

IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors meeting minutes

Hawaii Convention Center, Honolulu, HI, 06.29.2014, 1:10-6:20 PM

Edmund Yeh

Present: Abbas El Gamal, Sergio Verdu, Vijay Kumar, Nick Laneman, Alex Vardy, Matthieu Bloch, Joerg Kliewer, Alon Orlitsky, Rudiger Urbanke, Aylin Yener, Emina Soljanin, Michelle Effros, Urbashi Mitra, Emanuele Viterbo, Ram Zamir, Patrick Mitran, Andrew Barron, Muriel Medard, Gerhard Kramer, Frank Kschischang, Elza Erkip, Jossy Sayir, Vitaly Skachek, Edmund Yeh, Stephan ten Brink (via Skype).

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM by Information Theory Society (ITSoc) President, Abbas El Gamal, who welcomed the Board of Governors (BoG).

1. Abbas presented the President's Report. Abbas congratulated IT members who recently received major awards: Dan Costello (2015 IEEE Leon Kirchmayer graduate teaching award), Sanjoy Mitter (2015 IEEE Sumner Award), Sergio Verdu (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).

Abbas congratulated the IT Society itself for winning the 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. Abbas thanked Alon, Muriel, Aylin, Andrea, Gerhard, Joerg, Alex for writing the nomination.

Abbas offered thanks to committee chairs (Michelle, Alon, Frank, Elza, Muriel, Bruce, Joerg, Matthieu, Deniz, Helmut, Osvaldo, Rob, Jeff) for their service, to Michelle for attending the June TAB meeting, and to Karin Sligar for offering administrative support to the Society.

Abbas then reviewed the main work items for the BoG for 2014. The final report for the committee on new directions led by Jeff Andrews will be presented by Muriel Medard. To manage the increasing size of the Transactions, the BoG has passed a motion to allow for peer-reviewed online-only supplementary material to be posted together on Xplore with each IT Transactions paper. An ad hoc committee chaired by Frank has been formed to determine the implementation details. With regards to declining Society membership, the BoG has already approved differentiated fees for conferences, workshops, and schools (in favor of Society members). Alon will present additional steps we are taking to address the membership decline.

Efforts have been undertaken to improve visibility into IEEE finances. A major concern is that the formula for distributing funds to the Society from IEEE has an undisclosed parameter. At the June 2014 meeting of the IEEE Technical Activities Board, a motion was approved which requests that the IEEE Executive Director provide within 90 days a "pro-forma" Society/Council financial report for each of their product lines. The pro-forma reports should be produced for every Society and Council, using 2014 budget data, and showing how current financial accounts are mapped.

Abbas then addressed the issue of administrative support for the Society. Currently, the Society officers (especially the President) undertake too many menial tasks, have a steep learning curve with respect to IEEE, and lack the time to think about important issues. It is proposed that the Society hire a part-time

administrator who would serve a role similar to that of the current administrator for the EiC, and who could provide administrative continuity.

A discussion followed on the topic of administrative support. It was noted that the location of the administrator is not too important. The hiring process would consist of placing an ad in an appropriate venue, and then informing IEEE. It was noted that since the nature of the work associated with the position is bursty, perhaps the position can be combined with that of the assistant to the EiC. It was pointed out that the person hired should be able to read financial statements properly. One question raised is whether the hired person should be an IEEE person or an outside contractor.

2. Aylin Yener presented the Treasurer's Report. Aylin began by discussing the 2013 initiatives. She recalled that given the very large surplus from 2012, we had \$70k-\$100k that we could spend on initiatives in 2013 with the 50% rule. Initiatives requiring less than \$50k do not require IEEE approval. Three initiatives (Student Committee, WITHITS, and Online Committee) were approved for 2013 and were implemented successfully.

The Student Committee and WITHITS initiatives ended up being in line with what we budgeted. A \$2k additional invoice for the WITHITS initiative is charged to the 2014 budget since the invoice is sent in 2014. The Online initiative went through "extensive" reviews at the IEEE, in spite of being under \$50k (albeit being quite close to the limit). Due to this, the company (Six Feet Up) did not get paid in 2013. By the time IEEE "approved" the expense, it was February, and we were told the books were closed for 2013, and that this \$50k would have to be put on the 2014 budget. After some negotiations with IEEE, the Society agreed to put this expense on the reserves. In May 2014, the TAB Fincom passed the resolution, "TAB FinCom agrees the Information Theory society can overspend its 2014 budget to cover the unpaid Six Feet Up invoices and agrees the society should not be penalized and placed on the Watch List."

Aylin concluded from this experience that there is no reason not to have initiatives if the money is there. In fact this appears to be the only way to meaningfully spend the surplus we make as a society. Furthermore, the reserves are not easy to tap into.

Aylin moved on to initiatives for 2014. For 2014, we have \$45k by the 50 percent rule. Aylin suggests that we pose the new schools as initiatives. If there is any new initiative idea, we must act quickly on it.

For 2014, support for various outreach activities total \$98k. The Student Subcommittee is budgeted for \$10k, Outreach and WITHITS \$3k each. Schools are given \$85k (NASIT, ESIT \$20k each, Australian \$15k, and India \$10k).

Aylin concluded that the Society finances are in good shape for 2014. We have \$60k surplus and "permission" to go in the red. We can afford some additional expenses such as the new administrative assistant and should encourage outreach as well as volunteer efforts and the Distinguished Lecturer program. Aylin mentioned that we need to encourage people to nominate Distinguished Lecturers.

For 2015, the budget looks reasonable. Membership and print fees will stay the same. Looking forward, IEEE financial transparency is being requested by the TAB (see President's report).

Finally, Frank mentioned that due to lower editorial costs made possible by moderate editing, we have \$65k less in Transactions costs.

3. Muriel Medard presented the Nominations and Appointments (N&A) Committee report. Muriel presented the slate of candidates for the BoG members election. The list includes Matthieu Bloch, Helmut

Bolcskei, Merouane Debbah, Albert Guillen i Fabregas, Dongning Guo, Stephen Hanly, Amir K. Khandani, Urbashi Mitra, Ralf Muller, H. Vincent Poor, Aylin Yener, and Wei Yu. BoG members will vote over email to approve (all or a subset of the candidates), not approve the slate of candidates, or to abstain.

Muriel proceeded to First and Second Vice President and President nominations. Ubli Mitra and Rudiger Urbanke were nominated for Second VP. An email vote will be taken where BoG members approve one of the two candidates for 2nd VP or abstain. Alon Orlitsky was nominated for First VP. Michelle Effros was nominated for President. An email vote will be taken where BoG members approve or disapprove these candidates or abstain.

4. Michelle Effros presented the Awards Committee Report, which was previously emailed to BoG members.

The Awards Committee members for the IT Society Paper Award are: Giuseppe Caire, Michelle Effros (ex-officio, chair), Tracey Ho, Mike Honig, Navin Kashyap, Young-Han Kim, Vijay Kumar, Alon Orlitsky (ex-officio), Stephan ten Brink, Andreas Winter.

Eight papers were nominated for the 2014 IT Society Paper Award. After four rounds of review, two finalists were selected. The Committee recommends the following paper for the IT Society Paper Award:

Dalai, M., "Lower Bounds on the Probability of Error for Classical and Classical- Quantum Channels," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, Volume 59, Issue 12, Dec. 2013. pp. 8027-8056.

Michelle also summarized recent activity for the 2014 ComSoc-ITSoc Joint Paper Award. The committee consisted of: Michelle Effros (chair), Giuseppe Caire, Costas Georgiadis, Vincent Lau, Aria Nosratinia, and Alon Orlitsky. The award was given to:

Gopalan, P., Huang, C., Simitci, H., Yekhanin, S., "On the Locality of Codeword Symbols," *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, Volume 58, No.11, pp. 6925 - 6934, November 2012.

Next, Michelle summarized activity for the 2014 Thomas M. Cover Dissertation Award. Sixteen nominations were received. The award was given to

Hassani, H., "Polarization and Spatial Coupling: Two Techniques to Boost Performance," Ph.D. Thesis, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland, Sep. 2013

For the 2014 Jack Keil Wolf ISIT Student Paper Award, ten nominations were received and five finalists have been chosen. The committee will select the winners at Thursday lunch (ISIT week), based on both the paper and ISIT presentation.

Motion: Vote to approve the Awards Committee Report. Motion was passed.

Motion: Vote to approve the awarding of the 2014 IT Society Paper Award to the recommended paper by M. Dalai. Motion was passed.

Discussion ensued on the number of recommended papers for the IT Society Paper Award that the Awards Committee should forward to the BoG. The current bylaws specify that the committee can forward up to three selected nominations to the BoG. It was noted that the BoG may in some instances lack the time needed for deciding among multiple nominations. On the other hand, it was also noted that the BoG should also not decline to make substantive decisions. In cases where the Awards Committee has difficulty deciding between multiple papers, outside expertise may be sought, as happened in this case.

5. Ram Zamir presented the Fellows Selection Committee report on behalf of Rob Calderbank. The committee members are Rob Calderbank (Chair), Helmut Boelcskei, Andrea Goldsmith, Tom Richardson, Emre Telatar, Raymond Yeung, Ram Zamir. The Committee provided IEEE with a rank ordering of the 8 candidates before the June 7 deadline. Rami described the procedures used by the Committee to arrive at the set of candidates. It was noted that only 4 of the 18 IT Society members elected to Fellow this year were nominated through the IT Society itself. A number of BoG members noted that perhaps the bar set for Fellow nomination in the IT Society is too high. Many accomplished researchers are not named Fellow until quite late in their careers. Members may feel that their chances are better with other societies. Rami noted that Rob is actively trying to improve the process.

6. Elza Erkip presented the Conference Committee Report. Elza presented a quick update on ISIT 2014. For ISIT 2015 in Hong Kong, Elza noted that the venue is expensive. We are expecting a 25% discount on the venue, which may lead to lower registration fees. The budget has three versions, the most likely of which leads to a 10% surplus.

In the discussion which ensued, it was pointed out that ISITs now have high registration fees. Given that IT Society has a mix of member backgrounds and support levels, the Society should try to keep conference fees in check. It was suggested that ITA provides a good model for conferences with low registration fees. It was also suggested that conferences should be held at universities if possible, with access to reasonably priced dorm accommodations. On the other hand, it was pointed out that conference fees are determined by the proposals which the Conference Committee receives, and recently the proposals have come from expensive locations.

Motion: To approve the budget for ISIT 2015 in Hong Kong. Motion was passed.

Elza moved on to ISIT 2016 to be held in Barcelona. The venue will be a university. The registration fee will be 600 euros. Around 900 people are expected. The budget surplus is expected to be greater than 10%.

Motion: To approve the budget for ISIT 2016 in Barcelona. Motion was passed.

Jossy Sayir presented a proposal to host ITW 2016 at Cambridge University, UK. Jossy pointed out that many UK universities have recently hired faculty in the information theory area, and it seems appropriate to bring ITW to the UK. The proposed venue for ITW 2016 is Robinson College, Cambridge University, which will also provide accommodations.

Motion: To approve Cambridge, UK, as the location for ITW 2016. Motion was passed.

Elza next moved to technical co-sponsorship for ITA 2015.

Motion: To approve technical co-sponsorship for ITA 2015. Motion was passed.

Elza discussed prospects for future ISITs (2018 and beyond). There is a potential proposal for ISIT 2018 from New York (Emina Soljanin, Alexei Ashikhmin). A third co-chair is needed. Other possible locations include Paris (Pablo Piantanida), Stockholm (Lars Rasmussen), and Melbourne (Emanuele Viterbo).

7. Alon Orlitsky presented the Membership Committee report. Alon first summarized the Student Subcommittee activities at ISIT 2013 (Meet the Shannon Awardee, Video competition results, discussion w. Ubli Mitra), ITA 2014 (Land your dream job), CISS 2014 (Roundtable research discussion), ISIT 2014 (Meet the Shannon Awardee), as well as the WITHITS activities (WITHITS lunches, videos).

Alon moved on to the Distinguished Lecturers (DL) program. There were two requests for Distinguished Lectures this year, similar to the past. We need more requests. Suggestions include making the DL program more noticeable on the IT Society website, request and advertise yearly travel schedule, and mail to chapter chairs.

Alon next discussed the Padovani Lecture. This year, the lectureship was awarded to Professor En-Hui Yang, a distinguished member of the IT Society who straddles academia and industry. Prof. Yang is FRSC, FCAE, Tier 1 Canada Chair. Based in Toronto, he has successfully started and sold two companies.

Alon next noted that the Chapter of the Year award has been given to the Israel Chapter. Discussion ensued on how the Society can create new IT chapters. We should try to enhance the role of chapters in the life of members. It was noted that in the past, certain chapters hosted talks every month where local industry was involved. It is suggested that the Society create incentives for the creation of new chapters. Currently, new chapters receive \$1000 from the Society to jump start activities. The Chapter of the Year further receives \$1000. It is suggested that chapter activities be funded at higher levels. It is also suggested that the DL program be coordinated with chapter activities.

Alon next mentioned that the IT Society has been nominated for the IEEE Professional Development Award. Although the Society is not the largest in IEEE, it has pioneered many innovative professional development activities such as IT Schools, the mentoring program, the Student Committee and WITHITS.

Alon moved on to discussing IT membership numbers, which have been declining recently. The wide availability of Xplore has decreased Society benefits and excitement level in the area is also down. Incentives such as differential registration charges and the mentoring program may help reverse membership decline. Other societies are trying new approaches such as webinars and courses. Alon gave figures for IT Society members who participated in the North American School and at ISIT. One suggested way to increase membership is to encourage students to join. Alon mentioned an effort to email other IEEE societies to encourage membership in the IT society. Next, Alon discussed IT society chapters. While there are some star chapters, a number of chapters are inactive, outdated, and not widely known. Matthieu is in the process of updating the website to highlight the chapters. New chapter formation is encouraged. Alon mentioned efforts around the world to boost chapter activity. Additional chapters at various locations are discussed. Success at building chapters involves online lectures, tutorials, mailing lists, requesting distinguished lecturers, country best paper awards, membership society coordination, and strong commitment for a few years.

8. Matthieu presented the Online Committee report. Matthieu first presented a brief report on financial aspects of the web initiative. In December 2013, the IEEE Project Request Procedure for our web initiative was stopped by the CIO of IEEE, effectively preventing us from paying Six Feet Up. IEEE has been very reluctant to provide explanations beyond what was included in the Online Committee report at ITA. All the invoices due to Six Feet Up have now been paid, and the IEEE Financial Committee that was held in May passed the motion described above in the Treasurer's report. The impact of the motion is not completely clear though, since overspending our 2014 budget could strictly speaking prevent us from creating new initiatives for 2015.

In a related discussion, questions were raised as to whether the web initiative is in line with IEEE objectives. It was suggested that since the initiative was developed in open source, it could be given to the IEEE.

Matthieu moved on to new features of the website which have been added. The website has been upgraded from Plone 3 to Plone 4. Every item on the website can now easily be shared on Facebook/Twitter/Google

+, etc. One can now upload videos into the website or embed videos hosted elsewhere. Looking ahead, the Online Committee will work on linking and advertising all the media resources using the new media features.

Matthieu continued on the topic of domain names and archiving of future ISITs. Presently, creating a website and managing the domain name (isitxxx.org) is the responsibility of conference organizers. While this does provide them with flexibility in terms of website design, interfacing with submission sites, etc., it makes it difficult to ensure archival over the years. The Online Committee recommends the following: moving from isitxxxx.org to isitxxxx.itsoc.org as the standard address for ISIT, and encouraging conference organizers to create a subwebsite within Plone for their conference.

Finally, Matthieu mentioned that Pareja is about to be discontinued. A complete backup has been performed and will be archived on DVDs.

9. Joerg Kliever presented the Outreach Subcommittee report. The committee is chaired by Joerg, and has Elza Erkip, Bobak Nazer, and Daniela Tuninetti as members. At ITA 2014, the Outreach Subcommittee organized a panel discussion “Landing Your Dream Job” with the Student Committee. The panel featured Bert Hochwald, Muriel Medard, Giuseppe Caire, and Joseph Soriaga. 75 students and postdocs attended. The Outreach Subcommittee will organize a panel discussion at ISIT 2014 on Tuesday evening titled “How to Survive Tenure-Track.” The panelists are Salman Avestimehr, Rober Calderbank, Natasha Devroye, and Pulkit Grover. This will be followed by the traditional ISIT mentoring get-together reception.

Joerg pointed out that the mentoring program is stable and doing well. Contacts are being established between the ITSoc mentoring program and the IEEE mentoring program (MentorCentre). Joerg presented recent experiences of mentors and mentees in the program.

10. Aylin Yener presented the School Subcommittee Report. The members of the School Subcommittee are Alex Dimakis, Stark Draper, Michael Gastpar, Gerhard Kramer, Young-Han Kim, and Aylin Yener (Chair). Aylin first previewed reports on past 2014 schools.

Patrick Mitran reviewed the North American School which took place June 18-21, 2014, in Toronto, Canada. Speakers included Robert Calderbank, Brendan Frey, Andrea Goldsmith, Alon Orlitsky, Henry Pfister, and En-hui Yang. Poster sessions were a highlight of the School. The School had 95 registered attendees, 6 lecturers, 3 industrial panelists, 5 organizing committee members, and 13 other faculty attendees. The School received \$20k from the IT Society, \$16k from the Fields Institute, and \$20k from the NSF. The School ended with a 17% budget surplus. New items at the School this year include inviting outside faculty (13) to increase social opportunities for networking and interaction, an academic/industrial panel, and a workshop on leadership and engineering.

Vitaly Skachek reviewed the European School which took place April 14-18, 2014, in Tallinn, Estonia. Speakers included Venkatesan Guruswami, Camilla Hollanti, Yuval Ishai, Yingbin Liang, Bobak Nazer, and Ruediger Urbanke. There were 70 participants from 16 countries, including 54 students and early stage researchers. Vitaly then summarized the School budget and expenses. The School received a \$20k grant from IT Society.

Navin Kashyap reviewed the The JTG / IEEE IT Society Summer School which took place June 16-19, 2014 at IIT Madras. Speakers included Pascal Vontobel and Sitabhra Sinha. The School took place over four days and featured two topics. There were 95 registered participants at the School. The School received a \$10k grant from IT Society. For 2015, the School is planned to be held at IISc Bangalore in June/July 2015. The tentative speakers are Yihong Wu and Gerhard Kramer. Navin also presented an estimated

Budget for the 2015 Indian School.

Gerhard Kramer presented the report on the 2015 European School of Information Theory, to be held in April 2015 in the Netherlands. The organizing committee consists of Jasper Goseling, Tanya Ignatenko, Jos Weber, and Frans Willems. The school location will be near the Amsterdam airport. The estimated budget is 45,000 euros for 60 student participants. The School seeks IT Society support of \$20k.

Motion: To approve funding at \$20k for the 2015 European School of Information Theory. Motion was passed.

Alon Orlitsky presented the report on the 2015 North American School of Information Theory, to be held at Warren College on the UCSD campus in late summer 2015. The organizing committee consists of Massimo Franceschetti, Tara Javidi, Young-Han Kim, Alon Orlitsky, Paul Siegel, and Alex Vardy. The School will take place over 3-3.5 days, with 5-6 speakers, 3 poster sessions, a possible panel discussion and about 100 student and 20 faculty/industry participants. One topic of focus will be 5G wireless. The estimated budget is \$50k. The School seeks IT Society support of \$20k.

Motion: To approve funding at \$20k for the 2015 North American School of Information Theory. Motion was passed.

11. Frank Kschischang presented the EiC report. Frank first thanked the outgoing Executive Editorial Board (EEB), consisting of G. David Forney, Jr., Prakash Narayan, H. Vincent Poor, and Shlomo Shamai (Shitz). Frank then welcomed the new EEB (as of July 1, 2014), consisting of Hans-Andrea Loeliger, David N. C. Tse, Alexander Vardy, and Gregory W. Wornell. Frank thanked the AEs who have retired since July 2013, and presented the current editorial board, which consists of 44 AEs. Some further expansion of the Editorial Board (to about 50) is planned. A listing of all past editors has been posted at <http://www.comm.utoronto.ca/trans-it>.

Frank presented data on the number of papers submitted to IT Transactions and the page count, both of which are projected to decrease slightly. The page budget is currently 8500 pages. The overall acceptance rate stands at 44.3%. The area with the highest rejection rate is cryptography (93% rejected). The rate of fast decision (submission to decision of fewer than 30 days) is 18.5%. The median time to first decision is 190 days, although some papers take more than 2 years to the first decision. With respect to AE discipline, the outliers are of concern, and more aggressive action (e.g. reassignment of papers) will be taken in some cases.

Frank mentioned that he plans to invite survey/tutorial papers. These papers will be written in an accessible yet rigorous style, with the aim of being a possible “first entry” for research in the area. Two invitations have already been made. Frank invites suggestions for suitable topics and/or authors.

In the discussion which ensued, it was noted that the perceived long turnaround time for IT Transactions appears to be a myth, given the median time of 190 days to first decision. Nevertheless, many have still expressed their experience of long review periods. It is suggested that deadlines be given for revisions.

12. Frank presented the report of the ad hoc Committee on Implementation of Transactions Supplements. The committee members are Helmut Bolcskei, Gerhard Kramer, Frank Kschischang, Alon Orlitsky, Alexander Vardy, Sergio Verdu. By an email vote conducted in mid-February, 2014, the Board of Governors passed the motion: “to allow for peer-reviewed online-only supplementary material to be posted together on Xplore with each IT Transactions paper.” An ad-hoc committee was formed in March to work out the details, including recommended page limit on papers, possible page charges above some page limit, as well

as all implementation details.

Frank noted that IEEE does currently support posting of supplementary material. The present interface appears aimed at supporting the posting of supplementary multimedia files. The supplementary material associated with a paper is available from the same IEEE Xplore page from which the paper can be downloaded. Current IEEE practice is to label supplementary material as “Multimedia;” we would need to work with IEEE to allow for a more general label such as “E-supplement.”

The supplement can be referred to in the paper in several ways: in the first-page footnote, as a footnote in the main body, or as a reference within a paragraph. It is also possible to include a hyperlink (to a digital object identifier or DOI, which then maps to a URL) directly in the text. IEEE will post the supplement on IEEE Xplore for free. Normally, authors take full responsibility for supplying the digital file; i.e., by default no processing by IEEE is performed on the supplementary material. In particular, this means that IEEE takes no responsibility for compatibility of posted material with future standards (e.g., updated versions of PDF). It is possible to have IEEE format the supplementary material. However, the production cost would be the same as to produce a paper.

The committee inquired with IEEE about cost savings achievable by going “all electronic,” eliminating printed copies. According to IEEE, If we were to eliminate print altogether, we would save about \$140K per year.

The committee considered the possibility of imposing overlength page charges in conjunction with the posting of electronic supplements. For example, imposing page charges when a paper exceeds 20, 18, or 16 pages might produce annual savings of about \$30K, \$50K, and \$75K, respectively, but would affect between 1/5 and 1/3 of all papers. The committee consensus is: imposing overlength page charges is, for many reasons, undesirable; imposing such charges is not justified by the potential cost-savings.

The committee recommends allowing for peer-reviewed online-only supplementary material to be posted on Xplore together with each IT Transactions paper, entirely at the authors’ discretion.

The committee further recommends that Transactions authors be made aware that electronic publication of peer-reviewed supplementary material is now possible by posting the following in the *Information for Authors*: “Posting, in electronic form on IEEE Xplore, of supplementary material (e.g., detailed mathematical proofs, additional tables, figures, data, multimedia, computer code, etc.) associated with an accepted paper is now possible. Such posting of electronic supplements will be considered solely at the request of the author(s), provided that all supplementary material is submitted for review simultaneously with the manuscript. Electronic supplements will undergo review along with the submitted paper. All supplementary material must be referred to in the paper. Authors bear full responsibility for formatting and production of the supplementary material in a suitable file format. Authors should note that electronic supplements may have a non-archival status. That is, the IEEE does not warrant that such files will remain compatible with future read-back software in perpetuity. All materials must follow copyright guidelines and may not include material previously copyrighted by another author, organization, or company.”

Frank reiterated that posting of supplementary material will be done solely at the request of the author(s). There is no intent that posting of supplementary material be made mandatory at the request of, say, a reviewer or an Associate Editor. The Editor-in-Chief will work the Transactions Editorial Board so that AEs are made aware that the option to post supplementary material exists, but also to provide clarity so that the purpose of this option is not misconstrued.

In the ensuing discussion, it was asked why anyone would use the supplementary material option. It was

suggested that long proofs and source code may be good reasons. It was pointed out that proofs should be treated differently from tables and figures. The nature of information theory research gives proofs a different status, and proofs should be included with the main text.

Motion: To accept the recommendations of the Committee on Implementation of Transactions Supplements, with a friendly amendment that the supplementary material shall exclude mathematical proofs. Motion was passed.

13. Muriel Medard presented the report of the Committee on New Directions. The committee members are Jeff Andrews (Chair), Alex Dimakis, Lara Dolecek, Michelle Effros, Olgica Milenkovic, Muriel Medard, Andrea Montanari, Sriram Vishwanath, Edmund Yeh. External contributors to the report include Saul Kato, Jon Sorenson, Soheil Feizi, Manolis Kellis, Ken Duffy, Stuart Licht, Haris Vikalo, Lav Varshney, Randall Berry.

After revisiting the definition of information theory, the report explores new potential directions for the development of information theory in terms of its interactions with other fields including communications, networks and networked systems, control theory, neuroscience, signal processing, statistics and machine learning, genomics and molecular biology, theoretical computer science, physics, economics and finance.

The committee suggests that a new journal could be a great venue for exploring the new directions outlined in the report.

It was asked whether the report can be published in the Transactions or in the Newsletter. It was suggested that further discussions on the committee report be held at the next BoG meeting.

14. Gerhard Kramer presented the proposal for creating the James L. Massey Teaching and Research Award for Young Scholars. The annual award is to recognize outstanding achievement in research and teaching in information theory by a young scholar who exemplifies the special quality of James L. Massey to integrate outstanding research with excellence in teaching. The award consists of a plaque and a \$1000 honorarium. The award is funded by the IEEE Information Theory Society. The nominee must be 40 years old or younger and a member of the Information Theory Society on January 1st of the year nominated.

The selection subcommittee is to be chaired by the Senior Past President and consisting of two other Society members selected by the Nominations and Appointments Committee, at least one of whom is a member of the Society Board of Governors. The judging will be based on the research and teaching contributions of the nominee. Contributions to research will be judged by the perceived impact of the nominee on the field of Information theory as evidenced by publications, patents, product development, research awards, and other tangible items. Contributions to teaching will be judged by evidence of new and innovative teaching methods, curriculum development with inclusion of current research, teaching/learning tools made available to students and faculty worldwide, textbook authorship, university teaching awards, and innovative short courses and tutorials in fields of interest to the Information Theory Society. The nominator should submit a nomination package that includes a description (maximum three pages) of the nominee's contributions, accomplishments, and impact on research and teaching in the field of Information Theory, a brief biography of the nominee, and a maximum of three letters of recommendation. In evaluating nominees, equal weight will be given to research and teaching accomplishments. The award will be given annually at the awards luncheon of the IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory.

Gerhard also presented the suggested bylaws text.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.