1. REVIEW OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Since the past Region 8 report there have been the following updates on the current programs:

1. MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:
   a. Membership has increased strongly in these past months. Several promotional material generation and distribution has been made to all the branches attending the Student Branch Congress. We are know distributing materials to other branches. SB chairs are aware of possibilities on how to produce locally promotional materials for the branch.
   b. Currently ongoing: 2004 Highest Membership Increase campaign, prizing up to 5 branches with 400$ each and 800$ to the best one in the past three years. Publicity of this has been given in the next R8 News.

2. HELP-NEEDY-VOLUNTEERS PROJECT:
   a. The 50% reduction of the student dues to needy volunteers campaign has been launched and is open for requests now.
   b. Web form that has to be acknowledged by Branch Chair or Section Chair.

3. Region 8 News contributions from all the Student Branches are received for every issue and it is a successful activity.

4. Support to Student Branches with some seed activities money. This is a successful ongoing program, and the number of requests is raising.

5. Active presence of R8 Students at IEEE technical conferences by two means:
a. Continuing the Voucher program. Voucher Program Campaign is now open for the 2005 renewal campaign. This year there are not many requests so far.
b. Organization of IEEE Student Activities during technical conferences by a student receiving a grant to travel to the teleconference. Ongoing. Several requests of information have been received but there have been no more request.

6. COOPERATION WITH MICROSOFT:
   a. Two additional meetings and a teleconference has been held.
   b. Microsoft has sponsored the Student Branch Congress and has additionally, provided extra support for giving a presentation on their Academic Programs.
   c. Current proposal for a Portal development is on the table during the writing of this document. A definitive response is coming soon and we will be able to report on that during the meeting in Stockholm.

7. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION PROGRAMS:
   a. Serious development of the R8 Student Portal. Leader of this project (supposedly in cooperation with Microsoft) is Ricardo Varela.
      i. Team members have been selected after CV selection process and quick online tests.
      ii. Project outlines are ready.
      iii. Preliminary content information session was presented during Student Branch Congress.
   b. Virtual Community continues developing and has now 260 members and updated content.
   c. The R8 SAC web site is again under development and construction to add new relevant content.

8. STUDENT BRANCH REJUVENATION PROJECT:
   a. Section Chairs are receiving a package for this during this meeting.
   b. Student Activities Officers will be copied in an e-mail version of the package.
   c. Student Branch Counsellors will also receive a package.

9. GRADUATING STUDENT MEMBERS Section’s welcome:
   a. Section chairs must have received an e-mail and a list of 2004 Student members graduating from their respective Sections as well as a set of ideas for developing the contacts.

10. Currently under development: Counsellor support program. 3,500$ still available.

11. Support for branches willing to organize region-wide contests. Successful examples:
   a. Chess Contest currently ongoing (very successful). Hopefully the second Chess contest will take place soon. BTI University in Russia Siberia Section.
   b. Student Branch promotional video R8 contest. Currently under development by the Princess Sumaya University in Jordan.

12. Web Contest 2004 is currently being judged at the regional level. Soon to take place: World finals.
13. Attendance to a meeting with several other Student Organizations in Europe (among others EESTEC, ESTIEM, JADE, ELSA, AIESEC) by Basak and Ricardo Varela. Meeting was to determine the idea of a common portal to all of them.
14. Presence of Basak in the R10 and R9, Student Branch Congresses. Also, Basak has attended the EESTEC-IEEE conference, held in Catania, Italy at the end of September.
15. IEEE world-wide SAC meeting will take place in Barcelona, Spain at the end of October 2004, so it will be hosted by Region 8.

2. REVIEW OF STUDENT-RELATED EVENTS
1. R8 STUDENT BRANCH CONGRESS held in Passau, Germany, 4-7 September 2004.
   a. Very VERY successful event in all possible ways.
   b. In conjunction with GOLD meeting.
   c. Budget review and a video will be presented during Stockholm meeting.
   d. Outstanding organization team: Thank you to Passau Student Branch!
2. Student Paper Contest 2004 took place in Dubrovnik in May, 2004 during MELECON. Winners are:
   a. Antonin Descampe and François Devaux (Catholic University of Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium) A flexible line-based JPEG2000 decoder for digital cinema
   b. Biswa Sengupta (University of York, UK) Optimisation of timing properties in a platform independent manner
   c. Ahmed Abdelrahman Muhammad and George Isaac Aziz (Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt) 2D single mode channel waveguide and MMI beam splitter fabrication and characterization
3. Preliminary work continues to be done for a Regional Robotics competition to take place later in this year or early the next one.

3. MODELS AND ISSUES
1. PROBLEMS: Several difficulties with the payment options for students in Region 8 have appeared as a result of Online only renewal process.
   a. Group payment with credit card
   b. Still paper renewals are needed in some places.
   c. Rebate check is difficult to cash.
Issues are to be acknowledged at the next SAC meeting.
2. R8-SAC leadership is strongly pursuing the Help-A-Student program of the IEEE.

4. COMMENTS
The Region 8 SAC team wants to thanks Laura, Christine, Barbara and Cecelia for all their help and support. And special thanks to all the Passau Student Branch Organizers for the great organization and team work.