Issue:

No Chapter/ team has expressed an interest in doing the 36th ISSC for 2018.

Causal Factors:

Current conference methodology is no longer working. It becomes tougher each year to put on a successful (profitable) conference. Conferences teams are working extremely hard for limited returns. Burn-out from sponsoring Chapters is high. Chapters and members are no longer volunteering to sponsor/ support the conference. There is little continuity from year to year in, given Conference teams effectively start from scratch each year, it is difficult to plan a budget, control costs, create good technical programs, maintain/increase sponsors and Exhibitors, and provide quality networking and social opportunities, while still making a profit.

**Proposed Mitigation:**

**Long-term Conference Planning Reorganization**

The ISSS Executive Council to assume the planning, management and operational control of the ISSC- that in the past was delegated to a different conference team (Chapter members) each year. The EC would be supported by Chapters who would be more focused on site reconnaissance and on-site conference support

Pros:

1. Will allow the conference theme to align better with Society goals
2. More accurate view of likely profit for operating budget.
3. Better sustainability in planning and management from year to year (currently, each conference team must start the planning from scratch, with little historical records for Points of contacts, where to get the best deals, what worked/didn't) potentially resulting in overall cost savings.
4. Align ISSC tasks/opportunities with ISSS tasks/opportunities via Directors and OVP (Publicity and Media, Professional Development & Education, Membership, InterSociety, Chapter Services)
5. Mitigate the concern that Chapters are no longer volunteering to do the entire conference. (Less overall Chapter burn-out)
6. Less risk to the ISSS.

Cons

1. Competes for time from other EC tasks
2. Eliminates the opportunity for Chapters to share in the conference proceeds (hasn't happened in a number of years due to budget constraints.
3. Possible burn-out - EC members would be signing on to do conferences for 4 years.

**Other options**

Option 1 - Continue attempting to get conferences teams each year. (Mixed success at best)

Pros

1. Allows the EC to focus on other projects

Cons

1. Continued Chapter burn-out
2. Friction between Planning team ideas/ budget and ISSS needs
3. Limited control of costs

Option 2 – No longer do the ISSC

Pros

1. Less hassle

Cons

1. The conference profits are the major source of ISSS operating capital.
2. Limits ability to grow both the Society and the System Safety field.