



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Muriel Medard

Board of Governors Meeting

Catamaran Resort

February 5, 2012

MAIN ITEMS

- Current operation of the Board of Governors
- Overall state of the society
- Society review process
- Important issues being discussed in IEEE that may affect our Society:
 - Bundled membership
 - Considerable activity in publications



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- The result of the latest elections:
 - Abbas El Gamal
 - Elza Erkip
 - Ubli Mitra
 - Alon Orlitsky
 - Paul Siegel
 - Sergio Verdú
- Many thanks to outgoing members
 - Alex Grant
 - Emina Soljanin
- Newly appointed officers and Newsletter Editor:
 - Aylin Yener takes over as Treasurer from Nihar Jindal
 - Natasha Devroye has agreed to stay on as Secretary
 - Tara Javidi takes over as Newsletter Editor from Tracey Ho
- Appointed committee chairs changes:
 - Joerg Widmer has agreed to take over the Outreach Committee from Todd Coleman, with an emphasis on the mentor/mentee program
 - Christina Fragouli will be our WIE contact and a new WithITS chair will be announced soon



AD-HOC COMMITTEES

- Ad-hoc committee on growth of Transactions:
 - Helmut Bölcskei
 - Emmanuel Candes
 - Abbas El Gamal (Chair)
 - Bruce Hajek
 - David Forney
 - Frank Kschischang,
 - Madhu Sudan
 - Alexander Vardy
- Topics for the committee:
 - Has the growth indeed hurt quality compared to an absolute standard or top journals in the cognate fields (e.g., computer science, statistics, operations research, mathematics, and physics)?
 - How have leading journals in these cognate fields managed size and growth?
 - Has this growth compromised the value of the Transactions to its readership (e.g., in timeliness or browsability)?
 - In general, how is the Transactions viewed by its readership broadly defined?
 - What actions, if any, need to be taken to ensure the future of the Transactions as a leading journal in the information sciences?
- Will report in Fall 2012
- Committee led by Michelle Effros to consider potential opportunities for our Society to advocate activities – report later in this meeting



OVERALL STATE OF THE SOCIETY

- Financial state is solid: forecast 137.3 K surplus (there may be some updates because of page budgets)
- The quality of our Transactions is still outstanding
- Our conferences have had very strong participation and quality
- Membership is fairly stable



SOME SNAPSHOTS

Membership over the years

**2012 IEEE S/C BUDGET
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012
INFORMATION THEORY SOCIETY - DIVISION IX**

Society/Council Member Stats

DESCRIPTION	UNITS	2005 ACTUALS	2006 ACTUALS	2007 ACTUALS	2008 ACTUALS	2009 ACTUALS	2010 ACTUALS
SOCIETY/MEMBER FEE	BUD \$/YR	30	30	30	30	30	30
NO. MEMBERS, HIGHER GRADES	BUD	3333	2669	2259	2536	2494	2494
	ACT	2746	2609	2515	2568	2597	2470
NO. STUDENT MEMBERS	BUD	732	295	244	325	391	458
	ACT	430	347	345	596	510	487
LIFE	BUD	271	299	299	289	283	290
	ACT	299	289	283	290	298	296
NO. AFFILIATES	BUD	20	18	14	11	4	18
	ACT	14	11	4	18	28	28
NO. RETIRED	BUD	74	80	81	89	103	31
	ACT	81	89	103	31	27	34
NO. OTHER	BUD	108	95	82	68	66	59
	ACT	82	68	66	59	76	83
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	BUD	4538	3456	2979	3318	3341	3350
	ACT	3652	3413	3316	3562	3536	3398

Publications

	2011 (Jan- June)	2010	2009	2008	2007
SUM by Pub/RANK in Periodicals	377,611/Rank 10	661,359/Rank 11	688,364/Rank 11	779,305/Rank 6	880,946/Rank 4

SOCIETY REVIEW

- We shall be going through the process of review of the Society that occurs ever 5 years:
 - This February, Transactions will be reviewed at the TAB meeting in Arizona
 - The rest of the Society review will take place in the November TAB meeting
- The officers will be working on this together with IEEE on the different aspects of reporting
- Opportunity for us to consider what our vision is for the Society and to reflect on what our contribution is to our members



SOME INTERESTING ISSUES COMING UP IN IEEE

- Bundled membership (see Giuseppe's TAB report from November)
 - A committee is considering to offer free choice of membership to societies as part of the standard IEEE membership package
 - IEEE members is twice as large than the number of society members combined, which means that there is a potential increase in membership to societies
 - Informal poll showed VERY high interest in joining Information Theory if it were free
 - This may be something to discuss with Jose Moura, IEEE Division IX Director, when he visits us
- Significant activities in publications – may not affect us but indicates that IEEE societies are seeing their journal model evolve
 - New publications are proliferating – to be discussed at TAB in February:
 - IEEE Journal of Emerging and Selected Topics in Power Electronics, IEEE Geoscience and Remote Sensing Magazine, IEEE Transactions on Cloud Computing, IEEE Journal of the Electron Devices Society, IEEE Transactions on Emerging Topics in Computing, IEEE Transactions on Wireless Computing in Healthcare
 - Proposals for Rapid Process service for IEEE journals
 - Inclusion of the authors' names in Asian characters
 - November TAB meeting: journal proposal was described: IEEE Open Forum (an Open Access journal) – see Giuseppe's report from November

