◈IEEE

IEEE Switzerland Chapter on Digital Communication Systems

Minutes of General Assembly

30 November 2021

Location:	ETH Zurich, Sternwartstrasse 7, 8092 Zürich, ETF D110
Date/Time:	30 November 2021, 17:00
Participants:	Thomas Mittelholzer (Chapter Chair)
	Stefan Moser (Secretary/Treasurer)
	Christoph Studer
	Thomas Hanselmann (IEEE Section)
	Amos Lapidoth
	Hans-Andrea Loeliger
Excused:	Rüdiger Urbanke (At Large)
Minutes:	Stefan Moser
Distribution list:	Thomas, Stefan, Rüdiger, Christoph

Agenda

1. Welcome

2. Approval of the agenda

3. Chapter activities 2020/2021

4. Planned chapter activities 2022

5. Financial report and budget

   - Year 2019
   - Year 2020
   - Budget 2021/2022
   - IZS 2020 (for information only)

6. Discharge of the ExCom

7. Amendments to by-laws

8. ExCom elections

9. Miscellaneous

1 Welcome

The chapter chair Thomas Mittelholzer welcomes the participants and gives a short overview of the current situation of our chapter. Our chapter is quite large as it combines four societies. Currently, we have 739 members.

He introduces today's important points to discuss and decide.

2 Approval of the Agenda

The agenda has been published on the chapter's webpage. The agenda is approved.

3 Chapter Activities 2020/2021

Thomas summarizes the activities of the chapter. The main activity is the biennial conference *International Zurich Seminar on Information and Communication*, last having taken place end of February 2020. Some key figures:

- 70+ registered attendees

- 3 keynote lectures, 41 papers, recent result poster session

- The financial responsibility lies with the *ZuSem Foundation*

It was the last in-person conference before the lock-down in March 2020. Further activities by the chapter:

- Sponsor of the 7th Swiss Conference on Data Science (SDS 2020):

  - 26 June 2020; online event with live-stream presentations
  - Technical support of TPC
  - Conference was organized in an academic and an industry track
  - SDS 2020 brought together researchers, developers, influencers, decision makers, and innovators with expertise in data science
  - 120+ attendees, 20+ accepted papers published in IEEExplore

- Sponsor of the 8th Swiss Conference on Data Science (SDS 2021):

  - 8–9 June 2021; KKL Lucerne & online streaming
  - Technical support of TPC
  - Conference was organized in an academic and an industry track
  - 350+ attendees, 34 presentations, 12 accepted papers published in IEEExplore
  - Archived slides and videos on https://sds2021.ch

- Invited Seminar Talk (jointly with ETH-Zurich)

  - 25 November 2021, ETH-Zurich (Zoom-Meeting)
  - Title: *Chord Signaling and Internship Opportunities at Kandou*
  - Prof. Amin Shokrollahi, Founder and CEO, Kandou, Lausanne

– 24 attendees

4 Planned Chapter Activities 2022

In the coming year the main activity is the upcoming *2022 International Zurich Seminar on Information and Communication*, that will take place 2–4 March 2022. The conference is again organized by the co-chairs Amos Lapidoth and Stefan Moser. Hans-Andrea Loeliger (ZuSem Foundation) takes financial responsibility.

Thomas also explains that the chapter has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) about the future organization of the IZS jointly with ZuSem and the Zurich Shannon Society (ZSS).

Moreover, the chapter will co-sponsor the *9th Swiss Conference on Data Science (SDS 2022)*, that will take place 22–23 June 2022, in KKL in Lucerne. A MoU about the technical co-sponsorship has been signed.

The goal of SDS2022 is to foster the exchange of novel ideas in digital health, robust and trustworthy machine learning, innovative products and big data.

5 Financial Report and Budget

Stefan Moser gives an overview of the financial status of the chapter. The development of the assets are as follows:

- Per end of 2018: 7985 CHF

- Per end of 2019: 7973 CHF

- Per end of 2020: 7961 CHF

- Per end of 2021 (budget): 7.95 kCHF

- Per end of 2022 (budget): 7.94 kCHF

Details:

		Expenses	Revenues
2019:	banking fees	12	
2020:	banking fees	12	
2021 (budget):	banking fees	12	
2022 (budget):	banking fees	12	

Stefan adds a few comments and explanations:

- The budgets for 2021 and 2022 only anticipate small banking fees.

- Since the financial responsibility of the IZS lies with the ZuSem Foundation, the chapter is not anymore involved in IZS on the financial side.

- Stefan also briefly shows the financial report of IZS 2020, for information only: the turnover was approximately 49 kCHF, resulting in a net loss of 5.5 kCHF.

6   Discharge of the ExCom

The financial report 2019, the financial report 2020, the financial budget for 2021/2022, and the discharge of the ExCom for the current period (Nov. 2019 – Nov. 2021) is unanimously approved.

7   Amendments to By-Laws

Thomas explains that the ExCom proposes a small change in the current by-laws in Article 14: Article 14(2) shall be deleted.

Article 14(2) of the by-laws describes the Zurich Seminar Committee as a standing committee of the chapter responsible for the organization of the International Zurich Seminar (IZS). This paragraph has become obsolete as no such committee has existed anymore for many years, but the conference has been organized by Amos Lapidoth and Stefan Moser from ETH, with the financial responsibility assumed by the ZuSem Foundation under Hans-Andrea Loeliger.

The chapter has signed a MoU with the Zurich Shannon Society (ZSS) and the ZuSem Foundation concerning the future organization of the IZS:

- Technical organization lies with ZSS (replacing the IZS-committee).

- The chapter remains an official patron of IZS.

- Full financial responsibility remains with ZuSem Foundation.

The chapter has grown quite broad and includes besides information theory and communication also signal processing and computer science. It is therefore questionable why the only conference mentioned in the by-laws is mainly communication-oriented.

The new proposed by-laws have been published on the chapter's website.

No discussion is requested. A ballot is held and results in 6 votes in favor of the new by-laws, and no votes against. Thus, the amendments are approved.

8   ExCom Elections

The chair Thomas Mittelholzer and the secretary and treasurer Stefan Moser are willing to serve another two years. Rüdiger Urbanke steps down as member at large. Thomas thanks Rüdiger for his crucial contributions to the chapter, in particular for his help when the Information Theory Society was included in our chapter. The assembly thanks him by applause.

As his replacement the ExCom proposes Christoph Studer, professor at D-ITET. Andi thanks Christoph for his willingness to contribute to our chapter and strongly recommends his election.

No other candidates are proposed.

It is unanimously decided to elect all three together. The election itself is unanimous and accompanied by applause.

9   Miscellaneous

Thomas explains that the chapter's website is hosted at ETH and can be directly accessed via

https://www.isiweb.ee.ethz.ch/ieee/

It can also be accessed within the IEEE Switzerland Section's website:

https://ieee.ch/chapters/digital-communication-systems-joint-society/
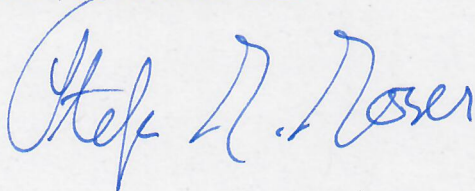
where it is embedded within the section's website.

Thomas Hanselmann explains that certain websites of some chapters do not work yet that well, especially on mobile phones. But they will further work on it.

Thomas Hanselmann also suggests to try to recruit more students. The student branch at ETH was recently re-activated. Further he proposes to more actively advertis IEEE, e.g., in lectures, and to try to have more connections to industry.
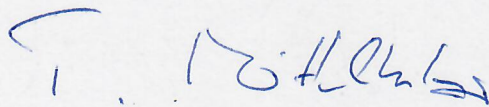
No further items are proposed to be discussed.

Thomas closes the meeting at 17:45.

Zurich, 30 November 2021

Stefan M. Moser
Secretary and Treasurer, IEEE Chapter on Digital Communication Systems

Thomas Mittelholzer
Chair, IEEE Chapter on Digital Communication Systems