

**IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting
Levering Hall, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, March 16, 2005**

Mehul Motani

Attendees: Daniel Costello, Anthony Ephremides, Dave Forney, Marc Fossorier, Andrea Goldsmith, Johannes Huber, Ryuji Kohno, Steven W. McLaughlin, Muriel Médard, Mehul Motani, David L. Neuhoff, Vincent Poor, Gadiel Seroussi, Shlomo Shamai, Joseph A. O'Sullivan, Venugopal V. Veeravalli, Kenneth Zeger.

The meeting was called to order at 18:15 by Society President Steven W. McLaughlin. The members of the Board were welcomed and introduced themselves.

1. The agenda was approved and distributed.
2. The action items from the previous Board meeting at ISITA in Parma, Italy on October 11, 2004 were reviewed.

The Board reviewed the following action item regarding the open meeting on IT Society Publications that was held at ISIT 2004 in Chicago.

→**Action Item** The Board requested John Anderson to call for an open meeting on IT Society Publications at the next ISIT.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the previous meeting with minor amendments.

3. The President presented his report and miscellaneous announcements.

The President reported that he had convened a two-day planning meeting of IT Society officers in Metz, France.

It was noted that membership had dropped from approximately 6000 members in 2001 to approximately 3300 in 2005. Membership development will be a priority for the Society.

It was suggested that it was important to get younger members (e.g., students) involved. This is to be addressed by the formation of an ad-hoc student committee to get them involved in Society activities. This was discussed later as part of membership development.

The Board will consider a proposal on membership development at the next Board meeting.

It was reported that the position of Education officer was to be reinstated.

The relation of the Society to IEEE was discussed, specifically the ever changing revenue structure of our parent organization. This implied an evolving model for the Society.

The Society budget was discussed and it was reported that our largest source of income is non-member subscriptions such as libraries and IEL. It was mentioned that paper members (meaning those who elected to receive paper copies of the Transactions) cost the Society \$100 per member.

That the Society should increase its ties to other Societies and conferences was discussed. There was a discussion about how to get IT related conferences (such as Allerton and CISS) to work with us to put their papers online.

→**Action Item** The Board will consider a proposal on the maintenance of the Society's collection of the Transaction on DVD.

4. Marc Fossorier discussed matters related to Symposia and Workshops.

- (a) ISIT 2004, Chicago: The final report for ISIT 2004 was presented.
- (b) ITW 2004, San Antonio: Nothing to report.
- (c) ISIT 2005, Adelaide: It was reported that things are progressing smoothly. There were 775 papers received. The TPC has met and decided on the papers and sessions, with an acceptance rate of 65%.
- (d) ITW 2005, New Zealand: It was reported that things are progressing smoothly and that the workshop had received over 80 paper submissions.
- (e) ITW 2005, Japan: Nothing to report.
- (f) HISC 2005, Hawaii: Nothing to report.
- (g) ISIT 2006, Seattle: It was reported that things are progressing smoothly. The organizing committee had held a planning meeting. The program committee is finalized and the plenaries are being worked out.
- (h) ITW 2006, Uruguay: Gadiel Seroussi presented a proposal for an Information Theory Workshop in Punta del Este, Uruguay. He presented a comprehensive proposal.

The Board unanimously approved the proposal for the IT workshop in Uruguay.

- (i) ISIT 2007: It was reported that things are progressing smoothly. The conference services organization has been selected and the hotel selection is in progress.
- (j) ISIT 2008: There was discussion of a preliminary proposal for ISIT 2008 to be held in Toronto.

The Board will discuss the matter and make the decision at the next Board meeting in Adelaide in September 2005.

5. Muriel Médard presented the Treasurer's report.

The Society's net worth as of November 2004 was reviewed. The financial activities of the Society conferences and workshops was also reported.

The relative costs of paper and electronic members were discussed and the possibility of increasing the charges for paper members was put forth. There was some concern of loss of membership due to the increased charges.

It was noted that the cost of a paper member is \$100 and the current membership charges are \$30. After much discussion, there was a proposal to increase the paper member fees by \$45. The resulting fee structure is as follows: Electronic member - \$30, Paper member - \$75.

The Board unanimously approved this proposal.

6. The IT Transactions Editor-in-Chief gave an update on the Society Transactions.

He noted that the Transactions web submission system called Pareja had been migrated to the new IT Society web server.

The EIC reviewed the mail dates, page counts, and page budgets of the Transactions, noting that the annual volume was increasing with a projected 900 papers for the year 2005.

It was noted that 83 papers had been received for the Joint special issue of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory and the IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking on the topic of Networking and Information Theory.

The EIC requested more proposal for future special issues.

The EIC submitted three new associate editor appointments for Board approval:

- Eytan Modiano (MIT) for Communication Networks
- Tom Richardson (Flarion) for Coding Theory
- Madhu Sudan (MIT) for Coding Theory

The Board unanimously approved all three AE appointments.

7. Venu Veeravalli announced that the NSF Program Director position was open. He encouraged members of our community to apply so that IT is represented at NSF, which is critical for funding policies and programs.

→**Action Item** The Board requested Venu Veervalli and Steven McLaughlin to make a proposal regarding the NSF position at the next Board meeting.

8. The ArXiv study committee report was discussed. It was suggested that a demonstration of ArXiv should be held at the next ISIT to show users the ease of using ArXiv to upload their papers.

The Board backs the recommendations of the committee and encourages all members to post their pre-prints at the ArXiv server at www.arxiv.org.

9. The Awards committee report was presented.

It was reported that the winners (decided in an email vote in October 2004) of the 2004 IEEE Information Theory Society Paper Award are Ralf Koetter and Alexander Vardy for their paper, "Algebraic Soft-decision Decoding of Reed-Solomon Codes," which appeared in IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, vol. 49, no. 11, pp. 2809-2825, November 2003.

It was noted that the committee had received nominations for the 2005 Information Theory Best Paper award and the Joint ITSOC/COMSOC Paper award. Members of the IT community were encouraged to submit more nominations.

10. Membership development was then discussed.

→**Action Item** The Board requests a concrete proposal regarding membership development and will discuss it further at the next Board meeting.

The declining membership of the Society was noted as a serious concern and ideas were discussed for increasing participation in the Society.

The formation of an ad-hoc student committee was discussed as a way to get younger members involved in the Society. There was a proposal to establish such a committee chaired by Andrea Goldsmith.

The Board unanimously approved the proposal.

→**Action Item** The Board requested the ad-hoc committee to meet at the next ISIT.

11. Cooperation with SITA (Society of Information Theory and its Applications in Japan) was discussed. The Board encouraged and endorsed interaction with SITA and discussed the possibility of a MOU with SITA.
12. There was no new business.
13. It was announced that the second 2005 Board meeting will be held at ISIT on September 4, 2005 in Adelaide, Australia.
14. The meeting was adjourned at 22:20.