IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting
Location: San Diego, CA

Date: February 2nd, 2020

Time: The meeting convened at 1:00 pm PST; the meeting adjourned at 6.45 pm PST

Meeting Chair: Aylin Yener

Minutes taken by: Lara Dolecek

Meeting Attendees:

Erik Agrell, Jeff Andrews, Matthieu Bloch, Suhas Diggavi (*), Alex Dimakis, Lara Dolecek, Stark Draper (*), Elza Erkip, Christina Fragouli (*), Andrea Goldsmith, Babak Hassibi (#,*), Syed Jafar (#), Sid Jaggi (*), Tara Javidi, Jeorg Kliewer (#), Vijay Kumar, Brian Kurkoski (*), Matt LaFleur (#), Olgica Milenkovic (*), Prakash Narayan, Alon Orlitsky (#), Henry Pfister (*), Vince Poor (*), Joachim Rosenthal, Parastoo Sadeghi, Anand Sarwate (#), Igal Sason, Daniela Tuninetti, Aaron Wagner, Aylin Yener, Wei Yu

Remote attendees are denoted by (*); non-voting attendees are denoted by (#).

Busin

next thanked Emina Soljanin for her ongoing service, who has also served in multiple roles, including as the Society's President in 2019, the Chair of Shannon and Wyner award committees, X-officio on several others, and as the JPP in 2020. President Yener next thanked Elza Erkip for her ongoing service, which has included the position of the JPP in 2019, major efforts for the extensive bylaws revisions last year, a member and then the chair of the Nominations and Appointments committee, chair of the Diversity and Inclusion committee, and the Senior Past President in 2020. President Yener next thanked former BoG members: Sasha Barg, Andrew Barron, Steven Hanly, Michele Wigger, and Greg Wornell, for their service. She next thanked all the members of the following committees: Nominations and Appointments Committee: Gerhard Kramer; Conference Committee: Brian Kurkoski and Alfonso Martinez; Paper Awards Committee: Sae-Young Chung, Alex Dimakis, Negar Kiyavash, Khrishna Narayanan, Antonia Tulino, and Michele Wigger; Shannon Committee: Janos Korner and David Tse; Wyner Committee: Bruce Hajek and Muriel Medard; Massey Committee: Erdal Arikan, Tom Fuja (chair), and Tara Javidi; Cover Committee: Yossi Steinberg; Fellows Committee: Ning Cai and Max Costa.

Next, president Yener welcomed new BoG members: Erik Agrell (Region 8), Meir Feder (Region 8), Camilla Hollanti (Region 8), Sid Jaggi (Region 10), Alex Dimakis (re-elected), Tara Javidi (re-elected), and Joachim Rosenthal (Region 8). She also thanked many new volunteers on a number of committees. She reported that the current BoG composition is 11 female and 15 male members, and that there are 6 members from Region 8, and 3 members from Region 10, indicating significantly improved geographic diversity.

President Yener next stated that Stark Draper has been elected as the New Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair, based on the nomination by the N&A committee and email BoG vote conducted in January 2020. She also extended special thanks to inaugural members of this committee since 2018, who were Elza Erkip (chair), Stark Draper, Sid Jaggi, Tara Javidi, Muriel Medard, and Emanuele Viterbo. Next, President Yener stated that Lara Dolecek and Aaron Wagner were reappointed based on the email BoG votes into their positions as the Society's Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

President Yener next went over the presidential appointments for 2020. Tara Javidi was appointed as the Women in Engineering (WiE) representative. Tara is a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UCSD, the Founding Co-Director Center for Mac06 594.911ee Ita.rapor

overhaul was done by Frank and Elza and that bylaws contain many answers to how the society operates.

She then went over the new avenues of dissemination and recognition. The society now has two flagship journals: Transactions on Information Theory and the Journal on Selected Areas of Information Theory, with the latter providing outreach to fields interfacing information theory. She also stated that the society also has two named lectureships at IT schools, Padovani and Goldsmith, the latter specifically designated for a female young researcher. The inaugural Goldsmith Lecturer is Ayfer Ozgur.

President Yener next stated that ITSoc membership certificates are newly available in 2020. They can be accessed by logging into Collaboratec with own IEEE info, and are then populated with the individual's name. She thanked Matt for facilitating this new operation.

Next, president Yener went over the open calls for awards and recognitions, stating the importance of recognizing colleagues for their outstanding work. She invited society and BoG members to think of one paper or person deserving of an award, invest and to pay it forward, in order to further increase the number of nominations and recognitions. Next, President Yener discussed how certain society volunteers have already done a lot for the community and that the service overload might end up exhausting volunteers. She suggested that it would be a good idea to keep a record of how many different roles one is serving in at the same time so as to better balance the load and influence. President Yener and Matt will work to streamline the record keeping of who is on what committee and in what volunteer positions.

President Yener next discussed the goals for 2020. She highlighted the key theme for the upcoming year: openness and engagement. The goals include better communication between society volunteer committees and operations, better process of informing and equipping volunteer selection, and improvement of membership numbers. She highlighted that being in the IT community means being an active member of the IT Society.

Next, President Yener talked about Inclusiveness and Transparency. She stated that her goals are to continue efforts on improved inclusiveness and transparency. She stated that a more diverse group of the volunteers and members the society has, the richer and broader set of new ideas and

Next, Aaron went over the 2019 general funds. He presented the funds status as a conditional expectation, that increases with each reporting date. Expected budgeted surplus for 2019 is $46k. The expected budgeted surplus for 2019 at time of ITA 2020 is $453k. He stated that this amount is due to several factors. Notable sources of deviation include: IT Transactions revenue of $232k, decrease in IT Transactions cost of $43k, conference publications revenue increase of $67k, ISIT 2019 in Paris surplus is up $52k, and dues are up $2.6k. Aaron clarified that IEEE runs seasonal promotions to reduce membership cost towards the end of the year so that the membership profit is not just simply the number of members times the membership fee.

Next, Aaron presented trends of the IT Transactions. He first presented the chart available at ISIT 2018 in Vail, when the numbers suggested a cause for concern.

President Aylin Yener explained that bumps in curves were due to switching to light editing and more complicated formula. Aaron stated that Open Access, clicks on articles, and institutional membership all contribute to an increase in the revenue.

Next, Aaron discussed the 2019 Special Projects. He went over the budget breakdown, $120k is due to the 3% rule for the special projects and $145k is due to the 50% rule for general funds, yielding the available total of $265k. Aaron provided the list of 10 special projects and their leaders, along with the individual budgets. The total for the 10 special projects was $264.5k.

Next, Aaron presented the status of the 2020 Special Projects. The total allowed is $314k, of which $89k is due to the 3% rule for the special projects and the remaining $225k is due to the 50% for the general funds. Aaron presented a list of 10 special projects, their organizers and budgets, that are already approved by the officers or BoG. The sum total for these 10 projects is currently $127k. Aaron encouraged members to submit other ideas as well, given the availability of funds which are subject to use it or lose it rules. He also reminded the members that the receipts must be submitted by December 15, 2020, and that members should also start thinking about the 2021 Special Projects.

Aaron then went over the 2020 General Funds. He stated that the expected surplus is $243k, and that we should aim to meet this target. He also reminded of the situation we were in 2 years ago, and that while the budget looks much better now, we cautioe Wn /Cs4e (t) 0j ET Q Q q 8.50394

Next presentation was given by Andrea Goldsmith in her capacity as the EiC of the Journal on

The motion passed.

The next motion was then issued:

Motion: to approve Phase II proposal.

The motion passed.

The last motion was the following:

Motion: Approve Open Call for EiC (once Phase II proposal is approved by the IEEE)

The motion passed.

Online committee – Brian Kurkoski

Next presentation was given by Brian Kurkoski on behalf of the Online Committee.

Brian went over the current status, and motivated the need to move from Plone to Drupal since expenses are rising and there are problems with the webpage. He informationally presented dollar amounts, and will be making a budget request to BoG in June to support this transition.

Nominations and Appointments Committee – Elza Erkip

Next presentation was given by Elza Erkip on behalf of the Nominations and Appointments Committee. She first went over the committee scope and current members. She then stated committee's goals for this year: 1) to diversify society's committees and positions; 2) to enlarge the pool of volunteers; and 3) to start drafting best practices including how many committees to tap a person for.

She then went over the timeline positions on various committees were filled or being filled. Chair of the 2020 Diversity and Inclusion Committee is Stark Draper, and Emina Soljanin is a member (as JPP). Chair of the 2020 Shannon A

International workshop on Algebraic and Combinatorial Coding Theory (ACCT2020) for approval for having accepted manuscripts appear in IEEE Xplore.

ISIT 2024 – Joerg Kliewer

After Vijay, Joerg presented a proposal for ISIT 2024 in New York, prepared by him and Anand Sarwate. He motivated t

percentage, TPC committee will use "technically correct and novel" standard in making paper acceptance decisions. He also clarified that the conference needs 650 attendees to break even. A BoG member commented that even as number of papers went down the attendance went up, at least for ISIT 2019 in Paris.

Movie Committee – Alon Orlitsky

Next presentation was given by Alon Orlitsky who provided an update on The Bit Player movie, on behalf of the Movie Committee, whose members are Christina Fragouli, Daniela Tunitteti, Alon Orlitsky.

Alon provided the website for the movie: thebitplayer.com. He also stated that the poster for the movie also had hidden phrases in it. Movie premiere was at the World Science Festival in New York on May 29, 2019, where the movie screening was followed by a panel. There were 267 people in attendance at the premiere despite heavy rain in New York that day. Alon stated that the movie was also shown at the World Congress of Science Journalists, held in July 2019 in Lausanne, Switzerland, and at movie festivals in Paris and in Netherlands. The movie received the Best in Show recognition at MIPCOM 2019. Another screening was held at the Computer History Museum in Cupertino, CA, and it was organized by Andrea Goldsmith. Another west coast screening was held in San Francisco and it was sponsored by Intel, at the cost of 25k – 30k$. Alon also went over the list of other screenings. He then discussed festival status of the movie, and stated that they tried for major festivals but got only into minor festivals. Next, Alon discussed the distribution, for which the requests are made through the website. There are 40 requests and charge is 300-400$ per screening, including an educational sciences series. For the international distribution company hired is called Off the Fence. Next, Alon stated that Nova and Netflix declined to show the movie, and that the potential alternatives include american public television, amazon prime, and educational channels. In terms of moving forward, Alon ask for feedback on replacing Ergot, compensation for Mark, putting movie on YouTube, and any other suggestions. Alon also clarified that the movie is doing okay, but not great. He said that they raised over 1M$, of which a portion was spent so far, and that the rest can be use towards outreach and promotion. President Aylin Yener said she will work with Alon and the Board on how to proceed, and whether to try YouTube or something else.