

ASME Technical Committee on Multibody Systems and Nonlinear Dynamics

Tuesday June 3, 2008, 5:00-7:00p.m.
Duck Pond Room, The Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Minutes

Present: Kurt Anderson (member, by phone), Eric Butcher (member), Harry Dankowicz (member, by phone), Tamas Kalmar-Nagy (member), Dan Negrut (member), Xiaoling He (friend), Rudranarayan Mukherjee (friend).

Absent: Om Agrawal, Bala Balachandran, Olivier Bachau, Alain Berlioz, Marcello Campanelli, Jin Choi, Peter Eberhard, Magdy El-Sibaie, Hamid Lankarani, Zheng-Dong Ma, John McPhee, Madeleine Pascal, Noel Perkins, Friedrich Pfeiffer, Christophe Pierre, Bahram Ravani, Werner Schiehlen, Ahmed Shabana, Nobuyuki Shimizu, Subhash Sinha.

1. **Call to order**

Meeting called to order by Kurt Anderson. Tamas Kalmar-Nagy agreed to chair the meeting. Eric Butcher agreed to serve as recorder.

2. **Approval of minutes from last meeting**

A motion was made to approve a corrected version of the minutes of the last meeting of the Technical Committee on Multibody Systems and Nonlinear Dynamics on Sept. 5, 2007 at the Rio All Suites Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

3. **Treasurer's report**

There is currently \$13,054.29 in the MSND Technical Committee account. An additional \$17,357.57 from revenues of the 2007 IDETC will be added soon. A sense of discontent regarding the high registration fees at the 2007 IDETC among many conference participants and committee members was brought to the committee's attention. It was suggested that a reduction in registration fees for future IDETC conferences would be desirable. Members were invited to submit statements on this matter to Kurt Anderson for forwarding to the ASME.

4. **2009 ICMSNDC**

The 2009 International Conference on Multibody Systems, Nonlinear Dynamics, and Control will be held as part of the ASME IDETC meeting between Aug. 30-Sep. 2, 2009 in San Diego. The conference website is in the last stages of preparation for launch. Kurt Anderson indicated that the conference will include an anticipated 20+ symposia on a variety of pertinent topics. To ensure the smooth running of the conference, it was suggested that there be at least two co-organizers per symposium to help guarantee at least one will be at the conference. Organizers will be requested to send a Call for Papers (in pdf) shortly after the website is up.

Unlike past years, the minimum requirement for giving a presentation at the conference will be the submission of an extended abstract (about 700 words in length). Full technical papers will still be allowed for those wishing to have such a manuscript appear in the conference proceedings. Full technical papers will be required for eligibility in the student paper competition. Extended abstracts (or, when applicable, full technical papers) will be reviewed and symposium organizers will use such reviews to determine whether to invite the authors for an oral presentation or a technical poster (new option). Full technical papers will require at least two reviewers. Symposium organizers are encouraged to enforce high standards in the selection process in order to maintain the quality of the conference. In this regard, the 2007 acceptance rate (221 papers/232 submissions) appears higher than warranted. Final authority to accept/reject papers will remain with the symposium organizers so that rejected papers cannot be reinstated by authors seeking the assistance of the conference program chair.

Kurt Anderson encouraged anyone with comments on this policy to contact him as soon as possible.

5. **Student paper awards**

The Student Paper Competition was discussed particularly with regard to the most important restrictions, namely that i) the lead author must have been a student at the time of submission; ii) the student must be the

presenting author; iii) there can be no more than three authors on the paper; iv) the student can only submit a single paper for consideration in the competition; and v) an advisor can appear as a coauthor on at most two such papers being considered for this competition.

Tamas Kalmar-Nagy promised that a revised Call for Papers with detailed information regarding this competition would be ready for distribution soon.

6. **Journal of Computational and Nonlinear Dynamics**

Journal statistics provided by the technical editor, Subhash Sinha, were shared with the committee. It was suggested that particular attention be paid by the technical editor in maintaining journal quality in special issues organized by guest editors. Concern was also raised regarding the revised, and complex, ASME format requirements. Associate editors were encouraged to share such comments with the technical editor for possible forwarding to the ASME.

7. **Sub-committee reports**

a. **Conference planning**

see § 4.

b. **Member nomination**

No new member nominations were presented to the committee.

c. **Publicity and information**

The committee website has been recently updated and moved to www.mkpsd.com/msnd. Concerns were raised that documents on the site contained e-mail addresses that could be detected by webcrawlers, thus inviting spam for members featured on the site. Every effort should be made to ensure that e-mail addresses be suitably concealed, for example, in the form of graphics files.

d. **Lyapunov and D'Alembert awards**

The Call for Nominations has appeared in 8 journals and will ultimately appear in ~10. The committee website will be referenced in the Call. To date, at least 3 nominations for the D'Alembert award are anticipated. No information was available regarding possible nominations for the Liapunov award.

e. **ASME matching funds for D'Alembert and Lyapunov awards**

There are currently \$28,416.09 in accounts for the D'Alembert and Lyapunov awards. A request has been made for one-to-one matching funds from the ASME given a proposed transfer of \$20k from the committee budget to the award accounts. This would bring the account balances about the \$40k required for an award to qualify as an ASME award, rather than a committee award. Alternatively, it was proposed that any matching funds could be split three ways, so as to also create an endowment for student awards.

f. **Joint International Even-Year Conference**

Deferred to members-only discussion.

g. **Sponsorship & industry/government**

The current rate for vendors seeking a presence at the IDETC meetings is \$5-8K for a table. It was proposed that a higher fee (say \$10k) could be charged in exchange for allowing vendors time for a short (17 min) presentation or demonstration in a technical session. Vendor demos could alternatively be included as a tutorial/workshop during the first conference day. Concerns were raised regarding the need for a larger audience with buying power to attract interest from vendors for such opportunities. A suggestion was also made to encourage companies to sponsor the student paper competition in exchange for having the company name associated with the award and exposure, for example, by giving a presentation before the student talks.

The presence and active participation of program managers from federal funding agencies was strongly encouraged at future conferences. Talks by program managers on funding opportunities, future directions, etc. could be given at the conference in the form of panel sessions.

8. **New business**

No new business was presented to the committee.

Members only

9. **Discussion of D'Alembert and Lyapunov award nominations**

see § 7d.

10. **Nomination of Friedrich Pfeiffer for ASME Da Vinci award**

Ahmed Shabana had previously suggested that Friedrich Pfeiffer should be nominated by the committee rather than an individual in order to make a stronger nomination. It was suggested that a full nomination packet be prepared and presented to the committee prior to seeking the support of the full committee.

11. **Joint International Conference in Even Years**

A planned multibody dynamics conference in 2010 in Finland will receive committee support but no financial commitment. Three committee members need to be nominated to the steering committee. The ASME Technical Committee on Vibration and Sound has also asked the committee to jointly organize a vibration/nonlinear dynamics/multibody dynamics conference in the even years.

In this context, different options for locations for even-year committee meetings were discussed. In addition to future incarnations of Ali Nayfeh's conference, it was suggested that the World Congress on Computational Mechanics (coorganized in 2008 with the European Congress on Computational Methods in Applied Sciences and Engineering and with some 50 presentations in the computational multibody dynamics symposium coorganized by Dan Negrut) be considered.

12. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.