IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting

Aaron next described budget line items for the discretionary expenditures, and the budget source breakdown for the new initiatives. A BoG member asked how will the open access ruling in EU impact IEEE and the society. Aaron clarified that the society has decided to adopt "wait-and-see" recommendation by IEEE regarding this matter. A BoG member suggested that the new journal could be split into two parts: traditional and open-access, to address the new laws. Another BoG member asked what would happen if the society goes into negative operating cost? Aaron explained that if an IEEE society operates in the negative in 2 out of 3 years, it can be placed on the IEEE watchlist with the purpose of ensuring that the society engages in more revenue generating activities. He further explained that in relative terms, the IT society is small and that temporary small deficit won't seriously affect IEEE's finances. A BoG member pointed out that IT society was on a watchlist in the past. Another BoG member said that it is expected that the society will be in a deficit for the time being due to initiations of new IT publications.

Aaron also described in detail and quoted IEEE financial operations manual what qualifies as a new initiative. After Aaron concluded the presentation on the society's budget, Frank, representing constitution and bylaws committee, discussed the current status and planned activities of the committee.

Frank first stated Bylaws Article V, Section 3: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall consist of the two most recent past Presidents of the Board. The senior past President shall be the chairperson of the Committee. This Committee is charged with preparing suitable revisions to keep the Constitution and Bylaws up to date and with insuring that the Board is made aware of those sections of these documents pertinent to proposed actions. He then went over the current status and explained that the constitution and the bylaws of the society dating back to October 2016 are posted online. More recent updates, from 2017 onwards are currently under consideration for approval by the IEEE Technical Activities governance. Frank further clarified that the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will make appropriate updates to the bylaws regarding the following: Membership Committee re-organization; creation of the Diversity and

right approach to address it. It was briefly discussed whether Taipei and New York should swap for 2023 and 2024, in light of the more advanced preparation status of the former, but this raised a concern about the locations of US vs. non-US locations in close years. No final decision on this issue was taken, the issue was left to the Conference Committee to pursue as appropriate.

After the ISIT 2024 organizing committee concluded their presentation on the status of the preparations

Next presentation was given by Andrea Goldsmith in her capacity as the inaugural Editor-in-Chief of the new IEEE journal titled "Journal on Selected Areas in Information Theory" (JSAIT). She first summarized that Phase II of the journal proposal, which had been put together by the steering committee, was approved by ITSoc BoG in Oct. 2018 and by IEEE in Nov. 2018, and that the first issue is targeted to appear in the first quarter of 2020. She next explained that her EiC role had been approved by the BoG in December and that the editorial board consisting of 12-14 senior editors is being assembled now. She went over a working list of current topics to be covered in Y1 through Y3. She next presented the launch plans and the financial projections of the journal and stated that the expectation is that the journal will get into black very quickly. Andrea also stated that the input on the new journal is most welcome from the members of the community. There was some discussion regarding the page limits for the papers in JSAIT. One BoG member suggested that the papers be allowed up to 10 pages of an appendix that would be posted but not appear as part of the paper and that would not count towards the page limit. It was noted that the current submission guideline of 30 page limit for submissions in the single column, double space format, and with 10 free pages for published papers and the cost of \$220/page for pages 11 and up, is comparable to JSTSP and JSAC, both established IEEE journals on special topics. There was some discussion of increasing the page limit to 35 and to allow for one additional page of references that did not count towards the page count. There was also a comment from a BoG member whether it would be appropriate to include "coding" in the name of the journal. It was clarified that such a name change would have to be approved at various levels.

Next presentation was given by Salim el Rouayheb who was reporting on the behalf of the ad-hoc committee for the newsletter. He discussed the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on the Historian Column, and stated that there were differing opinions in the community on the role of the historian's column in the newsletter, and asked for input from BoG on how to address this. This discussion was left for later in the meeting.

Next, Elza Erkip presented the report from the Committee on the Diversity and Inclusion. She explained that the committee was formed at ITA 2018 and summarized the intent of organizing an event at ISIT 2019. She stated that the details of the event are being worked out, and the ideas about the speakers and panel organization are being discussed. She next presented the report on sexual harassment she previously

The next item on the agenda was the Proposal for a New IT Society Lecturer Award, prepared by Elza Erkip and Wei Yu. Andrea Goldsmith previously won the 2019 IEEE Eric E. Sumner Award. She wants to support the community by donating money from this prize to endow an award for outstanding junior women researchers working in information theory. Current IEEE awards for women were reviewed. Next, Elza presented the proposal to use Andrea's endowment to create a "Goldsmith Lecturer", inspired in part by the history and purpose of the Padovani Lecturer. This proposal was discussed in detail and endorsed by the officers. Eligibility for the award, nomination, and the selection process were discussed. Elza clarified that the Goldsmith Lecturer is expected to give a talk at an IT School, and do so at different schools and in coordination with Padovani Lecturers. She concluded by discussing the benefits of the award and the timeline. Details will be finalized by the ISIT 2019 BoG meeting, and presented for a BoG vote, first open call will be in early Fall 2019, and the first lecture will be in 2020.

Next, the discussion returned to the topic of the newsletter. Three motions were presented.

Motion: The BoG creates a formal process for the selection and the appointment of the newsletter editorial board according to established academic standards and best practices. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: The BoG guides the newly formed newsletter editorial committee to institute a formal set of guidelines for columns, including appointment procedures, column contents, and term limits. Motion passed unanimously.

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outreach subcommittees will merge. It was clarified that "sub" in "subcommittee" means "subordinate", not "subset". Wei concluded by presenting the budget of the Membership Committee.

With this discussion concluded, the meeting adjourned at 5.55 pm local time.