

Silver Jackets Meeting

October 13, 2015

Georgia Tech Student Center, Room 343

Minutes

Members and Guests Attending (25) Robert Green, Len Parsons, Jerry Thuesen, Ward O. Winer, Annette Satterfield, Pat Davis, Philip Enslow, Ron Bohlander, Sandra Thornton, Gerry Reed, Kathy Tomajko, Chris Mitchell, Carol Heller, Susan Keenan, Candy Carson, Jo McIver, Mary Duncan, Walter Allen, Andy Smith, Fred Andrew, Marge Boehme, Jim Higgins, Steve Bomar, Jamie Goode, Jo Freeman

Business Meeting

President Ward Winer opened the meeting by welcoming the members.

Vice President Len Parsons reported on proposed changes in the **Silver Jackets Bylaws** to more accurately reflect our current practices. These changes included the following:

- Defining the Fiscal Year

- Deleting Standing Committees

- Quorum—defining as 25 instead of percentage of members present

A motion to table the vote on the proposed changes until the November Silver Jackets was made. Said motion was seconded and approved.

Program

Vice President Len Parsons introduced Ron C Arkin from the Georgia Institute of Technology Mobile Robot Laboratory to speak on the topic “Ethical Robots in Warfare.” Some of the topics covered in the presentation included the following:

Current motivation for military robotics:

- Force multiplication, i.e., reduction in numbers of soldiers needed

- Expansion of battle space

- Extend the warfighters reach

- Reduce friendly casualties

Trend toward application of artificial intelligence

Calls for ban or restrictions from:

- Human Rights Watch—11/19/2012

UN Human Rights Council--4/29/20

Plight of the non-combatant

Philosophical questions:

Should soldiers be robots?

Should robots be soldiers?

Underlying Research Thesis—Robots can ultimately have better legal and ethical compliance with standards for warfare prescribed by International Human Rights Watch. The objective would be robots with an ethical code. Limited application for specialized mission, interstate warfare, serving alongside soldiers rather than as replacements.

The next Silver Jackets Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Earl Green

Secretary