



President's Report

Abbas El Gamal

BoG Meeting, Honolulu

June 29, 2014



IEEE Information Theory Society

$$C = W \log (1 + \dots)$$

Congratulations!

- **Dan Costello**: 2015 IEEE Leon Kirchmayer graduate teaching award
- **Sanjoy Mitter**: 2015 IEEE Sumner Award
- **Sergio Verdú**: National Academy of Science
- **Bin Yu**: National Academy of Science
- **Vince Poor**: Foreign Member, Royal Society
- **Joachim Hagenauer**: 2014 Science Prize of the German Information Technology Society

Congratulations to the ITSoc!

For winning the 2014 IEEE Educational Activities Board Society/
Council Professional Development Award with the citation:

***“for leadership in educating and mentoring the future generation
of the information theory community”***

This award was established by the IEEE EAB to recognize IEEE Societies or Councils for major contributions to the professional development of its members through the provision of outstanding products, services and support in the areas of lifelong learning, continuing education, and professional development.

- Thanks to Alon, Muriel, Aylin, Andrea, Gerhard, Joerg, Alex for writing the nomination

Thanks

- Committee chairs (**Michelle, Alon, Frank, Elza, Muriel, Bruce, Joerg, Matthieu, Deniz, Helmut, Osvaldo, Rob, Jeff**) for their service
- **Michelle** for attending June TAB meeting
- **Karin Sligar** for helping me/us out

To work on this year

- Exploring new strategic directions
 - Jeff's ad hoc committee
- Dealing with transactions size
 - Page charges/page limit + online supplements
 - More robust editorial board
- Dealing with declining membership:
 - Does it matter (some believe it doesn't)
 - If it does, should we do anything about it (BoG already approved differentiated fees for conferences, workshops, schools)
- Improving visibility into finances

To work on this year

- Exploring new strategic directions
 - Jeff's ad hoc committee – **Final report to be presented by Muriel**
- Dealing with transactions size
 - Page charges/page limit + online supplements – **Passed resolution to allow online supplement; Ad hoc committee formed to discuss implementation**
 - More robust editorial board
- Dealing with declining membership:
 - Does it matter (some believe it doesn't)
 - If it does, should we do anything about it (BoG already approved differentiated fees for conferences, workshops, schools) – **Alon to present steps we are taking to deal with membership decline**
- Improving visibility into finances – **June TAB meeting information**

Formula for distributing funds to society from IEEE

Society income = 0.3 IEEEExplore income $[\alpha$ (# of hits of IT papers / # of hits of all papers) + (1- α) (# of pages of IT pubs / # of pages all pubs)] + Society dues collected

– α is not known!

- Does not include funds coming directly to society (e.g., workshop income)

Financial transparency

At the June 2014 meeting of the IEEE Technical Activities Board, the following motion was approved.

Recognizing that there are efforts underway for long-term financial transparency solutions, in the interim, TAB requests that IEEE Executive Director provide within 90 days a “pro-forma” (manually-produced, if necessary) Society/Council financial report for each of their product lines that details:

- Gross Revenues (incl. details of the IEL distributions)
- Cost of Goods Sold (Direct and Indirect Costs of Production)
- Marketing and Sales costs
- General and Administrative expenses (incl. Corp. Overheads)
- Investments & Other

The pro-forma reports should be produced for every Society and Council, using 2014 budget data, and showing how current financial accounts are mapped.

With such initial reports, Societies/Councils can then discuss and fine-tune before investment is made in report automation.

Administrative support for society

- Officers (esp. president) responsibilities:
 - Too many menial tasks
 - Impossible to understand IEEE in short amount of time
 - Little bandwidth to think about important issues
- Recommend having a paid (part-time) admin who would also provide continuity
 - Same as we do for EiC, but more permanent
 - May be also take care of EiC stuff