

# Minutes of the 2017 SIRA Annual Conference

2017-12-04, Bern

Present: Martin Glinz (President) [MG], Oscar Nierstrasz (UniBE), Philippe Cudré-Mauroux (UniFR), Christine Legner (UniL), Giovanna Di Marzo Serugendo (UniGE), Abraham Bernstein (UZH), James Larus (EPFL)

## 1. Welcome and setup

The agenda is approved. Avi Bernstein volunteers to keep the minutes.

## 2. Report on activities, communications

- MG: reports on ParIDigi that relationship will continue
- MG will join the SI board
- Digital Switzerland → MG will contact the Managing Director of Digital Switzerland
- SI needs a new president: SIRA members who are interested or would like to recommend a candidate are kindly asked to report to MG
- Oscar Nierstrasz has set up a Google drive-based solution for membership management
- We need a new SIRA web-master and list moderator: volunteers please come forward

## 3. New SI-SIRA contract

MG has negotiated a new agreement about fees and finances with SI. The text of the agreement was distributed with the invitation. MG explains the key points:

- New fee structure
  - Fr. 64 for regular members (was Fr. 50)  
(Fr. 50 go to SI, Fr. 14 go into a joint R&E fund)
  - Fr. 40 for emeriti (was Fr. 0)
  - SIG fees according to actual membership (as before)
- SIRA assets belong to SIRA
- SIRA is exempt from SI “profit tax”
- Creation of a joint SI-SIRA fund for Research&Education
  - Fed with Fr. 14 per regular SIRA member (yields ~ Fr. 4000 / y)
  - Funding proposals to be approved by both SI and SIRA boards
  - As soon as the fund has actual assets, SIRA members will be informed that funding proposals can be submitted to this fund and a web page will be created.

The SIRA board recommends the conference to approve the agreement.

Decision: The agreement is unanimously approved

## 4. SIRA fees 2018

- Proposal by SIRA board: keep fees the same as before: Fr. 120.- per active member (including SIG fees), Fr. 0 for emeriti.
- This should just about work out.

Decision: The fee proposal is unanimously accepted

## 5. Change of Article 6.1 of the SIRA statutes

- Current wording of Article 6.1: *The SIRA Board consists of the president and 2 to 4 further SIRA members. Their term of office is two years. The president may be re-elected for at most one additional term.*
- Problem: At the 2016 SIRA conference, after electing MG as SIRA president, the all board members including the former president AB were re-elected to the board, leading to a board of five members. Nobody noticed that this violated the SIRA statutes.
- MG proposes to allow 2-5 board members instead of 2-4; otherwise one board member would have to step down.
- New wording of Article 6.1: *The SIRA Board consists of the president and 2 to 5 further SIRA members. Their term of office is two years. The president may be re-elected for at most one additional term.*

Decision: The proposed change of the SIRA statutes is approved with six yes and one abstention.

## 6. SI professional certification project

- SI and SwissICT are planning a professional certifications scheme for professionals in Informatics.
- SIRA may be asked to financially support the topic.

## 7. Approvals (financial report of 2016, discharge of the board, budget 2018)

On behalf of the SIRA treasurer, MG presents the final financial report for 2016, the forecast for 2017 (informative only), and the budget for 2018. See financial sheets in the appendix of the minutes)

Decisions:

- Financial report of 2016 is unanimously accepted
- SIRA board is discharged (3 in favor, 4 abstentions — the board members)
- The SIRA 2018 budget is unanimously accepted

## 8. Upcoming events

- SIRA Startup Event on May 14 or May 4, 2018 @ EPFL organized by Babak Falsafi & Abraham Bernstein. Tentative title: *Transition from Academe to Startups and back: practical experiences of academics in the startup scene*
- SIRA Funding Event on September 14, 2018 @ UniL, organized by Christine Legner and Giovanna Di Marzo Serugendo. Goal: provide an overview of funding opportunities

## 9. Statistics

- MG will make another attempt to find somebody who collects student statistics
  - MG asks the conference for permission to use up to Fr. 5'000 from the SIRA assets to pay somebody who actually does the job
- Decision: Permission granted unanimously

## 10. Date for 2018 conference

MG will doodle Fri Nov 16, 2018; Mon Nov 19, 2018; Fri Nov 23, 2018 12-14 or 14-16

## **11. AOB**

- Oscar Nierstrasz asks about experience with encouraging women to study informatics. Several comments and recommendations were made: girls camps/workshops (EPFL, ETHZ, UniGE); a study shows losing girls in 4th grade. Also co-ed is bad for STEM (Avi); better role models & more female professors in STEM; Alain Gut, president of group Bildung in ICT Switzerland could be contacted.
- Christine Legner: asks whether there is any material defining/explaining the required competencies in informatics beyond programming (for example, in data analysis)

## **Appendix**

- 2016 financial report
- 2017 financial forecast
- 2018 budget