Activity & Progress Reporting

Section Spring Meeting 24th April 2021

1. Chapter/Affinity Group:	Young Professionals
2. Committee Members	Noel Gomes (Chair) Dr Thaddeus Eze (Vice Chair) Nazila Fough (Secretary)
3. Reporting Officer:	Noel Gomes
4. Overview of current plan and activities:	i. Build on current success and volunteer base from existing events to further reach out to members across the section with the following high-level plan: • YP successfully hosted the YP track events at the virtual International Conference on Electronics Circuits and Systems (ICECS) Glasgow, Nov 23-25th 2020.YP provided specific input in organising speakers for opening talks, followed by technical papers on topics broadly relating to this year's theme, poster competition and a demo session. Due to the onset of the pandemic, the conference program which was initial planned to be in person had to be moved to virtual mode. Attended by about 50 virtual participants, the event included twelve paper presentations (from 24 papers) and four demo presentations with awards presented for the best paper, presentation and demo. Event write-up can be found here https://ieeeukiyp.org/upcoming-events/2020/08/28/International-Conference-on-Communications-Dublin.html • YP successfully hosted the YP AGM - 14th Nov 2020 - for volunteers to e-meet, review progress, strategize and plan ahead for the subsequent years YP program. ii. Due to the current government restrictions the section and its impact on the everyday life our members, volunteers, we have had to make adjustments to our calendar of scheduled events and plans. • Digital Health Conference, Dublin 2020 *(now planned for Sept 2021)* – Full day conference with multiple 1-hour talks, and/or 1-hour seminars on real world digital health initiatives by academic, industrial and bureaucratic leaders. Event currently delayed due to the current pandemic but is intended to be held late this year. Further details can be found here https://ieeeukiyp.org/upcoming-events/2020/08/28/Digital-Health-Conference.html • Industry Talk *(planned for mid/late 2021)* – Online event to be held with 1 or 2 30-45min talks on topical issues to be held later this year.

	Details to be confirmed in due course. ● Scottish Research Event *(planned for Oct 2021)* – Virtual event for PhD students to be held with a series of poster presentations and/or workshops on a chosen theme. Details to be confirmed in due course. ● 3rd YP PG STEM Symposium *(planned for Nov 2021)* – Building on the success of the previous editions, this event is to be held virtually this year and planning is already underway with a team of new volunteers recruited from across the country. ● Arduino workshop, Dublin – *(now planned for 2022)* - Event currently delayed due to the current pandemic restrictions but is intended to be held next year. Further details can be found here: https://ieeeukiyp.org/upcoming-events/2020/08/28/Arduino-Workshop-Dublin.html ● Other previously planned events have been moved to the following year. iii. Ongoing Improvement to digital/social media presence and communication with members through re-vamped website, Facebook and twitter page. iv. Continue to collaborate with industry, chapters and other similar organizations with shared interests
5. Key Achievements and member value/services to date:	● Team has 15 volunteers with representation in all major cities across UK & Ireland. However, our committee is in a state of transition with volunteers moving around for new jobs/commitments. A new recruitment drive has been initiated to take on more volunteers, review workload and support our activities across the section. We are still looking for volunteers in the South east of the country. ● YP website https://ieeeukiyp.org/ is now enhanced and upto date with new webmaster. ● Increased participating in collaborative Chapter /similar group events across the across the country: ➢ IEEE Conference on Electronics Circuits and Systems (ICECS), Glasgow – Nov 2020 ➢ 3rd YP PG STEM Symposium IEEE (online) – Nov 2021
6. Key Challenges:	● The current lockdown situation poses a risk to plan and host events for the rest of the year and beyond. We continue to monitor the situation and follow the government advice collectively as a group with changes to our plans where possible by hosting the event online or delaying it when it is safe to resume. ● Volunteers are finding that they are facing increased workload in their full-time jobs due to remote working while having to manage family life. This coupled with an increase in screen time, potentially results in less available time to volunteer. We are continuing to review volunteer workload

	and offer support as much as possible.
	● Event costs are generally quite high due to room/hire facilities fees. However there are potential ways of saving of costs by hosting events at universities.
	● Member turnout- at events varies depending on topic/day of week/entry fee, weather etc.
	● A lot of effort is required by volunteers to host medium scale events. This varies across the section as volunteer commitment is dependent on their research workload and availability. Seems to be an ongoing challenge that we are trying to managed best.
7. Deficits/Required Resources:	● Incorporating up new goals from last year's YP AGM,
	● Review of current structure and division of workload in the AG as we look to further expand roll out of quality events.
	● Building on existing success for advance planning, co-ordination, accountability and timely communication of allocated tasks between volunteers
8. Actions/Support requested from the Section:	● Financial support to host in person events when safe to do so
	● Volunteer development and attendance at Regional/national events
9. Action Plan:	● Ongoing-review of events planned for the next 6 months in view of current pandemic situation and make adjustments as required to host it virtually until it is safe to resume face to face events.
	● Increase communication and planning via regular committee meetings to review progress and performance.
	● Ensure volunteer workload is reviewed on regular basis to avoid burn-out. Recruit additional volunteers, leverage and collaborate where possible.
	● Reconfirm volunteer commitment at start of every year