

President's Report

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*IT Society Annual BOG Meeting
June 28, 2009
COEX
Seoul, Korea*



Executive Summary

- State of the society is excellent
 - Society functioning well with many vibrant initiatives
 - Finances in good shape with money to spend this year
 - ITTrans, ISITs, ITWs highly successful
- Many critical votes at today's meeting
 - BoG and Officer candidates
 - IT Paper Award
 - Proposed AEs
 - 2010 ITW proposal
- Have reserved “New Business” agenda item to discuss society governance and committee structure



State of the Society

- Healthy financial outlook and reserves
- Transactions highly prestigious
 - Progress on publication delays: metrics; more AEs; moving to MC
- Symposium/workshops this year highly successful so far
 - Agenda item for discussion on nature/fees/venues
- New website a leap forward which is heavily utilized
- New committees very active and engaging more members
 - New initiatives: Distinguished Lecturer and Mentoring
- Members frequently honored for their work
- Membership steady with increase in students
- Chapters vibrant and growing
 - New chapters in New Zealand and Chengdu, China

Appointed Officer Candidates

- BoG consists of 18 elected members, 5 elected and 2 appointed officers, and the Pubs Committee Chair.
- Secretary João Barros' term ends after ISIT; we are indebted to him for his outstanding service.
- As per the bylaws, officers have selected Aria Nosratinia as new Secretary subject to BoG approval (bio on website)
- **BoG Vote:** *Approval of Aria Nosratinia as Society Secretary*
- Treasurer Anant Sahai's term ends in Dec.'09; we are indebted to him for his outstanding service, especially this difficult fiscal year. Will have soft handoff to new Treasurer.
- As per the bylaws, officers have selected Nihar Jindal as new Treasurer subject to BoG approval (bio on website)
- **BoG Vote:** *Approval of Nihar Jindal as Society Treasurer*



BoG Candidates

- At the annual meeting the BoG approves the slate of BoG candidates for the following year put forth by the Nomination and Appointments Committee and solicits additional nominations for BoG candidates.
- **BoG Vote:** *Approval of BoG candidate slate from N/A Committee (bios emailed and on website)*
- Additional BoG candidates can be nominated by a BoG member if endorsed by 5 additional BoG members
- **Nominations:** Additional BoG Nominations



Officer Candidates for 2010

- At the annual meeting the BoG nominates candidates for President, 1st VP, and 2nd VP for the following year
- Elections for the nominated candidates will be held after the annual meeting
- **Nominations:** *President*
- **Nominations:** *1st VP*
- **Nominations:** *2nd VP*



Society Governance

- Our society governance has changed over the last few years.
- Before decisions and oversight was done by the BoG
 - Society hierarchy was relatively flat.
 - Shannon, Wyner, Awards, Membership/Chapters and Publications Committees operated independently, included officers as ex-officio members, and often require BoG votes to approve decisions.
- Recently decisions and oversight have shifted to committees
 - The conference committee reviews budgets, provides support to organizers, and plans out conferences/workshops years in advance
 - Many new committees recently formed : Online, Student, and Outreach
- Officer oversight of committee operations important
 - At CISS, made officers ex-officio members of all committees
 - President and 1st VP joined the Conference Committee (the Treasurer was already an ex-officio member) and the Online Committee
 - 2nd VP joined the Student and Outreach Committees.

Conf. Committee Chair on BoG

- Publications and Conference Committees oversee most visible and financially-important activities
- Pubs Committee Chair is ex-officio BoG member
- Given responsibility/impact, Officers recommend CC Chair become an ex-officio BoG member
- Discussed at CISS BoG meeting and via email
 - Argument in Favor: Impact of the CC on society and its finances; responsibility/trust placed in the CC Chair.
 - Argument against: Concern about dilution of elected-member BoG Additional suggestions related to this
 - Broader governance issues discussed in “New Business”
- **BoG Vote:** *Approve CC Chair as ex-officio BoG Member*



Larger Governance Issues

- Is the composition of the BoG and committee structure working well for the society?
- Is there room for improvement?
- How might BoG members get more involved in society governance, either via participation on committees or in other ways?
- These questions will be put forward for discussion during the “New Business” agenda item.



Financial Snapshot

- Estimated \$114K budget surplus this year
 - Could safely spend \$60-\$100K on new initiatives this year
- Reserves
 - IEEE lost \$1.2M of our reserves, now@\$1.8M (~2006 levels)
 - Reserve spending restricted by IEEE due to overall loss
 - Market recovery should result in increase in our reserves, IEEE reserves, and thus some flexibility in reserve spending
- Risks
 - Reduced Xplore income (~120K) due to a new formula
 - Potential library subscription reductions
 - May put current spending levels and spending for new initiatives at risk. More in Anant's report .



Reducing Sub-to-Pub Time

- Our Transactions have unacceptably long delays
- Provides poor member service, hurts timeliness of publication, impacts tenure decisions for authors
- My biggest initiative this year is to reduce sub-to-pub time without compromising quality
- Significant Progress
 - Metrics presented at CISS BoG meeting
 - Number of AEs being increased to reduce overall load
 - Decision to move from Pareja to Manuscript Central, transition in place.
 - Publications Committee report will have more details



Awards

- Awards to be announced this week:
 - Shannon Award, Wyner Service Award, ITSoc Paper Award, ISIT Student Paper Award, and Chapter of the Year Award.
- New Processes
 - Open call for Shannon Award nominations (6 received+ internal ones)
 - ITSoc/Comsoc Paper Award deliberations reduced from 2 tiers to 1 tier
 - More proactive solicitation of nominations for paper awards successful
- New Awards
 - Baker Prize reinstatement approved by IEEE TAB Awards and Recognition Committee. May be reinstated as soon as next year.
 - Society nominating for the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Communications and Information Technology.
 - Our nominee last year, Jacob Ziv, was the winner of this award.
 - The number of nominations for this award is very small – encourage your institutions to nominate.



Next BoG Meeting

- The last 2009 BoG meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 11, 2-6pm in Taormina, Sicily.
- Could hold it later in the week, e.g. Tuesday Oct 13 5:30-9:30pm.
- Straw poll on time/location for Sicily BoG meeting

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I welcome your input and ideas