IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting

Location: Aachen, Germany

Date: 25 June 2017

Time: The meeting convened at 12:50pm (GMT+2); the meeting adjourned at 5:11pm.

Meeting Chair: Rüdiger Urbanke

Minutes taken by: Stark Draper

Meeting Attendees: Jeff Andrews*, Alexander Barg, Andrew Barron, Matthieu Bloch, Helmut Bölcskei, Suhas Diggavi, Alex Dimakis, Stark Draper, Michelle Effros, Elza Erkip, Christina Fragouli, Stephen Hanly, Tara Javidi, Michael Langberg, Matt LaFleur#, Ubli Mitra, Pierre Moulin, Prakash Narayan, Krishna Narayanan, Alon Orlitsky, Vincent Poor, Anand Sarwate#, Emina Soljanin, Daniela Tuninetti, Rüdiger Urbanke, Emanuele Viterbo, Michelle Wigger, Aaron Wagner#, Greg Wornell, Aylin Yener, Wei Yu (Remote attendees denoted by *, non-voting attendees by #.)

Business conducted between meetings: Between the Feb. 2017 and Jun. 2017 Information Theory Society (ITSoc) Board of Governors (BoG) meetings, a number of items of business were conducted and voted upon by email. These included an election and the passing of a number of motions. These items and results are summarized below:

1. Gerhard Kramer was elected to the Nominations and Appointment Committee.
2. **Motion**: "The BoG is requested to consider a motion to approve the following appointment to the Editorial Board of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory: Max Costa, Shannon Theory." The motion was put forward by Transactions Editor-in-Chief Prakash Narayan and was passed by the BoG
3. **Motion**: "Nominate Ayer Ozgur to serve as co-chair of Student Outreach Subcommittee from Jan. 2017 — Dec. 2018." The motion was approved.
4. **Motion:** "To approve a new simplified procedure to handle approvals of technical co-sponsorships (TCS) for conference." In summary: For conferences that have been approved by the BoG for two consecutive years, the Conference Committee can independently authorize IT Society Technical Co-Sponsorship (TCS), provided that the Committee reaches consensus and that the conference has not undergone major changes. In all cases, TCS decisions revert to the BoG for review every 6 years. The motion passed.
5. **Motion:** "To approve an allocation of $45k USD to make three additional educational videos." This would be a continuation of an initiative to develop videos to explain network coding and space-time codes, with those first two videos nearing completion. The motion passed.
6. **Motion:** "Approve the necessary funds to buy around 800 copies of the new Shannon biography *A mind at play: How Claude Shannon invented the Information Age* (this is equal to the number of ISIT participants) to be distributed as gifts at ISIT in Aachen." The motion passed.
7. **Motion:** "Approve the ITSoc BoG minutes from the Feb. 2017 meeting." The motion passed.
8. **Motion:** "To support the 2017 Indian School with the amount requested ($12k USD)." The motion passed.

At 12:50pm local time, ITSoc president Rüdiger Urbanke called the meeting to order. He started by reviewing the agenda.

> **Motion:** A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was passed unanimously.

1) **President's Report:** Rüdiger presented the President's report. Rüdiger started by proposing a new approach to running ITSoc BoG meetings going forward, one that is being prototyped in this meeting. In order to free up time for discussion of forward-looking topics, which at this meeting would center on the proposals for a new journal and a new magazine, many issues were dealt with by email prior to the meeting. Thus, Rüdiger would try to move through the standard reports quickly, with an aim of finishing all within two hours. He requested the BoG to provide feedback on the success of the approach and for further suggestions. Rüdiger then discussed the new approach to distributing the T-IT table of contents via email with one objective being to increase click rate. He updated the BoG on the Shannon movie. While some graphics and historic shooting at Princeton to be done, the target is to have the movie completed by the end of 2017.

2) **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Daniela Tuninetti presented the treasurer's report. She focused on the 2018 budget, shortly due to the IEEE. The IEEE Board of Directors approved a target goal of 2.5% operational surplus (excluding new initiatives) for IEEE overall. As noted in previous meetings, ITSoc's challenge is that there has been a continuing decline in revenue from Transactions in the past few years (which the IEEE predicts will continue) and, in the same period, the BoG has aimed to reduce income from conferences. Therefore unless we can, e.g., increase the click-rate to increase the income coming from the Transactions, there will be a need to increase revenue from conferences. She presented two proposals to balance the budget in the near term: (i) reduce subsidies to schools and (ii) increase the conference surplus targets. In 2018 year we can further increase revenue by eliminating the subsidy provided to those that receive the printed version of the Transaction. It is not clear whether this subsidy can be eliminated even more quickly, but Daniela's proposal is to get there as soon as possible. A question was raised about the level of editing of the Transactions, which a couple years back was reduced to "moderate". There is no lower-level of editing, so no further savings are possible there.

   Motion: "Change the pricing of the paper copy of the Transition to be cost neutral as soon as possible." Daniela made the motion. Aylin Yener seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Daniela next discussed new initiatives. She suggested ITSoc continue into 2018 some of the new initiatives that started in 2017 as a continuation of the outreach activities for the 2016 Shannon Centennial in 2016. These could continue to be supported under the "3% rule" is needed. These might include (i) further educational videos, (ii) continued development of the children's book, and (iii) an additional subsidy to purchase copies of the Shannon biography that attendees will receive at ISIT. There was a discussion by the BoG on how schools might be reconfigured or augmented to be classified as new initiatives. For example, schools could include undergraduates and/or K-12 outreach, new aspects that would also provide the graduate students attending the opportunity to contribute to outreach.

   Motion: "Move for an additional $45k USD to be spent on video clips, $15k USD more for the speaker series, $20k USD for the children's book on information theory, $20k USD for K-12 and undergraduate outreach, all under the for 3% rule, pending IEEE approval." The motion passed unanimously.

3) **Online Committee:** Online Committee Chair Anand Sarwate quickly reviewed the current outreach activities by the Committee, received feedback from the BoG on how the various activities (the Shannon documentary, YouTube tutorials, the children's book) are promoted,

and discussed how the activities will be archived. He summarized current outreach via email lists, including distributing the table-of-contents of each month's Transactions.

4) **Pilot Video Project:** On behalf of Matthieu Bloch, Michelle Effros gave an update on the pilot video project. The two pilot videos are almost complete. One is on network coding, the other on space-time coding. Both videos were developed in partnership with Brit Cruise, an experienced developer of online educational videos. The target audience was high school students. There is a call out to the community for proposals to develop additional introductory videos. There is budgeting for three more videos. Proposals should be sent to Matthieu Bloch.

5) **Fellows Committee:** Fellows Committee Chair Helmut Bölcskei thanked the members of the Committee. There were 9 nominations this year. The outcome will be announced in November.

6) **Massey Award Committee:** Massey Committee Chair Helmut Bölcskei thanked the members of the Committee. The Committee considered all 8 nominations that were received since the inception of the award in 2015. Aaron Wagner was selected. The field was quite strong. Helmut noted that there was some confusion regarding the nomination deadline, the age cutoff, etc. Necessary clarifications will be made and posted.

7) **Membership Committee:** Membership Committee Chair Emina Soljanin told the BoG that this year's Padovani Lecturer, Prof. Amin Shokrollahi, was not able to get a visa to visit the US to deliver his lecture in person at the North American School of Information Theory (NASIT). Instead he had to deliver his lecture remotely. Regarding chapter activities, there are two new chapters, one in Italy that has been formed, and a second in Switzerland that has been approved. There is a need for more requests for Distinguished Lecturer (DL) tours. Such requests must come from chapters and there were only two requests this year. In an effort to increase the number of tours for DLs, the DLs have been invited to the Chapter's Lunch at ISIT 2017. Emina reviewed activities of the Outreach Subommittee at ITA2017 (including the panel discussions "You and your research") and (then upcoming) ISIT2017 activities including roundtables on a dozen important topics. The Outreach Subcommittee has also been looking into the effectiveness of the Mentoring Program, with a report forthcoming. The activities of the Student Subcommittee were also reviewed, including outreach efforts and meet-the-Shannnon-Lecturer lunch. Finally, Emina discussed the reorganization and consolidation of the Membership Committee that was initiated at the October 2016 BoG meeting.

8) **Nominations and Appointments Committees:** Nominations and Appointments (N&A) Committee Chair Michelle Effros first discussed the protocol the Committee follows that leads to the creation of the list of BoG nominees. At least 12 candidates from the N&A Committee (for which no voting needed), individual BoG members can also nominate (these require the support of at least five BoG members), and non-BoG ITSoc members may nominate. Each year six new BoG members are elected in the fall along with one from each under-represented region. Michelle presented the list of 13 BoG candidates for 2018-2020. Aspects the Committee considers in the final determination of the list include: BoG members completing their first term, geographical representation, seasoned wisdom vs. new energy, demonstrated Society leadership, and diversity (broadly interpreted). She asked if there were any nominations at the meeting, of which there were none.

9) **Constitution and Bylaws Committee:** Michelle Effros chairs this Committee as part of her duties as Second Past President. Michelle described to the BoG how there are a number of confusing sections in the Constitution and Bylaws, and a number of internal inconsistencies.

This year Michelle is reviewing the documents to clean up these aspects. The BoG will receive updated text for the Bylaws prior to the October 2016 meeting.

10) **Nominations to Presidential chain:** Rüdiger next requested nominations to the presidential chain of offices. He first asked for nominations for the second vice president: (i) Emanuele Viterbo was nominated by Elza Erkip and seconded by Prakash Narayan; (ii) Helmut Bölcskei was nominated by Emina Soljanin and seconded by Pierre Moulin. Rüdiger next asked for nominations for the first vice president: Emina Soljanin was nominated by Alon Orlitsky and seconded by Christina Fragouli. Rüdiger then requested for nominations for president: Michelle Effros was nominated by Elza Erkip and seconded by Suhas Diggavi. The election will be conducted by email.

11) **Awards Committee:** Awards Committee Chair Elza Erkip discussed the Best Paper award. A report was distributed to the BoG a couple weeks prior to the meeting. She talked through the nominations for the best paper award and the process followed by the Committee. There was a discussion amongst the BoG of how better to identify candidate papers and to foster nominations.

   Motion: "To accept the report of the Awards Committee." This was moved by Rüdiger and seconded by Alexander Barg. The motion passed unanimously.

   Motion: "To award the paper per the recommendation of the Awards Committee." This was moved by Vincent Poor and seconded by Ubli Mitra. The motion passed unanimously.

12) **Schools Subcommittee:** Schools Subcommittee Chair Aylin Yener presented the proposal for the North American School of Information Theory (NASIT'19) to be held at Texas A&M University.

   Motion: "To support 2019 NASIT at Texas A&M in the amount of $20000 USD." The motion was approved.

13) **Publications Committee:** Publications Committee Chair and Transaction Editor-in-Chief (EiC) Prakash Narayan began by reminding the BoG of the new system of management of the Transactions. This includes an EiC and an Executive Editor (EE) both serving contemporary 18-month terms. Alexander Barg is the current EE. He next turned to the PRAC (Periodicals Review and Advisory Committee) report. This is an IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) review that every IEEE publication goes through each five years. The objective is to ensure timeliness and quality, compliance with IEEE policies and procedures, and financial help as well as to provide suggestions for improvements and thoughts on best practices. Main issues discussed in the report include submission-to-publication (sub-to-pub) times, reduction in click rates, and a technical concern about fast-reject. Prakash review for the BoG some statistics about the Transactions: roughly 1100 papers have been submitted each of the past few years, the average sub-to-pub time has been reduced from over 20 months in 2013 to 15.3 now, the average annual page count is about 7500 pages across roughly 500 articles. Prakash was asked about the impact factor of the Transactions and the effect of papers of particular significance. Prakash told the BoG that the impact factor can vary quite unpredictably, e.g., the impact factor was 1.7 the week prior to the ISIT then jumped to 2.5 the week of the BoG meeting. His strategy will be to stick to the basics and then to diversity and improvise judiciously.

Prakash told the BoG he had formed an ad-hoc group for self examination consisting of the current and past two EiCs, the EE, and the current Executive Editorial Board. The goals of the Ad-Hoc Group were to figure out how to make the Transactions appeal to a broader

community, reduce sub-to-pub times, and how to improve impact factor and click rates on IEEEXplore. The Group backed the following recent steps: (i) increase the number of associate editors (AEs) to 60, and (ii) try to accelerate inevitable decisions. Regarding the latter, Prakash discussed the process for fast rejection of out-of-scope or technically deficient submissions. For out-of-scope, fast rejection is handled by the EE. To reject based on technical deficiency the assigned AE discusses the article with the EiC and the EE; all three must concur on a decision to reject.

Prakash then discussed some new initiatives backed by the Ad-Hoc Group intended to enhance the appeal of the Transactions, and also to increase the impact factor and clicks on IEEEXplore. These can be categorized into "Quickies" that are already in motion and "Slowies" which will be initiated beginning in 2018. The quickies include distribution of each month's Transaction's table of contents via email, efforts by the authors and AEs to ensure that, in their list of references, all articles published in the Transactions cite published versions of background material rather than ArXiv versions. The slowies include publishing invited (and reviewed) cross-cutting articles in the Transactions that draw on ideas from information theory and emerging developments in complementary fields (including bioinformatics, machine learning cyber physical systems, theoretical computer science, physics). For these contributions the EiC will serve as AE. The intent is to have 3-4 articles per year where the co-authors have at least one "collective foot" planted firmly in ITSoc. To date three groups of authors have been invited.

Prakash then pointed the BoG (and the general ITSoc community) to information for reviewers posted by the former EiC Frank Kschischang (http://www.comm.utoronto.ca/trans-it/reviewer-info.shtml). To summarize one point, regarding whether to accept a request to review an article, Frank quotes the mathematician Paul Halmos: "Papers to be refereed don't improve by sitting for a few months at the bottom of the pile on your desk, and you don't save time and energy by postponing the day when you refuse the job." Thus, Frank suggests that when "deciding whether or not to accept a review request, a potential reviewer should take on the review only if it is something they have time for immediately." He again quotes Halmos: "Zero or infinity. Do the job now or do it never, and, in either case, say which, now."

In conclusion, Prakash reviewed AE retirements and presented the slate for new editors.

> **Motion:** "The BoG is requested to consider a motion to approve the EiC's list of appointments to the Editorial Board of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory." Seconded by Vince Poor. The slate was approved unanimously.

14) **New publications (background):** Starting at the 2016 ISIT BoG meeting, the possibility of starting new ITSoc publications has been discussed. The two possibilities considered were a magazine and a journal of special topics. At the October 2016 BoG meeting in Chicago a consensus formed to move forward by organizing an ad-hoc committee on the topic. The Committee is being co-chaired by Elza Erkip and Jeff Andrews.

15) **Proposal for a magazine:** Ad-hoc Committee Co-Chair Elza Erkip first reviewed the rationale for a Magazine. She started by putting the ITSoc Newsletter in some context. The Newsletter is only read by ITSoc members, it is not covered by search engines, articles that appear therein are not cited (and therefore do not lead to clicks on IEEEXplore). In contrast, an ITSoc Magazine would provide a venue for tutorial-style papers (covering both core information theory and new directions), would increase the visibility of the field of information theory, would increase clicks on IEEEXplore, and generally would increase the visibility of ITSoc. She reviewed the impact factors of various IEEE publications (and noted that the

numbers were as of the morning of the BoG meeting, recognizing that, as already noted by the EiC, impact factors can fluctuate quickly). Regarding traditional journals the impact factor of the Transactions is 2.7, that of the Transactions on Communications is 4, that of the Transactions on Wireless is 2.9, and that of the Transactions on Signal Processing is 4.3. Regarding the two IEEE special issue journals of related societies (Communications and Signal Processing), the Journal on Special Areas of Communications has an impact factor of 8.1 and the Journal of Special Topics in Signal Processing has an impact factor of 5.3. Turning to magazines, the impact factors are uniformly higher: the Communications Magazine has an impact factor of 10.4, the Wireless Magazine has an impact factor of 8.9, and the Signal Processing Magazine has an impact factor of 9.6. The deduction Elza made is that, judged solely on impact factor, a special-issue journal and/or a magazine could make sense.

Elza next focused in on the idea of a magazine, reviewing possible content. Possible content could include technical articles (aimed at a wide audience, discussing "hot" topics, providing historical perspective, and could be a mix of invited and contributed articles — reviewed in all cases), columns (such as those in the newsletter, including from the ITSoc President, from the EiC, the student column, puzzles, and also new columns, e.g., educational tips, book reviews, industrial perspective). Turning to the mechanics of technical articles, the current thinking is that certain issue would be focused on specific topics, though not necessarily all. (The Signal Processing Magazine follows such a mixed format.) For focus issues a team of guest editors would take lead, teams that are not necessarily core-ITSoc would be welcome (or invited), and there would be a combination of invited teams and those selected from an open call. In addition to the focus topics, the Shannon lecturer and ISIT/ITW plenary speakers would continue to be incited to contribute articles (as in the Newsletter) and there would be space for other invited or contributed articles. Regarding the logistics of publication, the magazine would be published quarterly (four per year), there would be (soft) page limits, and likely there would be a print as well as an electronic version. It appears that the general IEEE readership is more keen on having physical copies of magazines than Transactions or Journals. The editorial board would consist of an EiC and an Executive Editorial Board (EEB) of 2-3 members. There would be a team of senior editors appointed by the EiC in consultation with the EEB that would, e.g., select/invite guest editors and oversee the guest editor review process as well as the non-focus issues. Column editors would be appointed in the same manner.

A number of questions were raised by the Ad-Hoc Committee. The first of these is accessibility. Would the magazine be available on IEEEXplore, would the table-of-contents be pushed by email to ITSoc members (as has recently been started for the Transactions), would we link to the magazine from the ITSoc Website, could we make the current issue available to all on the ITSoc website? (Regarding the last point, the Signal Processing Society does this.) A second question raised would be the level of effort involved. A magazine is a larger effort than the Newsletter and would require a more active editorial board. For it to be successful a magazine would require significant participation from the ITSoc community and from the IEEE. Third is the question of financial impact. There are significant costs associated with production (and design, printing, delivery), but also revenue (from subscriptions, advertising, and via IEEEXplore). Projections related to magazine proposals from sister societies indicate (the expectation of) profitability in about 3 years.

Finally, Elza reviewed the process for establishing a new IEEE journal or magazine (a letter of intent, a phase I proposal, and a phase II proposal), and the recommendation of the Ad-Hoc Committee. The Committee's recommendation is that the BoG proceed with a letter of

intent. Elza indicated to the BoG that she had prepared a pair of motions to support the submission of a letter of intent, to support costs incurred by those involved in the proposal (e.g., travel costs to IEEE). In terms of timeline, if approved and no significant delays, the magazine could be launched in late 2018 or early 2019.

Motion: "ITSoc should submit a letter of intent for a magazine to IEEE."

Motion: "Authorize reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses for in-person presentations at the necessary TAB meetings."

The two motions were moved by Andrew Barron and seconded by Ubli Mitra. There was discussion and voting was delayed until after the discussion of the proposal on a journal on special topics. When the vote was conducted the motions passed: 21 votes were in favor and 1 was opposed.

Following Elza's presentation, there was an extended discussion amongst the BoG. Topics discussed included advertising, naming (to increase the scope of the magazine), and how to leverage the existing efforts and infrastructure of the Newsletter to provide a firm foundation for a new magazine. One worry raised was the potential of siphoning off of AE and community resources from the Transactions (in terms of both editorial effort and technical contributions). One response to this concern was that many ITSoc community members actively contributed to other societies' magazines and that this type of publication attracts a different sort of technical contribution when compared to publications in Transactions. Further, a magazine would have much broader visibility than does the Newsletter. There was a sense that articles need to be attracted to the magazine from outside the core information theory community if the magazine is to be successful.

16) **Proposal for a new journal on selected topics:** On behalf of Ad-hoc Committee Co-Chair Jeff Andrews (who was in attendance via telecom and created the presentation) Rüdiger Urbanke presented the Ad-Hoc Committee's report on a new special topics journal. Rüdiger started by noting that the information theory community has been very successful, so successful in fact that communications has become a commodity. He observed that NIPS (the Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems) was started by information theorist Ed Posner so ITSoc could have evolved to captured more of the work being done in important areas such as machine learning, as well as other related areas such as quantum information theory and cryptography. Thus, since communications is now somewhat commoditized, this is an important moment to look for opportunities to bring some of the developments in these related areas back to the information theory community. As one example, ITSoc members are already contributing heavily to the Journal of Special Areas in Communications (JSAC) and to Foundations and Trends (FnT) journals. Contributions to those publications don't bring direct benefits to the ITSoc community. The overriding hope is that a new special topics journal would bring some of those contributions back to our community, would help establish more and stronger connections to the machine learning and other related communities, and would raise the profile of the Transactions as a suitable venue for papers from those communities.

Rüdiger reviewed the goals of the special topics journal. On the technical side objectives are to broaden the use and appreciation of information theory in related fields, to expose the information theory community to new ideas and research directions, and to create venues for focused discussion of special topics. On the logistical front, a special topics journal would be a broad and welcoming venue for topics related to (but not core) information theory, the journal would have a low (and low variance) 9-12 month sub-to-pub time, and the

new journal could relieve some pressure on the Transactions. Financially, such a journal could provide a new and significant long term stream of revenue.

Some logistics were also reviewed. First, Rüdiger reviewed the approval process, which is the same as for the magazine discussed above. In contrast to the magazine, the special topics journal is envisioned as an electronic-only journal. It would publish about 4 to 6 special issues a year, and there would most likely be page limits. Rudiger reviewed preliminary financial projections as of year four. He discussed the proposed governance structure: an EiC and steering committee plus a set of 8-10 senior editors who would supervise the special issues. A few ideas on possible initial topics were presented.

> **Motion:** "ITSoc should submit a letter of intent for a special topics journal to IEEE," and

> **Motion:** "Authorize reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses for in-person presentations at the necessary TAB meetings."

> The two motions were moved by Vincent Poor and seconded by Ubli Mitra. Following discussion, the motions passed with 17 votes in favor, 7 abstentions, and 1 opposed.

Following Rüdiger's presentation an extended discussion took place. A initial question raised concerned technical papers submitted to the new journal that in current circumstances would rather have been submitted to the Transactions, and the impact on the latter. The Committee's hope is that, while certainly some papers would appear in the new journal that would have been submitted to the Transactions, many more papers would eventually be attracted to the new journal that would never have be submitted to the Transactions. The special topics issues would provide the kernel for additional follow-on submissions to the Transactions from outside the information theory community, and for initial involvement of non-ITSoc members with the ITSoc community, through the mechanism of guest editorship of the new journal.

Building on this last point followed a discussion of creating a new journal that could serve as a home to, e.g., NIPS or ICML (the International Conference on Machine Learning) papers that currently don't have a great venue for journal publication. In particular, our society might provide a good venue for a subset of learning theory papers that match our society's culture, perspective and tools. Further, it was felt that, in addition to attracting contribution in such research areas, this initiative will only be really successful if contributions are two-way; if we members of ITSoc can contribute aspects of our tools and culture to the problems and culture of those areas.   A question was then raised at how dire the situation really is, whether these proposals on new publications are too conservative, since they look a lot like what other societies are doing. In the past a proposal for a journal on "Information" had been floated, perhaps something like that would be a bold step.

Other points of discussion raised in the BoG discussion included the following. First was a concern whether the consistently high quality of the Transactions could be maintained in a new journal. Second was discussion of the formal relationship between the Transactions (especially special issues of the Transactions) and the new journal, and how article submitted to one that do not quite fit or can't be accommodated could be routed to the other. The fact that the editorial board will be separate might pose a bit of a challenge here. A third point was an opportunity provided by special topics journals, namely the opportunity to write review articles (of the focus area of the issue), a type of article not common in the Transactions. A final point of discussion was whether staffing the editorial board of a new journal would increase the already existing challenge in attracting AEs to the Transactions.

Rüdiger summarized the discussion by stating that while the BoG appears generally to be in support of both measures, perhaps don't know yet if there is sufficient person power to support the establishment of two new journals at the same time. The tactical question thereby raised is whether the BoG should move forward with two letters of intent at this point or only one. In order to determine which new publication had more support, the thought was posited that an editorial board (or boards) should first be organized. While that is logical, on the other hand, it will likely be easier to identify people willing to commit to editorial roles once the BoG makes a firm commitment. At this point the BoG returned to the two sets of motions presented above.

17) **ArXiv, new ee.IT listing:** Madhu Sudan presented a discussion of how the information theory section of ArXiv can be searched. Currently information theory postings are listed on both "cs.IT" and "math.IT". That said, a new "ee" (electrical engineering) section is shortly to be added to the ArXiv, making an "ee.IT" listing possible. Madhu first asked the BoG whether the BoG would like information theory posting to be listed in EE.IT. Next, assuming the response to an EE.IT listing was positive, how did the BoG want information theory posting to be cross-listed ("overlays" in ArXiv terms) if it won't be allowed to be listed in all three categories. Madhu told the BoG that currently it is rare to have even two overlays (as IT currently has), so there may be pushback from the committee that oversees the ArXiv to add a third. The BoG was polled and all members wanted ee.IT to be included. The BoG further expressed a generally strong preference (if having three overlays is not allowed) to keep cs.IT over math.IT if only one overlay is allowed.

18) **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:11 local time.