Committee: Stark Draper (Chair), Parastoo Sadeghi, Christina Fragouli (ex-officio)

2019 Schools: All 2019 schools occurred prior to ISIT 2019, hence nothing to report.

Four schools were planned for 2020: ESIT’20 (Stuttgart, May), NASIT’20 (Vancouver, July), EASIT’20 (Seoul, August), India’20 (Kanpur, July).

ESIT’20 update: As the first school scheduled, ESIT’20 needed to decide earliest what to do. EASIT’20 was deferred to fall. The organizers are now requesting a deferral to 2021. (See motion on next slide.)

Other schools: All other schools (NASIT/EASIT/India) submitted to the BoG motions to defer till 2021. All motions were approved.

Finances: The Committee and ITSoC Treasurer confirmed with the IEEE that all financial support issued by IEEE to the deferred schools can remain in the schools’ bank accounts for use in 2021.

Follow-on schools: The Committee has confirmed with all the groups that, prior to COVID-19, had been planning to submit proposals to hold the respective 2021 schools (ESIT, NASIT, EASIT, India), that they can defer their proposals till 2021 with the intent of holding those respective schools in 2022.
Looking forward

Possibility of virtualizing schools if the pandemic continues unabated

• If the current situation continues well into 2021 it may not be feasible to hold some or all of the schools in person.
• In such an event we may consider virtualizing some (or all) of the schools.
• To date the organizers’ and Committee’s efforts have been on deciding to defer schools and to sort out the various arrangements with the IEEE and vendors, so the Committee has not discussed this possibility with the respective organizers.
• We have a number of months to decide on whether virtualization will be needed. In the meantime everyone is getting much more familiar with virtualized educational settings (lectures, conferences, meetings, etc.). We anticipate such familiarization will make it much easier to virtualize the schools, if needed.

Named lectureships

• The 2020 Padovani and Goldsmith Lectures are delivered at schools and were not delivered in 2020. (Padovani was to be delivered at NASIT and Goldsmith at ESIT.)
• The plan for the named lectureships in 2021 will be discussed as part of the Membership Committee report.

Motion

“Our request the ITSoC BoG allow the holding of the 2020 European School for Information Theory, currently scheduled to be held in Stuttgart, Germany in fall 2020, to be deferred to 2021, and for the deferred school to be supported at the same level of $15,000 USD as was originally allocated by the BoG at the BoG meeting in Feb. 2019.”