SIRA 2016 Conference

2016-11-04 10:00-12:30, University of Bern

Minutes

Participants: Abraham Bernstein (UZH, SIRA President), Babak Falsafi (EPFL), Christine Legner (UNIL), Oscar Nierstrasz (UNIBE), Ulrich Reimer (FHO), Heiko Schuldt (UBAS), Andreas Sidler (HES-SO), Olaf Stern (ZHAW),   Ulrich Ultes-Nitsche (UFR), Manfred Vogel (FHNW)

Late arrival/early leave: Babak Falsafi arrives at 10:35. Andreas Sidler leaves at 11:30.

Guests: Martin Glinz (UZH), Jürg Gutknecht (SI President), Andreas Moser (SI Treasurer) both from 11:15.

Excused: Giovanna Di Marzo Serugendo (UNIGE), Hansjörg Diethelm, (HSLU), Eric Dubuis (BFH), Thomas Gross (ETHZ), Reinhard Jung (UniSG), Peter Kropf (UniNE), Sandro Pedrazzini (SUPSI), Mauro Pezzè (USI)

Minute keeper: Martin Glinz

Agenda

1.   Setup

Decision: The minutes of SIRA Conference 2015 are approved unanimously.

2.   Report on activities

Lobbying in CH:

- AB gives a status report on the ParlDigi Parliamentary Group. SIRA plans to be a sponsor of ParlDigi (see below). Focus on „Digitalisierung der Demokratie". CL: UNIL has a new professorship on this topic.
  Adjustment of 2016 Budget: SIRA shall donate CHF 6000 to ParlDigi per year. Invoice period is July to June; i.e. SIRA pays CHF 3000 in 2016 and CHF 3000 for sponsorship until 2017-06-30 and will pay CHF 6000 per year in the future.

Decision: unanimously approved

Action item: How can we terminate this sponsorship if it turns out to be ineffective?

3.   Approvals

Decision: SIRA 2015 financial report approved (unanimously with one abstention)

Decision: The SIRA Conference discharges of the past board (unanimously with 2 abstentions)

2017 Budget. AB explains the budget and the split of fees with SI. The current budget does not yet reflect the changes in the distribution of fees that SI is demanding from us. We may have to adjust the budget later. Probably, the actual surplus will be lower than the budgeted CHF 7'400.

Decision: The budget 2017 as presented by AB is approved (unanimously).

4. Elections

The current president (Abraham Bernstein) has reached his term limit and needs to step down, hence. So far, we only received one nomination for the new president (Martin Glinz, UZH).

No other candidates are nominated by the members of the SIRA Conference. The candidacy of Martin Glinz is discussed with him being present and also in his absence.

Decision: Martin Glinz is elected unanimously as new SIRA president for a term of two years.

The SIRA Board also needs to be elected. All present members run for re-election. ON offers to downgrade from board member to SNSF delegate, either right now or within the forthcoming two-year term. CL and BF will look for a potential new board member from Suisse Romande.

Martin Glinz takes over for the election procedure.

Decision: All current SIRA Board members are re-elected in corpore (unanimously with two abstentions).

5. Topical matters
- SIRA activities/Upcoming events
  - Startups. AB and BF would be willing to organize this event in 2017.
  - Writing successful grant proposals (involve ON for SNSF, Mathias Kaiserswerth for KTI and Hasler, maybe a person talking about writing EU proposals.
- Statistics

  We still do not have statistics. BFS numbers were not reliable, nobody wanted the money that the board was willing to spend for doing it; the departments did not deliver the required data. Manfred Vogel proposes to crawl the data from official sources. He will need a budget for this; will make a proposal to the board.
- SI-SIRA relationship. This topic includes three requests from the SI. Details are given in the appendix.
  - Participation in SI's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Initiative

    Decision: SIRA is principally in favor of supporting the CPD initiative. The funding request by SI (CHF 15'000) is deferred.

    Decision & Action item: The SIRA board sends e-mail to members to find volunteers. Need to be professors, but actual work may be delegated.
  - SIRA / SI growth promotion

    Simon Moser presents the plans of the SI Board about motivating more departments to join SIRA. AB clarifies that institutions are SIRA members. All Swiss universities, ETHZ, EPFL, and all universities of applied sciences are members. There is no point in SIRA membership marketing.

    Action item: SIRA conference members should promote SIRA within their institutions so that more individuals from those institutions join SIRA.
  - SIRA admin / fees reform

    The SI Board wants to change the current agreement with SIRA how membership fees are distributed (currently 50% for SI and 50% for SIRA). The SI-Board argues that this is not aligned with the articles about membership and fees in the SI bylaws. The SIRA board argues that this split is the result of an explicit agreement between SI and SIRA when SIRA was founded. The SI board would like to change this agreement as follows (pre-discussed with SIRA Board some 2-3 months ago):
    - CHF 100.00 basic fee for non-emeriti. Split: 50.00 for SI, 14.00 for a new SI/SIRA common projects fund, 36.00 for SIRA.

- CHF 64.00 basic fee for emeriti: 50.00 for SI, 14.00 for the new SI/SIRA common projects fund, zero for SIRA.
- CHF 0.00 fee only for "SI Ehrenmitglieder"
- SIG-fees: for all SIRA members who are also SIG-Members: CHF20.00 per SIG member (i.e., if a SIRA member is also member of two SIGs, SIRA would have to pay additional CHF 40 for that member to SI)

No consensus could be achieved so far; particularly the ownership of the SI/SIRA common projects needs to be clarified.

Decision: Martin Glinz and Simon Moser will discuss the details and come back with a joint proposal that can than be voted upon.

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Appendix

CPD Initiative

SI is pushing a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) initiative for IT professionals with a skills-level acquired by advanced education (cf. SIRA charter) = tertiary education. With a CBOK, the Core Body of Knowledge, we are defining the common basic competencies, skills and vocabulary, required for ALL specializations in ICT academic educations. The CBOK would not go into much depth but still serve as a common ground for the efficient and effective collaboration of the various IT specialists in practice.

One impact after definition could be that SIRA institutes might re-consider their curriculums to assure CBOK knowledge (test passing) for all their students.

The CPD would require certified professionals to assure the compliance with the evolving CBOK and one (or two) BOK periodically, e.g. every 3 years, AFTER they have left the university. Hence, assure, they maintain their knowledge level even 10, 20 years after having made their degree and maintain their value in the job market. Also, we require practice feedback from the IT professionals: it can be designed in a way that SIRA members receive industry feedback about the extent and success/failure rates of practical application of techniques/methods/"components" of ICT advanced education they provide.

Request (exact formulation and possible alternatives on slide 4)
- Assist in conducting a survey among the current students + alumni on the topic.
- Nominate 2 SIRA members for co-work in our CBOK

In order to finance meeting expenses (travel, rooms) and also the creation of a publication platform (web) of CBOK and BOK, we request a co-funding of CHF 15'000. (Another 15'000 for CBOK are coming from SI/other sources)

SIRA / SI growth promotion

(1) The SI would like to cover ALL CH-IT-Departments in Unis, UAS and the 2 Polytechnics, INCLUDING the "Continuing Education" IT units. The latter either as separate departments or

"included" into the main departments. Also, we would like to include all "Information Systems" (Wirtschaftsinformatik) departments.

Goal: each year getting 4 more ... until virtually all CH-departments and professors at tertiary level are covered.

(2) With respect to SI (not SIRA directly), we would also like that each SIRA-member/department provides the "channel" to SI (telling dates of events in advance) to distribute promotional material+info to the IT students that are about to or just having made their degree.

SIRA admin / fees reform

New SIRA fees ruling 2017ff proposal (a pre-version of this has already been pre-discussed with SIRA Board some 2-3 months ago):

100.00 basic fee for non-emeriti: 50.00 for SI, 14.00 for SI/SIRA common projects fonds, 36.00 for SIRA

64.00 basic fee for emeriti: 50.00 for SI, 14.00 for SI/SIRA common projects fund

0.00 fee only for "SI Ehrenmitglieder"

SIG-fees: Actual SIG fees for all SIRA members who are SIG members.