

IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting
Location: San Diego, CA

Date: February 2nd, 2020

Time: The meeting convened at 1:00 pm PST; the meeting adjourned at 6.45 pm PST

Meeting Chair: Aylin Yener

Minutes taken by: Lara Dolecek

Meeting Attendees:

Erik Agrell, Jeff Andrews, Matthieu Bloch, Suhas Diggavi (*), Alex Dimakis, Lara Dolecek, Stark Draper (*), Elza Erkip, Christina Fragouli (*), Andrea Goldsmith, Babak Hassibi (#,*), Syed Jafar (#), Sid Jaggi (*), Tara Javidi, Jeorg Kliewer (#), Vijay Kumar, Brian Kurkoski (*), Matt LaFleur (#), Olgica Milenkovic (*), Prakash Narayan, Alon Orlitsky (#), Henry Pfister (*), Vince Poor (*), Joachim Rosenthal, Parastoo Sadeghi, Anand Sarwate (#), Igal Sason, Daniela Tuninetti, Aaron Wagner, Aylin Yener, Wei Yu

Remote attendees are denoted by (*); non-voting attendees are denoted by (#).

Business conducted between meetings

The following votes were conducted by email between the Oct. 2019 Information Theory Society (ITSoc) Board of Governors (BoG) meetings and this meeting:

- (1) In December 2019, BoG approved the meeting minutes from the last meeting.
- (2) In January 2020, The N&A committee nominated Stark Draper as the chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. BoG voted and elected Stark Draper.

At 1:00 pm local time, ITSoc president Aylin Yener called the meeting to order.

Attendees introduced themselves. President Yener thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the agenda.

The motion passed.

President's Report – Aylin Yener

President Yener started by first thanking everyone for their service, welcoming new members, and congratulating members on their distinguished awards. She extended thanks first to Frank Kschischang, who served in multiple roles, including the positions of Senior Past President (SPP), Chair of the Constitutions and Bylaws Committee, and the Chair of the Nominations & Appointments Committee Chair. She extended special thanks to Frank for his major Bylaws effort last year and for stepping in for the position of the Junior Past President (JPP) in 2018. She

next thanked Emina Soljanin for her ongoing service, who has also served in multiple roles, including as the Society's President in 2019, the Chair of Shannon and Wyner award committees, X-officio on several others, and as the JPP in 2020. President Yener next thanked Elza Erkip for her ongoing service, which has included the position of the JPP in 2019, major efforts for the extensive bylaws revisions last year, a member and then the chair of the Nominations and Appointments committee, chair of the Diversity and Inclusion committee, and the Senior Past President in 2020. President Yener next thanked former BoG members: Sasha Barg, Andrew Barron, Steven Hanly, Michele Wigger, and Greg Wornell, for their service. She next thanked all the members of the following committees: Nominations and Appointments Committee: Gerhard Kramer; Conference Committee: Brian Kurkoski and Alfonso Martinez; Paper Awards Committee: Sae-Young Chung, Alex Dimakis, Negar Kiyavash, Khrishna Narayanan, Antonia Tulino, and Michele Wigger; Shannon Committee: Janos Korner and David Tse; Wyner Committee: Bruce Hajek and Muriel Medard; Massey Committee: Erdal Arikan, Tom Fuja (chair), and Tara Javidi; Cover Committee: Yossi Steinberg; Fellows Committee: Ning Cai and Max Costa.

Next, president Yener welcomed new BoG members: Erik Agrell (Region 8), Meir Feder (Region 8), Camilla Hollanti (Region 8), Sid Jaggi (Region 10), Alex Dimakis (re-elected), Tara Javidi (re-elected), and Joachim Rosenthal (Region 8). She also thanked many new volunteers on a number of committees. She reported that the current BoG composition is 11 female and 15 male members, and that there are 6 members from Region 8, and 3 members from Region 10, indicating significantly improved geographic diversity.

President Yener next stated that Stark Draper has been elected as the New Diversity and Inclusion Committee Chair, based on the nomination by the N&A committee and email BoG vote conducted in January 2020. She also extended special thanks to inaugural members of this committee since 2018, who were Elza Erkip (chair), Stark Draper, Sid Jaggi, Tara Javidi, Muriel Medard, and Emanuele Viterbo. Next, President Yener stated that Lara Dolecek and Aaron Wagner were reappointed based on the email BoG votes into their positions as the Society's Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

President Yener next went over the presidential appointments for 2020. Tara Javidi was appointed as the Women in Engineering (WiE) representative. Tara is a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UCSD, the Founding Co-Director Center for Machine Integrated Computing and Security at UCSD, and also an Elected Board Member ITSoc. Parisa Hassanzadeh was appointed as the Young Professionals (YP) Representative. Parisa is a Research Scientist at J.P. Morgan AI Research. She received her PhD in Electrical Engineering from NYU in 2019.

Next, President Yener congratulated the ITSoc members who were elected IEEE Fellows in Class of 2020. She also congratulated the following members for their technical field awards: Anders Lindquist, Alfred Hero III, Shu Lin, and Balaji Prabhakar.

President Yener next went over the status of new bylaws, stating that the changes were fully approved by the IEEE, and that they are available on-line. She re-iterated that the major bylaw

overhaul was done by Frank and Elza and that bylaws contain many answers to how the society operates.

She then went over the new avenues of dissemination and recognition. The society now has two flagship journals: Transactions on Information Theory and the Journal on Selected Areas of Information Theory, with the latter providing outreach to fields interfacing information theory. She also stated that the society also has two named lectureships at IT schools, Padovani and Goldsmith, the latter specifically designated for a female young researcher. The inaugural Goldsmith Lecturer is Ayfer Ozgur.

President Yener next stated that ITSoc membership certificates are newly available in 2020. They can be accessed by logging into Collaboratec with own IEEE info, and are then populated with the individual's name. She thanked Matt for facilitating this new operation.

Next, president Yener went over the open calls for awards and recognitions, stating the importance of recognizing colleagues for their outstanding work. She invited society and BoG members to think of one paper or person deserving of an award, invest and to pay it forward, in order to further increase the number of nominations and recognitions. Next, President Yener discussed how certain society volunteers have already done a lot for the community and that the service overload might end up exhausting volunteers. She suggested that it would be a good idea to keep a record of how many different roles one is serving in at the same time so as to better balance the load and influence. President Yener and Matt will work to streamline the record keeping of who is on what committee and in what volunteer positions.

President Yener next discussed the goals for 2020. She highlighted the key theme for the upcoming year: openness and engagement. The goals include better communication between society volunteer committees and operations, better process of informing and equipping volunteer selection, and improvement of membership numbers. She highlighted that being in the IT community means being an active member of the IT Society.

Next, President Yener talked about Inclusiveness and Transparency. She stated that her goals are to continue efforts on improved inclusiveness and transparency. She stated that a more diverse group of the volunteers and members the society has, the richer and broader set of new ideas and perspectives can arise. She said that in this context, the acronym IT stands for both Information Theory as well as Inclusion and Transparency. She concluded her presentation by welcoming the members to the new decade of IT.

Treasurer's Report – Aaron Wagner

Aaron Wagner in his capacity as the Society's Treasurer presented his report. He started by recapping the IEEE accounting practices. He reminded the board that there are fixed boundaries between fiscal years, and that the general operating funds and special funds are disjoint. He stated that the IEEE foundation covers separately the expenses for the Shannon movie and the Padovani Lectureship.

Next, Aaron went over the 2019 general funds. He presented the funds status as a conditional expectation, that increases with each reporting date. Expected budgeted surplus for 2019 is \$46k. The expected budgeted surplus for 2019 at time of ITA 2020 is \$453k. He stated that this amount is due to several factors. Notable sources of deviation include: IT Transactions revenue of \$232k, decrease in IT Transactions cost of \$43k, conference publications revenue increase of \$67k, ISIT 2019 in Paris surplus is up \$52k, and dues are up \$2.6k. Aaron clarified that IEEE runs seasonal promotions to reduce membership cost towards the end of the year so that the membership profit is not just simply the number of members times the membership fee.

Next, Aaron presented trends of the IT Transactions. He first presented the chart available at ISIT 2018 in Vail, when the numbers suggested a cause for concern.

President Aylin Yener explained that bumps in curves were due to switching to light editing and more complicated formula. Aaron stated that Open Access, clicks on articles, and institutional membership all contribute to an increase in the revenue.

Next, Aaron discussed the 2019 Special Projects. He went over the budget breakdown, \$120k is due to the 3% rule for the special projects and \$145k is due to the 50% rule for general funds, yielding the available total of \$265k. Aaron provided the list of 10 special projects and their leaders, along with the individual budgets. The total for the 10 special projects was \$264.5k.

Next, Aaron presented the status of the 2020 Special Projects. The total allowed is \$314k, of which \$89k is due to the 3% rule for the special projects and the remaining \$225k is due to the 50% for the general funds. Aaron presented a list of 10 special projects, their organizers and budgets, that are already approved by the officers or BoG. The sum total for these 10 projects is currently \$127k. Aaron encouraged members to submit other ideas as well, given the availability of funds which are subject to use it or lose it rules. He also reminded the members that the receipts must be submitted by December 15, 2020, and that members should also start thinking about the 2021 Special Projects.

Aaron then went over the 2020 General Funds. He stated that the expected surplus is \$243k, and that we should aim to meet this target. He also reminded of the situation we were in 2 years ago, and that while the budget looks much better now, we cautioned that this could be easy come, easy go money. His recommendation is to find ways of using our current surplus to strengthen the Society moving forward, and in particular to try to find ways to use the money to attract new society members.

Aaron next went over the status of the Padovani fund, stating how that Roberto Padovani generously donated \$110K over 5 years, and that the Society is permitted to spend \$10K/year of it on Schools. Moving forward, the payout may be adjusted to allow for spending in timely manner while being in accordance with existing rules.

Aaron then described what constitutes an IEEE New Initiative, and also discussed the financial impact of JSAIT on the society's budget. He stated that the projection is having 4 issues per year, with \$55k in expenses and the net deficit of \$1k.

Publications Committee: Transactions on Information Theory – Igal Sason

Next presentation was given by Igal Sason in his capacity as the Editor-in-Chief of the IT Transactions.

Igal first provided the overview of the editorial areas and the current number of associate editors per area as of Jan. 2020. He explained that the "At Large" category refers to editors who are typically asked to handle mathematical papers that are not explicitly assigned to a given technical area. He also stated that he and the Executive Editor Erdal Arikan exchange around 300 emails monthly in regards to the operations of the IT transactions. He also stated that the editorial load is about 1.4 new papers monthly plus revisions.

Next he went over considerations for selecting associate editors (AEs). He stated that it is expected that the prospective AEs have demonstrated academic excellence (e.g., being tenured if in academia), and that they demonstrated a high level of performance as reviewers. He stated that it is also the aim to improve diversity on the editorial board among different dimensions: by having editors from industry as well as academia (2 are now from industry); by improving gender diversity (11 out of 55 current editors are female); and by increasing geographic diversity.

Igal then went over the submission numbers. There were 1364 regular submissions from July 1st 2018 to December 31st 2019. He presented the chart organized by area. For example, for coding theory and techniques there were 12 editors and 350 submissions. He also presented statistics regarding the average monthly number of new paper assignments per AE area. AEs At Large have 2, creating the need to solicit an additional AE At Large. Coding Theory and Techniques area has the average of 1.8, also higher than the overall average of 1.4.

Igal then presented the time duration from submission to first decision, including mean and median. He stated that 55 weeks is the median time from submission to the electronic publication. The average time from the submission to the first decision is 27 weeks and it includes fast rejects which is 8-10% of the submissions.

Next, Igal overviewed the work done by the Editor-in-Chief (EiC) and by the Executive Editor (EE). He stated that the professional compatibility of the EE and EiC compatibility and close cooperation on a daily basis is very important for the functionality of the journal. He provided a list of various issues that are done in full coordination between the EE and EiC, including fast rejects, and resubmitted papers whose technical area is not apparent. Igal then stated that the work done separately by the EE is to assign new submissions to the AEs, communicate with the IEEE, and the Publications Committee. He also stated that the separate work by the EiC is to provide advice to AEs; take care of overdue reviews and overview AE decisions; handle appeals; read decision letters; edit tentative fast-rejection letters; edit each issue of the IEEE Transactions

on IT including table of contents; interact with IEEE administration, BoG, and Publications Committee.

Igal then presented the Executive editorial board which consists of the following members: Sasha Barg, Frank Kschischang, Amos Lapidoth, and Prakash Narayan. He then discussed the status of the Invited Papers. One invited cross-cutting article has already appeared as the leading article in the January 2020 issue; the paper is a survey on communication for generating correlation. Two more invited papers are in review one is on cyberphysical systems and one is on deep neural networks. Igal stated that the invited papers are subject to thorough reviews and are handled by Prakash Narayan as AE. Igal stated that Prakash invited these papers for submission when he served as the EiC, and he is now handling them as an AE.

Next, Igal discussed the impact factor of the journal. He noted that the Transactions are back in the Q1 category and that the impact factor improved significantly in 2018. He stated that it is important to cite papers by their Transactions appearance once it becomes available rather than cite the initial ArXiv paper, and to also cite the Transactions paper instead of its ISIT or ITW pre-cursors, when it is appropriate.

Igal also stated that in 2018 and 2019, the number of submissions was 923 and 966 papers, respectively. He also stated that the page budget for 2020 is 8100 pages. 1287 pages were used for the Jan. and Feb. 2020 issues (15.9 % of total budget). In addition to 12 regular issues, there is also an additional special issue dedicated to the memory of Vladimir I. Levenshtein, titled: From Deletion Correction to Graph Reconstruction. Guest EiC for this special issue is Olga Milenkovic, and there are 7 Guest Associate Editors.

A BoG member asked and Igal clarified that the Executive Editorial board consists of 3 former EiCs, and Amos, and that the board was selected by Igal.

BoG congratulated IT Transactions leadership for bringing down sub-to-pub time. There was a brief discussion on how to reduce this time frame further. Igal stated that he gets monthly reports and follows up with tardy reviewers. A BoG member suggested to reach out to other EiCs in related fields and get input on their own strategies.

Igal next stated that 9 AEs have terms that are ending in March 2020. He presented the list of proposed new AEs. Biographies of the candidates are available online. After a brief discussion regarding the list of candidates, the following 8 motions were made, while an additional motion was withdrawn after discussion.

Motion: to vote on the election of the following candidates for AEs: Amos Beimel, Thomas Courtade, Marco Dalai, Camilla Hollanti, Tobias Koch, Vincent Tan, Ramji Venkatanaram, and Marcelo Weinberger.

These motions passed.

EiC of the Journal on Selected Areas in IT -- Andrea Goldsmith

Next presentation was given by Andrea Goldsmith in her capacity as the EiC of the Journal on Selected Areas in IT.

Andrea first presented the executive summary of JSAIT, including the launch timeline, finalization of the senior editorial and industrial advisory board, number of issues per year, and the scope of the forthcoming issues. She went over the JSAIT leadership structure, editorial board membership, industrial advisory board, and the working list of possible topics for future issues. Topics for issues 1, 2, and 3 are fixed. There are several suggestions made and the board will select topics for the issues 4,5,6 based on this list. She reiterated that ideas on future special issues from the IT community are most welcome. Andrea thanked the steering committee who did a lot of work to successfully launch the journal. She said that JSAIT will follow a strict timeline of 5 months from paper deadline to final decision. She also stated that the website for the journal has already been launched.

Andrea next went over the details of the inaugural issue, which is titled “Deep Learning: Mathematical Foundations and Applications to Information Science.” Alex Dimakis is the lead guest editor, along with 4 other guest editors. Andrea thanked Alex and other editors for doing a great job with a large number of submissions; she in particular thanked Negar Kiyavash who stepped in to replace a non-responsive editor. Deadline for this issue was in October 2019, and the notifications will be sent in March 2020.

Andrea then discussed the status of the second special issue. This issue will be on Quantum Information Science. The deadline for submission is extended to February 15, 2020. Lead guest editors for this journal are Emina Soljanin and Andreas Winter. There are 5 additional guest editors. It is expected that many papers will be submitted to this timely topic.

Next, Andrea went over the status of the third special issues. This issue will be on Statistical Inference and Estimation. The lead guest editor is Devavrat Shah and there are 6 additional guest editors. Paper submission is in May 2020. Expected publication date in November/December 2020.

Next, Andrea went over possible colors and styles for JSAIT, and asked that the members provide her with feedback regarding the cover appearance.

Andrea concluded her presentation by stating that launch was successful, that 3 special issues will appear in 2020, which may end up being published in 4 volumes; that the guest editorial teams are working great; and that have been no major issues yet. She requested from the BoG members to send her suggestions on future topics and to advertise CFPs.

A BoG member asked and Andrea clarified that there is no hard limit on the acceptance rate, rather the goal is to accommodate all high quality papers. She also clarified that the page limit is 15, with first 10 printed free of charge, and that supplementary material may be uploaded for free on ieeexplore as a separate pdf.

After a short break, the meeting resumed.

Constitution and bylaws committee – Elza Erkip

Next presentation was given by Elza Erkip on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Members of the committee are SPP Elza Erkip and JPP Emina Soljanin. Elza stated that the bylaws were extensively revised in 2019. She thanked Frank Kschischang for leading this effort. She stated that the changes this year are relatively minor, and she encouraged IT members to inform the committee if bylaws are ambiguous.

As SPP, Elza is also the Chair of the Publications Committee. In this capacity, she went over the oversight of the IT Society publications. She stated that JSAIT and Magazine have Steering Committees. As a discussion item for the board members, she asked if there should be a steering committee for IT Transactions as done for JSAIT and Magazine.

Some BoG member expressed opposition to this idea, stating that there doesn't appear to be a need for it. Other BoG members supported the idea stating the current role of the executive committee moving forward is not clear.

IT Magazine – Elza Erkip

Elza was the presenter of the next item of the agenda, which was on the status of the new IT Magazine. Elza went over the presentation for the TAB Periodicals Committee. The presentation included the status of the magazine title; launch timeline of March 2021; target of 4 issues per year and an annual increase in the number of pages; scope of the publication; need for it that was passed on the polled survey; overlap and complementarities with peer publications; examples of paper sources; roles and responsibilities of the magazine oversight committee, steering committee, EiC, senior editors, and area editors. Financials indicated that the deficit of 50k\$ will decrease over time, and that IEEE magazines typically lose money but are member benefit and to enlarge pool of members and to promote the field.

Elza then went over the Steering Committee, which consists of Dan Costello, Elza Erkip, Christina Fragouli (chair), Ubli Mitra, and Wojtek Szpankowski. She next went over the timeline stating that in November 2019, "IEEE BITS: The Information Theory Magazine," as the name of the magazine was approved by PSPB. She also stated that Phase I submission discussed by the Periodicals Committee at the Technical Activities Board was rejected in November 2019, but that the committee will consider Phase I and II jointly in February 2020. She stated that in January 2020, budget was approved by the Finance Committee and that Phase II was submitted.

Elza clarified that Phase I was likely rejected due to some minor issues and the presentation not being clear in the ppt format. She stated that she will present in person at the next meeting.

The following motion was issued:

Motion: to approve the budget for the magazine.

The motion passed.

The next motion was then issued:

Motion: to approve Phase II proposal.

The motion passed.

The last motion was the following:

Motion: Approve Open Call for EiC (once Phase II proposal is approved by the IEEE)

The motion passed.

Online committee – Brian Kurkoski

Next presentation was given by Brian Kurkoski on behalf of the Online Committee.

Brian went over the current status, and motivated the need to move from Plone to Drupal since expenses are rising and there are problems with the webpage. He informationally presented dollar amounts, and will be making a budget request to BoG in June to support this transition.

Nominations and Appointments Committee – Elza Erkip

Next presentation was given by Elza Erkip on behalf of the Nominations and Appointments Committee. She first went over the committee scope and current members. She then stated committee's goals for this year: 1) to diversify society's committees and positions; 2) to enlarge the pool of volunteers; and 3) to start drafting best practices including how many committees to tap a person for.

She then went over the timeline positions on various committees were filled or being filled. Chair of the 2020 Diversity and Inclusion Committee is Stark Draper, and Emina Soljanin is a member (as JPP). Chair of the 2020 Shannon Award Committee is Aylin Yener (as society's president). Committee has 7 other members, several of whom are former award winners. Chair of the 2020 Wyner Award Committee is Aylin Yener (as society's president). Committee has 4 other members, two of whom are former award winners. The chair of the 2020 Cover Award Committee is Christina Fragouli. Committee has 4 other members. The chair of the 2020 IEEE Fellows Evaluation Committee is Antonia Tulino. Committee has 6 other members. Members of the committee are IEEE Fellows. The chair of the Massey Committee is Tara Javidi, and the committee has 4 more members.

Elza next stated that she is working on putting together the Paper Awards Committee, which needs 6 new members, and 2 need to be BoG members. A BoG member asked and Elza clarified that these committees are to be staffed early since awards deadlines are in spring.

Conference Committee – Vijay Kumar

Next presentation was given by Vijay Kumar as the Chair of the Conference Committee. Vijay started by thanking outgoing members Brian Kurkoski and Alfonso Martinez for their service. He next went over the 2020 committee, which consists of: Vijay Kumar, Emina Soljanin, Aylin Yener, Aaron Wagner, Salman Avestimehr, Chen Li, and Daniela Tuninetti.

He then went over the role of the liaison for ISIT 2020, and thanked Aylin for volunteering for this role. Next, Vijay went over the status of the upcoming ISIT conferences, which were as follows: 2020 Los Angeles – to provide an update in the meeting; 2021 Melbourne – to provide an update in the meeting; 2022 – Helsinki – to provide an update in the meeting; 2023 Taipei – nothing to report; 2024 New York (proposed) – brief presentation to follow.

ISIT 2020 update was provided by Giuseppe Caire. It was stated that the conference will be using CMS submission system, and that there were 771 submissions.

ISIT 2021 update was provided by Parastoo Sadeghi. It was stated that the contract between IEEE and ICSMA (Professional Organizer of the conference) has been executed, that the contract between IEEE and Melbourne Convention Centre will be signed shortly, and that the contract between IEEE and Melbourne Convention Bureau was reviewed and approved by the IT Society (Aylin). It was also state that the plan is to distribute first CFP at ITA 2020.

ISIT 2022 was provided by Camilla Hollanti. It was stated that the organizing committee is awaiting tenders from management companies and EDAs; that it is likely the committee will go with EDAS; and that the process of launching a webpage for ISIT 2022 and plans to discuss Plenary Speaker will be undertaken soon.

Vijay stated that the ISIT 2024 pre-proposal will be to made today. He then reviewed the status of the upcoming ITW events. 2020 ITW in Riva del Garda, Italy, will be presented shortly; 2021 ITW in Kanazawa, Japan, has nothing to report; and 2022 ITW in Goa, India, reported that a visit to check out potential sites is planned for March. 2022 ITW preproposal was approved, and is on track to become a full proposal.

More details were then provided regarding the status of ITW 2020. Co-chairs are Marco Dalai and Enrico Paolini; budget was approved by IEEE Finance; website is active and progressively updated – www.itw2020.it; contract between IEEE and Congress Center was signed; submission and review process will be done via EDAS. The workshop TPC membership status is : 71 invited; 33 accepted; 8 declined; 30 not yet responded, 6 plenary speakers are confirmed: Nina Balcan, Giuseppe Caire, Andreas Krause, Gabor Lugosi, Andrea Montanari, and Emina Soljanin; 5 invited sessions are confirmed: Gergely Neu (Machine Learning), Florent Krzakala (Stat Physics), Ryan Gabrys and Eitan Yaakobi (New Directions in Coding Theory), Yury Poliyanskiy and Giuseppe Durisi (Wireless), and David Tse (Blockchain); and 2 Sunday tutorials are confirmed: Eric Chitambar and Nati Srebro.

Next, Vijay presented items for discussion. He stated that a request was made for informal approval for Information-Theoretic Cryptography Conference, which was initiated and supported by Matthieu Bloch and Vinod Prabhakaran. He also stated that a request from Organizers of 17th

International workshop on Algebraic and Combinatorial Coding Theory (ACCT2020) for approval for having accepted manuscripts appear in IEEE Xplore.

ISIT 2024 – Joerg Klierer

After Vijay, Joerg presented a proposal for ISIT 2024 in New York, prepared by him and Anand Sarwate. He motivated the choice for New York as being a major tourist destination, having a strong IT sector, and being easily accessible. He then went over the organizing committee.

Next, Joerg presented hotel options. The first option presented was Sheraton Times Square, the second option was Hilton Midtown, and the third option was Kimmel Center at NYU. Joerg next compared the options in terms of the projected budget surplus, reminding that the numbers are still preliminary. He also presented pros and cons of Sheraton and Hilton.

He then presented a list of questions requesting feedback from BoG: Should they continue working on the New York proposal? What is the venue preference ? Is there a surplus issue ? Can BoG assist in getting potential sponsors ? Is there any feedback from BoG?

A BoG member suggested Brooklyn Marriott. Anand clarified that they did contact them but hotel said they are too small to hold ISIT. Some BoG members suggested a combination of a hotel and a university campus for the conference. It was also stated that the proposed date of the 4th of July week is actually cheaper. Regarding the hotel occupancy, BoG members said that occupancy of 300 rooms would not be hard to meet. Regarding the surplus, it was also stated that the dollar amount is more important than the percentage. A BoG member suggested to the organizers to reach out to other IEEE conferences held in New York and get their input. It was also suggested that Brooklyn be considered instead of Manhattan.

Crypto conference – Matthieu Bloch

Matthieu then presented slides regarding a conference on information theoretic cryptography. The conference organizers seek to revive it and are looking for blessing from IT Society, without a formal binding, to increase interaction between crypto and information theory disciplines.

It was recognized by the BoG that engagement with the crypto community would be great, but that the proper mechanism needs to be established first; President Aylin Yener stated that the approval cannot be issued at this time since we need to consult with the IEEE first.

ISIT 2020 Los Angeles – Babak Hassibi

Next presentation was given by Babak Hassibi, on behalf of the ISIT 2020 organizing committee. Babak went over the venue details, program, including the list of plenary speakers, and the banquet details. It was stated that the awards luncheon will be held on Tuesday and the banquet will be on Wednesday at Universal Studios. Closing day will be Friday, it perhaps being half a day. Wednesday banquet ticket will also include a day pass to the Universal Studios theme park. Next, Babak went over the submission numbers of this and past conferences. It was recognized that the numbers of submissions are in decline. Babak clarified that instead of a fixed

percentage, TPC committee will use “technically correct and novel” standard in making paper acceptance decisions. He also clarified that the conference needs 650 attendees to break even. A BoG member commented that even as number of papers went down the attendance went up, at least for ISIT 2019 in Paris.

Movie Committee – Alon Orlitsky

Next presentation was given by Alon Orlitsky who provided an update on The Bit Player movie, on behalf of the Movie Committee, whose members are Christina Fragouli, Daniela Tunitteti, Alon Orlitsky.

Alon provided the website for the movie: thebitplayer.com. He also stated that the poster for the movie also had hidden phrases in it. Movie premiere was at the World Science Festival in New York on May 29, 2019, where the movie screening was followed by a panel. There were 267 people in attendance at the premiere despite heavy rain in New York that day. Alon stated that the movie was also shown at the World Congress of Science Journalists, held in July 2019 in Lausanne, Switzerland, and at movie festivals in Paris and in Netherlands. The movie received the Best in Show recognition at MIPCOM 2019. Another screening was held at the Computer History Museum in Cupertino, CA, and it was organized by Andrea Goldsmith. Another west coast screening was held in San Francisco and it was sponsored by Intel, at the cost of 25k – 30k\$. Alon also went over the list of other screenings. He then discussed festival status of the movie, and stated that they tried for major festivals but got only into minor festivals. Next, Alon discussed the distribution, for which the requests are made through the website. There are 40 requests and charge is 300-400\$ per screening, including an educational sciences series. For the international distribution company hired is called Off the Fence. Next, Alon stated that Nova and Netflix declined to show the movie, and that the potential alternatives include american public television, amazon prime, and educational channels. In terms of moving forward, Alon ask for feedback on replacing Ergot, compensation for Mark, putting movie on YouTube, and any other suggestions. Alon also clarified that the movie is doing okay, but not great. He said that they raised over 1M\$, of which a portion was spent so far, and that the rest can be use towards outreach and promotion. President Aylin Yener said she will work with Alon and the Board on how to proceed, and whether to try YouTube or something else.