

## IEEE Information Theory Society (ITSoc) Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting

**Location:** Hybrid Meeting, where the in-person meeting was held in Atlanta, USA.

**Date:** December 1, 2023

**Time:** The meeting convened at 9:35 am and adjourned at 4:38 pm, local time.

**Meeting Chair:** Matthieu Bloch

**Minutes taken by:** Parastoo Sadeghi

**Meeting Attendees:** Matthieu Bloch, Martina Cardone#, Li Chen\*, Marco Dalai\*, Natasha Devroye\*, Suhas Diggavi#, Lara Dolecek\*, Stark Draper, Meir Feder\*, Christina Fragouli\*, Michael Gastpar\*, Brian Kurkoski\*, Michael Langberg\*, Urbashi Mitra#, Mikael Skoglund\*, Henry Pfister\*, Parastoo Sadeghi\*, Lalitha Sankar#, Anand Sarwate, Vincent Tan\*, Ashley Tufuga#, Daniela Tuninetti\*, Venu Veeravalli\*, Farhad Shirani#, Aaron Wagner, Osvaldo Simone\*, Shun Watanabe\*, Edmund Yeh, Wei Yu, Shao-Lun Huang##\* (Non-voting attendees are denoted by #. Remote attendees are denoted by \*).

**Business conducted between meetings:** Between BoG meetings of June 2023 and December 2023, the following business items were conducted and voted upon via email.

- In August 2023, the Board approved the minutes of the BoG meeting held on June 23, 2023.
- In August 2023, the Board elected Stark Draper as the 2024 President of the IEEE Information Theory Society.
- In August 2023, the Board elected Aaron Wagner as the 2024 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the IEEE Information Theory Society.
- In August 2022, the Board elected Meir Feder as the 2024 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the IEEE Information Theory Society.

At 9:35 am local time, the Chair, Matthieu Bloch, called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. The following motion was issued.

**Motion:** To approve the meeting agenda. The motion passed.

**1) President's Report:** The President, Matthieu Bloch, started his report by thanking members whose current term finishes at the end of 2023. He then thanked the Treasurer and the Secretary, as well as the past Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory and the EiC of BITS the Information Theory Magazine for their service. He also acknowledged all outgoing chairs and members of standing and ad-hoc committees, whose term finishes at the end of 2023. Next, Matthieu thanked ITSoc Officers: Stark Draper, Aaron Wagner, Christina Fragouli, and the Senior Past President, Wei Yu, whose term finishes at the end of 2023. He welcomed Meir Feder, who will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP in 2024.

Next, the President welcomed six newly elected members to the Board. He then congratulated Alexander Barg for receiving the 2024 Hamming Award, Andrea Goldsmith for receiving the 2024 James H. Mulligan Jr. Education Award and for being nominated to the IEEE TAB Hall of Honor, and David Tse for receiving the 2024 Leon K. Kirchmayer Graduate Teaching Award. Next, Matthieu congratulated five ITSoc members for being elevated to the grade of IEEE Fellow, the 2024 Padovani Lecturer, five new Distinguished Lectures, and the 2024 Goldsmith lecture.

Next, the President presented a snapshot of the Society's membership demographics. He pointed out that the largest number of Fellows is from Regions 1-6, while the largest

number of students is from Region 10, especially from India. Therefore, there is opportunity for growth of these cohorts in other regions.

The President reported that the Society's finances are strong and all new initiatives for 2024 have been approved by the IEEE. However, there is a need to increase the pace of spending for new initiatives.

Next, Matthieu flagged opportunities to engage with the IEEE, e.g., through the Systems Council and gain formal recognition for leading research in topics such as quantum. This could involve following a process to formally add new topics to the fields of interest of the Society, which involves gaining the support of other societies with overlapping interests.

The President provided updates about the last stages of the five-yearly review of the Society and noted that the review panel has accepted responses to all recommendations.

The President concluded his report by recalling the Society's strategic goals and a call to sustain and expand efforts to enhance diversity and inclusion, increase visibility of the Society's scientific contributions and expand services and benefits to the members. He then welcomed the 2024 President-Elect, Stark Draper, to address the Board.

- 2) President-Elect's Address:** Stark first thanked all members for their service to the Society and hoped to work more closely with all members in 2024. He then presented a snapshot of progress in various strategic areas and identified projects that need more attention. Stark emphasized the importance of taking steps to ensure the Society remains a nurturing place for generation of high-impact new ideas and contributions. Stark noted that this can be achieved via empowering ITSoc members in their scientific endeavors and advancement in their profession.

The President-Elect then posed some questions on how to improve strategies via making sound tactical decisions, investing the budget surplus as new initiatives, measuring success, and building better administration and governance processes to support members in their endeavors. Stark identified long-term strategic and finance planning, as well as investment in education as possible areas to focus on.

The President-Elect concluded his presentation with the hope to have fruitful collaborations with all members on the above matters.

- 3) Conference Committee:** Li Chen, the Chair of the Conference Committee, presented his report on the state of the Society's upcoming conferences and approvals of sole sponsorship or technical co-sponsorship (TCS) of the Society's conferences including the affiliated ones. He highlighted that the pilot ISIT Workshops initiative is going well. He then reported that the organization of ISIT 2025 is going ahead as planned. Next, he mentioned that the ISIT 2026 organizing committee has investigated alternative venues for holding the event and after carefully considering two options, the committee has chosen Guangzhou Yuexiu International Congress Centre (GYICC), which is a conference facility on the north bank of Guangzhou Pearl River. He reported that progress has been made on filling most roles in the ISIT 2026 organizing committee.

Next, Li stated that good progress has been made for organizing ITW 2024 in Shenzhen, China. He hoped that the plan to hold ITW 2026 in Phoenix, Arizona will partly address sparse ITWs in the US in recent years. Li updated the Board on approved TCS or sponsorship for CISS, ISITA and IT Schools. He concluded his report by thanking outgoing members of the Conference Committee and nominated two new members to replace them.

Next, Parastoo Sadeghi presented a proposal to hold ITW 2025 in Sydney, Australia. She provided a snapshot of the organizing committee, the proposed venue, logistics and the budget. She then answered questions in terms of budget surplus and travel support.

**Motion:** To approve the proposal for ITW 2025 in Sydney, Australia. The motion passed.

Next, Urbashi Mitra, one of the General Co-chairs of ISIT 2024, reported on the progress in the organization of the conference. She highlighted that the welcome reception would occur on Monday (instead of Sunday) at Starvos Niarchos Cultural Center. She described strategies for attracting local companies for sponsoring local members to attend ISIT 2024 and asked BoG members to help establish contacts with industry for pursuing potential sponsorships. She flagged the importance of diversifying participation in ISIT 2024 and its five workshops from wider geographic regions and other cognate technical societies. She discussed difficulties in terms of providing onsite childcare to participants due to legal and liability issues. In response, a member suggested providing childcare grants to individuals. Urbashi took this suggestion on notice.

Urbashi clarified that five out of eleven proposals were selected based on quality and merit and the intention has been to keep the footprint of the first ISIT Workshops series rather small. Finally, Urbashi highlighted the importance of more systematic ISIT-to-ISIT handover and information exchange in the future. The President clarified that the establishment of ISIT Steering Committee is aimed to address this issue.

- 4) **Digital Presence Committee:** Brian Kurkoski, the Chair of the Digital Presence Committee, reported that development of the Society's Event Platform is going well and offers consistent look and durable access across different editions of ITSoc events. He encouraged ISIT 2025 and other future event organizers to use this platform for hosting their websites. Next, Brian reported on the state of progress in new initiatives, such as Alumni in Industry, Sharing Teaching Resources and Volunteers' websites and encouraged all members to contribute content to these microsites. Brian also reported on the status of upgrades to the JSAIT website to facilitate promotion of special issues after transitioning to a volume-only publication model. He stated that the design parallels that of the BITS Magazine website. Brian concluded his report by providing a snapshot of achievements and projects that had been undertaken by the Digital Presence Committee in the past three years. He thanked all team members and contributors for their dedicated service.

The President thanked Brian for leading the Digital Presence Committee and other members for their service. He welcomed Christian Senger as the incoming Chair of the Committee in 2024. The president encouraged PhD students to get involved in various Digital Presence projects.

- 5) **Bylaws:** Wei Yu, the Chair of Bylaws Committee, provided a summary of the proposed changes to the Bylaws, which were communicated to the Board three weeks prior to the meeting. Wei recalled that changes to the Bylaws in Feb 2023 addressed perceived conflicts of interest (Col) in the Awards Committee membership. The new proposed changes aim to 1) codify BITS the Information Theory Magazine, 2) codify Joy Thomas Tutorial Paper Award, and 3) include clauses on confidentiality and conflict of interest in the Bylaws. He then recalled the rules and procedures governing the revision of the Bylaws.

Wei explained that the proposed changes to codify the BITS Magazine are identical to those for JSAIT with regards to the selection and term of service for members of the BITS Steering Committee, the Chair of the BITS Steering Committee, and the EiC of the Magazine. He clarified that whether the BITS EiC should be an ex-officio member of the Board is not yet settled and is left for potential future revisions of the Bylaws.

**Motion:** To add the following as Article V, Section 4. Subsection c) of the Bylaws:

*Subsection C) Magazine Steering Committee and Editor-in-Chief: The Magazine Steering Committee shall consist of four members, serving in staggered non-renewable four-year terms. Appointments to the Magazine Steering Committee shall be made by the Nominations and Appointments Committee in consultation with the current Magazine Steering Committee members with approval of the Board. The Chair of the Magazine Steering Committee shall be appointed by Magazine Steering Committee members and must have served for at least one year as a committee member prior to being appointed Chair. In the event that the Magazine Steering Committee is unable to select a Chair, the Chair shall be selected by the Publications Committee.*

*The term of office of the Magazine Editor-in-Chief shall be three years. At least six months prior to the end of a term of office, the Society shall issue an open call for a new Magazine Editor-in-Chief. The Magazine Editor-in-Chief shall be nominated by the Magazine Steering Committee and appointed by the Board. The outgoing Magazine Editor-in-Chief is not eligible for immediate re-appointment as Magazine Editor-in-Chief. Magazine Area Editors and Editors are appointed by the Magazine Editor-in-Chief, subject to the approval of the Magazine Steering Committee. In the event of a within-term vacancy in the position of Editor-in-Chief, an interim Editor-in-Chief shall be designated by the President from the present Magazine Area Editors, Editors, or past Editors-in-Chief. The Society shall issue an open call immediately and the selection of the new Editor-in-Chief shall be completed within three months.*

The motion passed.

Wei explained that the next proposed change is to assign to the Awards Committee the responsibility for the selection of the Joy Thomas Tutorial Award.

**Motion:** To revise Article V, Section 13 of the Bylaws as follows:

*The Committee shall be responsible for submitting a recommendation to the Board for the Information Theory Society Paper Award according to Article VII, Section 3. It is also responsible for selecting the recipient(s) of the Joy Thomas Tutorial Paper Award according to Article VII, Section 7, the Jack Keil Wolf ISIT Student Paper Award according to Article VII, Section 8, and for contributing members to serve on the IEEE Communication Society and Information Theory Society Joint Paper Award selection committee, according to Article VII, Section 6.*

The motion passed.

Wei explained that the next proposed change is to add BITS Magazine editors and area editors as potential members of the Awards Committee.

**Motion:** To revise Article V, Section 13 of the Bylaws as follows:

*At least two members shall have served as Editors, Area Editors, Associate Editors, or Senior Editors of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, the IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Information Theory, or the IEEE BITS the Information Theory Magazine within the past three years.*

The motion passed.

Wei presented the next proposed change, which brings forward the date for staffing of various award committees to December 31 of each calendar year. Wei explained that this

change is expected to make staffing of awards committees easier by assigning the responsibility to the N&A Committee of the previous calendar year.

**Motion:** To change the dates by which the following committees must be staffed to December 31 of the previous year in Article V of the Bylaws:

- *Section 9. Claude E. Shannon Award Committee*
- *Section 10. Aaron D Wyner Distinguished Service Award Committee*
- *Section 11. James L. Massey Research and Teaching Award for Young Scholars Committee*
- *Section 12. Thomas M. Cover Dissertation Award Committee*
- *Section 13. Paper Awards Committee*

The motion passed.

Next, Wei presented the proposed change to codify the Joy Thomas Tutorial Paper Award in the Bylaws. He clarified that monographs published outside of IEEE are not eligible to be nominated for the Award and to be eligible for this award, a paper must have been published in ITSoc publications. One member clarified the rationale is to encourage submissions to ITSoc publications, including the BITS Magazine. Wei then explained that the proposed language is silent on whether internal nominations from within the Awards Committee are allowed. It is noted that the IEEE guidelines do not allow nominations from within the award committees.

**Motion:** To add the following as Article V, Section 6 of the Bylaws:

*Section 6. Joy Thomas Tutorial Paper Award: The Joy Thomas Tutorial Paper Award shall be given annually for an outstanding tutorial or overview publication published in any of the Society's journals or magazines during the preceding five calendar years. The award serves to recognize publications that expose subjects in information theory to a broad audience and stimulate interest in and engagement with them. Articles are judged on the clarity of exposition and accessibility to a broad audience. The Award consists of an appropriately worded certificate(s) and an honorarium of \$1,000 for a paper with single author, or an honorarium of \$2,000 equally split among the authors of the paper. The selection is governed by Article V, Section 13.*

*The Society shall issue an open call for nominations for this award, with a nomination deadline on the 1st of October. Nominations shall be sent to the Paper Awards Committee Chair. Each nomination shall be accompanied by a statement outlining the rationale of the nomination.*

*Ordinarily, the award is presented at the IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory of the following year. The committee may choose not to give the award. Members of the Paper Awards Committee are not eligible to receive the award.*

The motion passed.

Next, Wei presented the proposed changes to the Paper Award rules. The main change is to codify in the Bylaws that normally in a given year, one paper will be selected for the Information Theory Society Paper Award, but in exceptional circumstances up to two may be chosen. Wei clarified that there has been precedence in awarding two papers and this change simply brings the Bylaws matching what has been practiced. The next proposed change modifies the voting procedures to exclude Board members with a Col. The next

proposed change makes the Bylaws conform to the practice of the Board, which votes to decide the recipient(s) of the Paper Award, instead of choosing the recipient by ballot.

**Motion:** To revise Article V, Section 3 of the Bylaws as follows:

*Section 3. Information Theory Society Paper Award: The Information Theory Society Paper Award shall be given annually for up to two outstanding publication(s) in the fields of interest to the Society appearing anywhere during the preceding four calendar years. Normally in a given year one paper will be selected, but in exceptional circumstances up to two may be chosen.*

*The Paper Awards Committee shall submit to the Board a report listing up to three selected nominations for the Information Theory Society Paper Award at least three weeks in advance of the first Board meeting following June 1st of the award year (the "designated Board meeting"), and shall enclose a rationale for each selected nomination. In order to put their recommendation(s) in appropriate context, the Paper Awards Committee is encouraged to discuss runner-up papers also.*

*By a majority vote at the designated Board meeting (excluding Board members having conflict of interest with nominated papers, who are also excused from subsequent voting), the Board shall either accept the Paper Awards Committee report or return it to the Paper Awards Committee for revision. If the Paper Awards Committee report is accepted, then the Board will vote to decide upon the recipient(s) of the award. If the Paper Awards Committee report is not accepted, then the Paper Awards Committee will prepare a revised report addressing the concerns raised by the Board. The revised report will be circulated to the Board by the President or designee within four weeks of the designated Board meeting, with voting instructions to decide upon the recipient(s) of the Information Theory Society Paper Award.*

The motion passed.

Next, Wei described the proposed change to the James Massey Award. The first change is aimed to make the language consistent with that of other awards. The other proposed change aims to put equal emphasis on the teaching and research portfolio provided by a nominee and requires that at least one recommendation letter emphasizes on the quality of teaching carried out by the nominee. The other two changes require a full CV to be submitted by the nominee and allows evidence of teaching excellence, other than teaching evaluation scores, to be provided by the nominee. During discussion, it was clarified that while the proposed change removes reference to the special qualities of James Massey, the James Massey Award website refers to his exceptional contributions to teaching and research.

**Motion:** To revise Article VII, Section 9 of the Bylaws as follows:

- *The James L. Massey Research and Teaching Award for Young Scholars shall be given annually to a young scholar who integrates outstanding research with excellence in teaching.*
- *Nomination must include descriptions of the nominee's contributions, accomplishments and impact on research (maximum two pages) and teaching (maximum two pages) in the field of Information Theory.*
- *Replace: "brief biography" by "full curriculum vitae"*
- *Replace: "A maximum of three letters of recommendation" by "A maximum of three letters of recommendation, at least one of which must emphasize teaching."*

- *Replace: “Teaching Evaluations” by “Teaching evaluations if available, or other similar evidence of excellence in teaching.”*

The motion passed.

Next, Wei described the proposed change to modify the language in an article in the Bylaws concerning the Chapter of the Year Award. The aim of the change is to clarify and to broaden the purpose of the award. Other minor changes are proposed to clarify what material and activities can be considered during the award selection process.

**Motion:** To revise Article VII, Section 5 of the Bylaws as follows:

*Section 5. Chapter of the Year Award: The purpose of the Chapter of the Year Award is to recognize annually a chapter that has provided their membership with an outstanding overall set of programs and activities or otherwise has helped advance the mission of the Society in its locale. This selection is governed by Article V, Section 7.*

*Any chapter is eligible. The activities directly reported to IEEE will be considered for the award. In addition, Chapter officers are encouraged to submit a summary of the chapter’s exemplary programs and activities in the past three years.*

*A prize of \$1,000 is awarded to support local chapter activities along with a certificate. Additionally, the winning chapter is encouraged to submit an article for publication in the Newsletter.*

*The basis for judging includes the submitted summaries, activity reports submitted by the chapters directly to IEEE, and the chapters’ websites. The committee may choose not to give the award. Ordinarily the winner is made public at the IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory of the year of the award.*

The motion passed.

Next, Wei presented the proposed change to codify Col issues for the selection of various named lecturers. The proposed change does not allow a member of the Membership Committee to be selected for a lectureship, because the named lecturers are selected by the Membership Committee. The Bylaws do not explicitly offer the possibility that a member may resign from the Committee (so that they can be nominated). This is because of each member of the Membership Committee has a designated roles outside of their lectureship selection responsibilities.

**Motion:** To add the following to Article VII. Section 10, Section 11, and Section 12 of the Bylaws:

- *Members of the Membership committee are not eligible to be selected as Distinguished Lecturers.*
- *Members of the Membership committee are not eligible to be selected as Padovani Lecturer.*
- *Members of the Membership committee are not eligible to be selected as Goldsmith Lecturer.*

The motion passed.

Wei explained that the last set of proposed changes concerned confidentiality and Col. One of these proposed changes clarifies that all committee discussions regarding nominations and appointments within committees are to remain confidential.

The second proposed change explicitly states that ITSoc will uphold the IEEE Col policies as codified in the IEEE Bylaws. It then further codifies eight possible situations that are considered to cause Col. Wei noted that the Society should aim to ensure important decisions are never the sole responsibilities of a single person, so that in case of Col, decisions may be delegated.

In follow-up discussions, Wei and other members clarified that transient postdocs are not automatically considered to fall under the definition of Col (unless they have joint publications with their supervisors). However, as postdoc durations are typically getting longer, this could potentially be revisited in future Bylaw revisions. In response to a question, Wei clarified that Col rules should also apply to Area Editors and Associate Editors appointments in ITSoc publications.

**Motion:** To revise Article VIII, Section 1 as follows:

*Section 1. The Society affirms the principle that sensitive committee discussions, in particular award committee discussions, committee discussions regarding nominations and appointments, and technical program committee discussions, are to be confined to within the committee and kept confidential by all committee members. In meetings of the various awards committees, nominations and appointments committees, and technical program committees of the Society, the Committee Chair shall remind committee members that all deliberations of the committee are to be confined to members of the committee only, and otherwise treated as confidential, with any "external" requests for information referred to the Chair.*

The motion passed.

**Motion:** To revise Article VIII, Section 2, as follows:

*Section 2. The IEEE Information Theory Society upholds the IEEE Conflict of Interest policy as stated in the IEEE Bylaws. A conflict of interest exists in (but is not limited to) situations in which a member participates in decisions, actions or votes that affect the professional, personal, financial, or business concerns of:*

- 1. a family member;*
- 2. a business or professional partner;*
- 3. a close personal friend;*
- 4. someone with whom the member has had a significant negative relationship;*
- 5. a former or current thesis advisor or thesis student;*
- 6. a collaborator on a project, a book, or an article either currently or completed within the last 48 months;*
- 7. a colleague in the same or a closely-related department at the same organization, or at an organization with whom the member has a consulting or advisory arrangement, or at a school where the member is currently enrolled as a student;*
- 8. a former colleague (within the last 12 months) at the member's previous organization, or a member of an organization where the member is currently being considered for employment.*

The motion passed.

- 6) **IEEE BITS Information Theory Magazine EiC report:** Suhas, the EiC of BITS The Information Theory Magazine provided a report about the three-year PRAC review of the Magazine, which involved submitting a detailed report to the review committee. Suhas reported that the review committee asked questions about strategies to increase representation from outside Regions 1-6, especially from Region 10. Another issue that was raised was systematic training of EiC and AEs. In response, it was clarified that smooth transitions have so far naturally occurred. However, the plan is to create best-practices documents to address this in the future. The next step of the review process includes preparing a response document to the PRAC recommendations.

Suhas reported that a mentor has been assigned for the Magazine and first contact has been established. Next, Suhas presented a snapshot of recent and upcoming regular and special issues for the Magazine. He stated that two upcoming special issues will be divided into two parts each, due to their expected high volume. This will also enable the Magazine to reach its target in term of number of issues per year.

Next, Suhas reported that the transition to Author Portal is underway, which allows customized design of the submission and review process. Another plan involves improving the publication pipeline, through inviting Shannon lecturers and past plenary speakers to submit articles. Another initiative is including puzzles, games and other special interest columns and to facilitate submission of multimedia from authors to further showcase their work.

During discussions, one attendee asked about inclusion of a column called Student Voice, which was welcomed by Suhas and taken on notice. In addition, it was noted that upcoming ISIT student competitions could advertise in the Magazine.

- 7) **IEEE Transactions on Information Theory EiC report:** Venu Veeravalli, the EiC of the Transactions provided updates on the status of the Transactions. He stated that the Transactions is running smoothly and the plan is to maintain and streamline the new initiatives that the previous EiC, Muriel Medard, had initiated. He has been working on updating the FAQs, the Information for Authors, and the Information for Editors pages of the Transactions to accurately reflect the new policies. In particular, procedures for handling appeals and immediate rejects have been streamlined to be consistent with IEEE guidelines. Venu expected that the approved Bylaws revisions concerning Col should help address dealing with potential Col issues between the editorial board, reviewers and authors.

There were also discussions on whether the Society should expect AEs to become members of ITSoc before accepting the role.

**At this point, the Board entered the executive session to discuss nominations and appointments. Upon exiting the executive session, the following motions were entered into the record.**

**Motion:** To appoint Parastoo Sadeghi as Secretary to the IEEE Information Theory Society Board for 2024. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Changho Suh as the IEEE Information Theory Society Treasurer for 2024. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Lalitha Vadlamani as Editor of the IEEE Information Theory Society Newsletter for 2024-26. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Stefano Rini as Chair of the Student and Outreach Activities Subcommittee for 2024-2025. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Mary Wooters as WITHITS liaison for 2024-2025. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Vijay Subramaniam as Area Editor for Networking and Computation for 2024-26. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Lizhong Zheng as Area Editor for Shannon Theory and Information Measures for 2024-26. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Anthony Leverrier as Associate Editor for 2024-26. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Eduard Jorswieck as Associate Editor for 2024-26. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Farzad Farnoud as Associate Editor for 2024-26. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Shao-Lun Huang as Associate Editor for 2024-26. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Wenyi Zhang as Associate Editor for 2024-26. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Ying Miao as Associate Editor for 2024-26. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Yu-Xiang Wang as Associate Editor for 2024-26. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Yuxin Chen as Associate Editor for 2024-26. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Urbashi Mitra to the Conference Committee from August 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Marco Dalai to the Conference Committee for 2024-26. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To extend the appointment of Henry Pfister to the Conference Committee until August 1, 2024. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Frank Kschischang as a member of the JSAIT Steering Committee for 2024-2027. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To appoint Vijay Kumar as a member of the BITS Steering Committee for 2024-2027. The motion passed.

**Motion:** To extend Raymond Yeung's term on the BITS Steering Committee to December 31, 2024. The motion passed.

- 8) Treasurer's Report:** Edmund, the ITSoc Treasurer, reported that the financial state of the Society has remained strong over the past few years. At the end of 2022, the Society reserves was roughly \$8.3M and the operational surplus was roughly \$645K (before factoring in IEEE investment losses). However, out of \$169K allocated for new initiatives in 2022, only \$27K were spent. Edmund noted that as of October 2023, the operational surplus of the Society is about \$444K. However, there is not much room to use this so late in the year. Out of \$195K set aside for new initiatives in 2023, only about \$27K has been spent. For 2024, the current budget forecast is about \$114K surplus, which is somewhat high. Edmund noted that there is not much room for reducing core budget items. However, conference surpluses can be better managed. The approved budget for new initiatives in 2024 is around \$300K, of which about \$148K has been approved by IEEE to come from 3% of reserves. Edmund encouraged members to propose new initiatives for 2025 as early as possible in 2024. Edmund concluded his report by thanking

all members for working with him as the Society Treasurer over the past 3 years. In return, the President thanked Edmund on behalf of the Society for his service.

- 9) Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee report:** Lalitha Sankar, the Chair of the D&I Committee, reported on the activities of the Committee at ISIT 2023, which featured a WITHIS Dinner and Date event, followed by a panel discussion about diversity and inclusion issues in academia in the Asia-Pacific. Lalitha reported that based on feedback received from participants, the panel discussions were well received. Next, Lalitha reported the statistics on travel grants to attend ISIT 2023. Another organized event at ISIT 2023 was launching Volunteers microsite, which featured presentations and introductions from committee chairs and the EiC of JSAIT about possible opportunities to volunteer for various roles.

Next, Lalitha reported on data gathering projects such as an ongoing project on compiling a comprehensive dataset about ITSoc TPC and reviewer demographics and practices.

Subsequent discussions addressed the opportunity to build processes to broaden access to volunteering opportunities and encourage strong nominations.

- 10) Student and Outreach (S&O) Subcommittee report:** Farhad Shirani, the Chair of the S&O Subcommittee, provided a report on the events that was organized by the Committee at ISIT 2023, including Meet the Shannon Lecturer and the mentoring event. The ISIT 2023 student competition involved performing ML tasks on a dataset and attracted 77 students.

Next, Farhad reported that the 2024 student competition is titled ISIT Bits and Bots, which involves detecting bot versus human mouse movements and website actions in a dataset containing about 1.5 million events. He welcomed help from the Board to promote the event and maximize student involvement through supporting the competition award. During discussions, it was suggested that companies may support a monetary award, which may further support and enhance the prestige and reputation of the competition.

- 11) Strategic Discussions:** Matthieu highlighted an upcoming proposal to the Board to establish an open-access IT Letters.

Next, the Middle East conflict was discussed at length. Matthieu encouraged members to privately reach out to affected colleagues and friends and offer messages of support. Different opinions were exchanged on whether the Society should issue formal and open statements after major geopolitical events. However, a resolution on this matter could not be reached.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm, local time.

Note: Some reports or minute items on external nominations, schools, ISIT Workshops initiative, WITHITS, awards, membership, sharing teaching resources, and the Society's Newsletter were provided for the Board to review, but were not presented at the meeting. They can be found [here](#).