal with a free on line access. It has a new review system. For each article 3 months of questions and comments are allowed. Then reviewers will judge rapidly the papers. All kind of information relevant to research can also be included. ETAI has very good visibility in search engines.

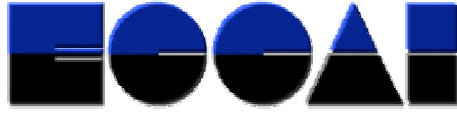
A new contract with IOS is negotiated. AICom and ETAI will both have free access from the same portal. IOS will publish the printed version of the ETAI journal. New areas for ETAI have been proposed and more can be proposed.

13. ECCAI Membership Fees for 2005

No change in the fees.

14. Membership Status of Societies

The Israelian society is now back. The Norway society is now dormant.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

15. Selection of PC Chair for ECAI-06

The 2 candidates for this position are Gerhard Brewka and Yves Demazeau. Yves Demazeau presents himself to the GA. Franz Baader presents the nomination of Gerd Brewka. The candidate selected by the assembly is Gerhard Brewka (votes: Brewka: 18, Demazeau: 10)

16. ECAI-08 Proposals

The Greece AI society (EETN) is proposing to host ECAI 08 in Greece. A candidate location is Patras. Ioannis Hatzilygeroudis presents the proposal of the University of Patras. The facilities are presented. The conference is proposed for the end of July. There is a small increase in registration fees. The transportation access, accommodation, restaurants availability are presented.

The assembly decides that the AI Greece society will be responsible for organizing ECAI, but the location and other aspects of the proposal will need to be discussed further between the ECCAI board and the Greek AI society.

17. ACAI-05 Summer School Proposals

Nada Lavrac presents the SLAIS summer school proposal for Ljubljana, Slovenia. The date is not yet decided. The proposal topic is Advanced Knowledge Technology: data mining and semantic web are the focus. Break even point for the summer school is around 90 participants.

The assembly accepts the proposal.

18. Election of ECCAI Board Members

Rob Milne, Marc Ayel and Kris Van Marcke are leaving the board. Rob Milne thanks Marc and Kris for their excellent work during the last years. Werner Horn thanks Rob for his excellent 6 years of work on the board and for his successful presidency from 2000 to 2004.

The current board members Werner Horn, Ulises Cortés, Ulrich Furbach and Silvia Coradeschi are reelected unanimously.

The new proposed members are Hendrik Blockeel, Eduardo Alonso and Marie-Odile Cordier. The assembly elects Hendrik Blockeel (25 votes) and Marie-Odile Cordier (20 votes). Eduardo Alonso (8 votes) is not elected.

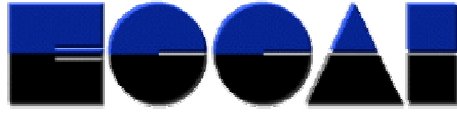
The new ECCAI board consists of Silvia Coradeschi, Ulrich Furbach, Werner Horn, Ulises Cortés, Hendrik Blockeel, and Marie-Odile Cordier.

19. Date for the Next General Assembly for 2005

The next general assembly will be held at IJCAI05.

20. Any Other Business

No items.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

21. Closing

Thanks to all participants from Rob Milne.

List of delegates present:

Rob Milne (Chair, ECCAI board, BCS-SGAI, 1 vote)
Silvia Coradeschi (ECCAI board, Minutes)
Uli Furbach (ECCAI board)
Ulises Cortes (ECCAI board)
Werner Horn (ECCAI board)
Marc Ayel (ECCAI board, AFIA, 2 votes)
Ramon Mantaras (ACAI, 1 vote)
Ana Garcia Serrano (AEPIA, 1 vote)
Derek Bridge (AIAI, 2 votes)
Paolo Traverso (AI*IA, 1 vote)
Oliviero Stock (AI*IA, 1 vote)
Ioannis Vlahavas (EETN, 1 vote)
Constantinos Spyropoulos (EETN, 1 vote)
Franz Baader (GI/KI, 2 votes)
Uri Schild (IAAI, 1 vote)
Jeff Rosenschein (IAAI, 1 vote)
Mare Koit (LANO, 2 votes)
Tibor Vamos (NJSZT, 2 votes)
Niek Bergboer (BNVKI, 2 votes)
Franz Wotawa (ÖGAI, 2 votes)
Erik Sandewall (SAIS, 2 votes)
Boi Faltings (SGAICO, 2 votes, proxy to Rob Milne)
Nada Lavrac (SLAIS, 1 vote)
Ivan Bratko (SLAIS, 1 vote)
Eduardo Alonso (SSAISB, 1 vote)

Guests:

Rafaela Subaie (IOS Press)
Anna Perini (ECAI-2006 OC)
Ioannis Hatzilygeroudis (ECAI-2008 proposal)