Proposal for an Annual School on Information Theory

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Outline

- A Proposal

- Logistics

- Pros and Cons

- Reactions?

A (Great Idea of an) Existing Event

- The Winter School on Coding and Information Theory

- Proposal: make something like this an annually sponsored event of the student committee.

Logistics

- Ideally: double student committee budget from $10K/year to $20K/year.

  - With extra $10K, pay for travel costs of a few great instructors, production of notes available through the web.
  - With external funding (NSF, companies, etc): provide partial reimbursement for students to attend.

- Less ideally: use part of the surplus to fund this once fully, and see how it goes.

- Better than nothing: free and longer tutorials at ISIT.

Pros and Cons

+ Invaluable for students to have a chance to talk with others (peers/seniors) about their ongoing work, getting feedback that goes beyond what is available at home.

+ Helps promote our field and recruit new researchers. We are "the coolest society," or aren't we? :)

+ Highly successful tradition in Europe and South America (ttbomk).

- Costs money. Are the resources available? Where is the money better spent, in doing this or in making sure Csiszar&Körner is available online?

- The society "does not pay for conferences."

- Need to make sure there is appropriate geographic balance, cannot be a purely north-american event.

Reactions?

Disclaimer: I have sought informal feedback from a few others, but I have *not* contacted anyone with formal inquiries/requests. I felt it would only be appropriate to do so after hearing the reactions of this body. Feedback please.