

IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors meeting minutes
ICEC, Istanbul, Turkey, 07.07.2013, 1-6pm
Edmund Yeh

Present:

for agreeing to chair the External Nominations Committee, and committee chairs Abbas, Deniz, Elza, Giuseppe, Je , Joerg, Matthieu, Michelle, Negar, Rob, and Sriram.

Gerhard welcomed Yiannis Kontoyiannis as our new Transactions Editor-in-Chief.

Gerhard summarized news from the recent IEEE TAB meetings Feb. 15-16 (Austin) and June 28{29 (San Diego). It was mentioned that the issue of citation count manipulation is currently being addressed. The IEEE TAB Society Review on February 14 had positive comments in general. Main suggestions include expanding non-academic membership, developing formal strategic planning including milestones, metrics, responsible persons, and resources.

Regarding the IEEE Padovani fund, Gerhard mentioned that the fund has grown to \$70k, and may grow to more than \$110k. Roberto Padovani has mentioned that he prefers the fund to be spent slowly and on North American projects. The Society needs to decide how to spend the funds on projects other than the Padovani Lectures. An ad hoc committee consisting of Mike Honig and Ubli Mitra is now gathering ideas on this issue.

Gerhard mentioned new suggested ITSoc initiatives, including the ITSoc Oscars Video competition and Lunch with the Shannon Award Winner from the Student Committee, and ve video interviews from WITHITS. New IT Schools have been proposed for Australia, East Asia, India, and South America. Gerhard mentioned that although the Society can ask IEEE to use 3% of ITSoc reserves (about \$100k),

approved. Other expected initiatives include the Online Committee initiative, WITHITS video interviews, and new schools. We need to let IEEE know of new initiatives by July 12.

Finally, Aylin noted that for 2014 the IEEE has changed the "algorithm" for calculating publication revenues. As a result, we have been presented with a 2014 budget that is projected to result in a loss (-\$35k). This is primarily due to the new algorithm leading to a significant drop in Xplore revenue.

7. Giuseppe Caire presented the Nominations & Appointments (N&A) Committee report.

Giuseppe presented the list of nominees for the 2013 IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Election for a three-year term ending December 31, 2016: Andrew Barron, Sae-Young Chung, Albert Guillen i Fabregas, Tracey Ho, Amir K. Khandani, J. Nicholas Laneman, Ralf R. Muller, Joachim Rosenthal, Mikael Skoglund, Stephan ten Brink, Alexander Vardy, Emanuele Viterbo.

Motion: Vote to approve the list of nominees for the 2013 IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Election. Motion was passed.

Giuseppe then called for nominations for Second Vice President, First Vice President and President for 2014. Alon Orlitsky and Ubli Mitra were nominated for Second Vice President.

Motion: Vote to approve Alon Orlitsky and Ubli Mitra as nominees for Second Vice President in 2014. Motion was passed.

Michelle Eros was nominated for First Vice President.

Motion: Vote to approve Michelle Eros as the nominee for First Vice President in 2014. Motion was passed.

Gerhard Kramer congratulated Abbas and Michelle on their election.

Motion: Vote to approve Abbas El Gamal as the nominee for President in 2014. Motion was passed.

Gerhard Kramer congratulated Abbas and Michelle on their election.

8. Abbas El Gamal presented the Awards Committee Report, which was previously emailed to BoG members.

The Awards Committee members for the IT Society Paper Award are: Abbas El Gamal (ex-officio, Chair), Michelle Eros (ex-officio), Randall Berry, Merouanne Debbah, Alex Grant, Urbashi Mitra, Young-Han Kim, Vijay Kumar, Emanuele Viterbo, Pascal Vontobel, Aaron Wagner, and Andreas Winter.

Six papers were nominated for the 2013 IT Society Paper Award. Four finalists were selected. The Committee recommends the following paper for the IT Society Paper Award:

S. Kudekar, T. J. Richardson, and R. L. Urbanke, "Threshold Saturation via Spatial Coupling: Why Convolutional LDPC Ensembles Perform So Well over the BEC," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, Vol. 57, Issue 2, pp. 803-834, Feb. 2011.

Abbas also summarized recent activity for the 2013 ComSoc-ITSoc Joint Paper Award. The committee consisted of Committee: Abbas (chair), Michelle, Emanuele; Aria, Leslie, Constantine. Ten nominations were received from both societies. The award was given to two papers:

A.S. Avestimehr, S.N. Diggavi, and D.N.C. Tse, "Wireless Network Information Flow: A Deterministic Approach," *IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory*, vol. 57, no. 4, Apr 2011, pp. 1872-1905.

B. Nazer and M. Gastpar, "Compute-and-Forward: Harnessing Interference Through Structured Codes," *IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory*, vol. 57, no. 10, Oct 2011, pp. 6463-6486.

Motion: Vote to approve the Awards Committee Report. Motion was passed.

Motion: Vote to approve the awarding of the 2013 IT Society Paper Award to the recommended paper by S. Kudekar, T. J. Richardson, and R. L. Urbanke. Motion was passed.

Discussion ensued on the nomination process for the Paper Awards. It was suggested that more efforts should be made, e.g. through advertising, to solicit paper award nominations. It was also suggested that more quantitative measures could be used for determining the paper awards.

9. Michelle Eros presented the Membership & Chapters Committee Report. The committee members are Sae-Young Chung (2012-2013), Michelle Eros (chair, ex-officio), Michael Gastpar (2012-2013), Negar Kiyavash (2013-2014), Joerg Klieber (2013-2014), Andrew Thangarai (2012-2013), and Sriram Vishwanath (2013-2014).

Michelle summarized the ITSoc membership by geographic region. Membership trends currently show a decline in normalized terms, relative to overall IEEE membership. Michelle summarized recent chapter activities, which include Distinguished Lecture events, workshops, and short courses.

The IEEE Information Theory Society Membership and Chapters Committee has selected the Swedish Joint Information Theory, Vehicular Technology, Communications, and Information Theory Chapter as the winner of the 2013 Chapter of the Year Award, with the citation "for promoting Information Theory through an inspiring list of invited speakers, technical workshops, and innovative student awards." Notably, the chapter has established the new Chapter Best Student Journal Paper Award and Best Student Conference Paper Award.

Emina Soljanin has been selected as the 2013 Padovani Lecturer. Her lecture, titled "The Secret Lives of Codes: From Theory to Practice and Back" was presented at the 2013 North American School of Information Theory on June 5, 2013.

10. Michelle presented the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Outreach and Education. The committee was formed in 2011 with the charge "Consider a range of outreach goals / activities; advise BoG on possible roles for the Society." Current members are Michelle Eros (chair), Gerhard Kramer, Uli Mitra, Vince Poor, Paul Siegel, and Lizhong Zheng.

Priorities of the committee include funding agency interactions, visibility/recognition, connecting with other communities, and the Shannon Stamp Proposal. Current thrusts include the IT Channel (How Stuff Works, IT Video contest), and the Shannon Stamp Proposal, which has already collected many endorsement letters.

11. Rob Calderbank presented the 2013 IT Fellows Selection Committee report. The committee members are Helmut Boelcskei, Andrea Goldsmith, Alon Orlitsky, Tom Richardson, Raymond Yeung, and Rami Zamir. Fourteen nominees were considered this year. Rob described the procedure used for ranking Fellow candidates.

A discussion followed the report. It was suggested that IT society needed younger nominees for IEEE

Fellow. Many possible candidates are often overlooked, and more nominees would be welcome. Perhaps the committee could find nominators. It was also suggested that the Newsletter feature the new fellows.

12. Elza Erkip presented the Conference Committee Report. Elza pointed to recent ISIT trends (850-900 participants, 9 parallel sessions). ISIT travel grants are strongly supported by the NSF and IBM. It was

Siu-Wai Ho presented the report on the proposed Australian School of Information Theory (AuSIT), 11/9/2014-11/14/2014. The organizing committee consists of Siu-Wai Ho, Roy Timo, Gottfried Lechner, Badri Vellambi. The advisory committee consists of Alex Grant, Terence Chan, Emanuele Viterbo, Stephen Hanly. Four lecturers have been invited, with three confirmed. The format will consist of poster sessions and an open problem workshop. The estimated number of attendees is 120, and the estimated budget is \$22.1k. The School seeks IT Society support of \$20k.

Sidharth Jaggi presented the report on the proposed East Asian School of Information Theory (EASIT 2014), to be held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (July 6th to 12th, 2014). The organizing committee consists of Sidharth Jaggi, Chandra Nair, Sae-Young Chung, Vincent Tan, Mehul Motani Hsuan-Jung Su, Ning Cai, Wei Kang. The advisory committee consists of Gerhard Kramer, Raymond Yeung. The tentative program consists of four hour morning lectures for five days (Monday-Friday) and student posters/activities in the afternoon. The total cost for the School is estimated to be \$16.3k-22.5k USD (excluding travel grants/dinner). Various sources of support exist in Hong Kong. The School asks for \$20k of support from ITSoc.

Andrew Thangaraj presented the report on the Joint Telematics Group (JTG) Summer School to be held in India in May or June 2014. The organizer committee consists of Rajesh Sundaresan, Navin Kashyap, Vinod Prabhakaran, Sibiraj Bhaskaran Pillai. The advisory committee consists of Prakash Narayan, B. Sundar Rajan, P. Vijay Kumar. The JTG involves six of the leading IITs in India and has held a summer school since 2008. The School focuses on topics at the forefront of research in information theory, communications, networking, signal processing, particularly emerging problem areas. The format involves four days, two

Helmut recommended that the page budget for 2014 be set to 8500 pages, at a cost of \$50k. Aylin suggested

quality papers. Fast-rejects are indispensable, and we should not let the acceptance rate get out of control. Finally, be very conservative with special issues.

A big round of applause was given to Helmut for his outstanding tenure as EiC.

16. Yiannis Kontoyiannis, the incoming EiC, presented the "Publications Future" report.

Yiannis thanked the EiC Search Committee and Board of Governors, the past and present Executive Editorial Board Members, Sergio Verdu, and Helmut Bolcskei. He presented the vision for the future Transactions: maintain the Transactions' extremely high quality and keep up with the high number of submissions. At present the editorial process is marginally stable, but there are several possible improvements.

Motion: Approve the proposed Executive Editorial Board for the Transactions, consisting of G. David Forney, Jr., Prakash Narayan, Vincent Poor, and Shlomo Shamai (Shitz). Motion was passed.

Yiannis presented a request for an Administrative Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief of the Transactions. The job description includes part-time, 20-hour/week administrative support, general email and correspondence, maintain historical files on various types of Transactions data (especially those that need to be done by hand), maintain and update the Transactions web page, obtain Pareja back-ups, maintain AE assignment logs, provide general technical/computing support, miscellaneous secretarial and office support. The recommended salary is 850 euros/month [after taxes, social security, university overhead etc.]. The total cost is approximately 20000 euros per year.

Motion: approve \$25,000 per year for an administrative assistant to the EiC, starting immediately. The motion was passed.

17. Jeff Andrews presented the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on New Directions in IT Society Research. The committee members are Jeff Andrews (chair), Andrea Montanari, Michelle Eros, Olgica Milenkovic, Alex Dimakis, Lara Dolecek, Muriel Medard, Sriram Vishwanath.

Jeff pointed out that this effort resulted from the IEEE asking its societies to come up with a document detailing "Future Directions." The outcome report from this effort can be used for various purposes, including seeding agency funding ideas. The plan is to emphasize the generality and universality of IT as a serious scientific discipline, tout its past triumphs and established intersections with and contributions