

**IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting
Levering Hall, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, March 16, 2005**

Mehul Motani

Attendees: Daniel Costello, Anthony Ephremides, Dave Forney, Marc Fossorier, Andrea Goldsmith, Johannes Huber, Ryuji Kohno, Steven W. McLaughlin, Muriel Médard, Mehul Motani, David L. Neuhoff, Vincent Poor, Gadiel Seroussi, Shlomo Shamai, Joseph A. O'Sullivan, Venugopal V. Veeravalli, Kenneth Zeger.

The meeting was called to order at 18:15 by Society President Steven W. McLaughlin. The members of the Board were welcomed and introduced themselves.

1. The agenda was approved and distributed.
2. The action items from the previous Board meeting at ISITA in Parma, Italy on October 11, 2004 were reviewed.

The Board reviewed the following action item regarding the open meeting on IT Society Publications that was held at ISIT 2004 in Chicago.

Action Item The Board requested John Anderson to call for an open meeting on IT Society Publications at the next ISIT.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the previous meeting with minor amendments.

3. The President presented his report and miscellaneous announcements.

The President reported that he had convened a two-day planning meeting of IT Society officers in Metz, France.

It was noted that membership had dropped from approximately 6000 members in 2001 to approximately 3300 in 2005. Membership development will be a priority for the Society.

It was suggested that it was important to get younger members (e.g., students) involved. This is to be addressed by the formation of an ad-hoc student committee to get them involved in Society activities. This was discussed later as part of membership development.

The Board will consider a proposal on membership development at the next Board meeting.

It was reported that the position of Education officer was to be reinstated.

The relation of the Society to IEEE was discussed, specifically the ever changing revenue structure of our parent organization. This implied an evolving model for the Society.

The Society budget was discussed and it was reported that our largest source of income is non-member subscriptions such as libraries and IEL. It was mentioned that paper members (meaning those who elected to receive paper copies of the Transactions) cost the Society \$100 per member.

That the Society should increase its ties to other Societies and conferences was discussed. There was a discussion about how to get IT related conferences (such as Allerton and CISS) to work with us to put their papers online.

Action Item The Board will consider a proposal on the maintenance of the Society's collection of the Transaction on DVD.

4. Marc Fossorier discussed matters related to Symposia and Workshops.
 - (a) ISIT 2004, Chicago: The final report for ISIT 2004 was presented.
 - (b) ITW 2004, San Antonio: Nothing to report.
 - (c) ISIT 2005, Adelaide: It was reported that things are progressing smoothly. There were 775 papers received. The TPC has met and decided on the papers and sessions, with an acceptance rate of 65%.
 - (d) ITW 2005, New Zealand: It was reported that things are progressing smoothly and that the workshop had received over 80 paper submissions.
 - (e) ITW 2005, Japan: Nothing to report.
 - (f) HISC 2005, Hawaii: Nothing to report.
 - (g) ISIT 2006, Seattle: It was reported that things are progressing smoothly. The organizing committee had held a planning meeting. The program committee is finalized and the plenaries are being worked out.
 - (h) ITW 2006, Uruguay: Gadiel Seroussi presented a proposal for an Information Theory Workshop in Punta del Este. The proposal is finalized.

The declining membership of the Society was noted as a serious concern and ideas were discussed for increasing participation in the Society.

The formation of an ad-hoc student committee was discussed as a way to get younger members involved in the Society. There was a proposal to establish such a committee chaired by Andrea Goldsmith.

The Board unanimously approved the proposal.

Action Item