

**IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting
Adelaide Convention Center, Adelaide, Australia, September 4, 2005**

Mehul Motani

Attendees: John Anderson, Alexei Ashikhmin, Ian Blake, Guiseppe Caire, Daniel Costello, Thomas Cover, Dave Forney, Marc Fossorier, Andrea Goldsmith, Alex Grant, Hideki Imai, Nihar Jindal, Rolf Johannesson, Aman Kansal, Young-Han Kim, Ralf Koetter, Ryuji Kohno, Gerhard Kramer, James Mammen, Steven W. McLaughlin, Muriel Médard, Urbashi Mitra, Mehul Motani, David L. Neuhoff, Ping Li, Vincent Poor, Bixio Rimoldi, Gadiel Seroussi, Shlomo Shamai, Joseph A. O'Sullivan, David Tse, Alexander Vardy, Han Vinck, Sriram Viswanath, Marcelo Weinberger, En-Hui Yang, Raymond Yeung, Øyvind Ytrehus.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 by Society President Steven W. McLaughlin. The members of the Board were welcomed and introduced themselves.

1. The agenda was approved and distributed.
2. The following action items from the previous Board meeting at CISS in Baltimore, MD on March 16, 2005 were reviewed.

The following matter was discussed and it was decided that there would be no open meeting at this symposium.

→**Past Action Item** The Board requested John Anderson to call for an open meeting on IT Society Publications at the next ISIT.

The following items were discussed at this meeting.

→**Past Action Item** The Board requests a concrete proposal regarding membership development and will discuss it further at the next Board meeting.

→**Past Action Item** The Board requested the ad-hoc committee to meet at the next ISIT.

The following items were not discussed.

→**Past Action Item** The Board requested Venu Veeravalli and Steven McLaughlin to make a proposal regarding the NSF position at the next Board meeting.

→**Past Action Item** The Board will consider a proposal on the maintenance of the Society's collection of the Transaction on DVD.

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

3. The President presented his report and miscellaneous announcements.

The President reported on the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) Meeting in June 2005. He discussed the evolving structure at the IEEE and how this affects the Society.

The President noted that there was a new ASPP distribution (from IEEE) and that the Society did well since we produce a fairly larger share of publications relative to the size of the Society.

Membership development was discussed. The President noted the decline in Society membership over the past few years. The figures indicate a decrease from 6500 to 3000 members. The question of what value we provide to members was discussed. Ideas for maintaining membership were discussed, as were ideas for developing interest in young members, especially students.

The matter of the open access to IEEE publications and ArXiv was discussed. It was noted that authors of papers at this year's symposium were encouraged to upload preliminary version of their papers to ArXiv.

The issue of surplus target for conferences was mentioned briefly.

The President discussed the matter of the Society's ties with other societies and conferences. He mentioned an effort to expand ties with CISS and Allerton.

There was a discussion about building a database of past CISS and Allerton conferences.

→**Action Item** Steve McLaughlin to look into an MOU and technical co-sponsorship with CISS and Allerton.

→**Action Item** Generate estimates of page count for past CISS and Allerton conferences.

The President mentioned the desire to build and or increase ties with other societies, especially SITA (Japan).

→**Action Item** Ryuji Kohno to follow up on building ties with SITA.

4. Matters related to Symposia and Workshops were then discussed.

- (a) The Board unanimously approved technical co-sponsorship for CISS 2006 (Princeton, NJ, USA), ISITA 2006 (Seoul, Korea) and HISC 2006 (Nara, Japan).
- (b) ITW'05, New Zealand: Nothing to report.
- (c) ISIT'05, Adelaide: 500 papers accepted, 7 parallel sessions.
- (d) ITW'05, Japan: Report was presented. Progress going well.
- (e) ITW'06, Uruguay: Everything on track.
- (f) ISIT'06, Seattle: Report was presented. Minor changes discussed but things are on track.
- (g) ISIT'07, Nice: Everything on track.
- (h) ISIT'08, Toronto: Proposal for ISIT to be held in Toronto made by En-Hui Yang. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the Toronto proposal.
- (i) ITW'06, China: Proposal by Dan Costello. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the China workshop proposal.
- (j) ITW'07, Norway: Proposal by Øyvind Ytrehus. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the Norway workshop proposal.

(k) ISIT'09, Korea: Proposal for symposium to be held in Seoul or Jeju Island.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of Seoul, given that it is a large city with excellent infrastructure.

→**Action Item** The Board requested a detailed budget proposal at the next meeting.

5. Muriel Médard presented the Treasurer's report.

The Society's finances were reviewed. The financial activities of the Society conferences and workshops was also reported.

The Treasures noted that as of May 2005, IEEE TAB requires a 20% surplus on conferences. This is not retroactive but does hold for future conferences.

This matter was discussed and there was a motion to build in a 10% surplus for Society conferences.

The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

6. The IT Transactions Editor-in-Chief gave an update on the Society Transactions.

The EIC reviewed the mail dates, page counts, and page budgets of the Transactions, noting that the annual page budgets for the Transactions were increasing.

There was a discussion on the growth of the Transactions and page counts. There was a proposal to form an ad-hoc committee to look at these publications issues.

The Board unanimously approved the formation of an ad-hoc committee consisting of Alex Vardy (Chair), Vince Poor, Muriel Medard, Ralf Koetter, and Steve McLaughlin.

→**Action Item** The ad-hoc committee is to study the Transactions growth and report back to the Board.

It was noted that 83 papers had been received for the Joint special issue of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory and the IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking on the topic of Networking and Information Theory. The guest editors expected to accept about 40 papers and things were on track for a June 2006 publication date.

The EIC announced a new special issue on Relaying and Cooperation.

The EIC noted that Adriaan van Wijngaarden (Lucent Bell Labs) has replaced Kevin Quirk as Publications Editor.

The EIC noted that Wojciech Szpankowski has assumed one of the two AE positions in the area of Source Coding as of September 2005.

The EIC submitted three new associate editor appointments for Board approval:

- Anne Canteaut (INRIA) for Complexity & Cryptography
- Andreas Winter (Bristol) for Quantum Information Theory
- Guang Gong (Waterloo) for Sequences

The Board unanimously approved all three AE appointments.

7. Andrea Goldsmith (Chair) reported on the activities of the Society Student Committee. She discussed the formation of the committee and its aim to make the Society more valuable to its student members.

She noted that the student registration packets contained a questionnaire to get students' feedback on what the Society can do to be of more value to them.

She noted that a website had been set up to facilitate information dissemination and collaboration. The URL is: <http://itsoc-students.ece.cornell.edu>

She also noted that the inaugural meeting of the student committee would be held on Monday September 5 at this year's symposium and invited all Board member to attend.

8. The ArXiv study committee discussed the use of ArXiv.org. It was noted that ArXiv is being used but it has not yet crossed the tipping point. This is necessary for it to be an effective information resource for information theorists.

The Board encourages all members to post their pre-prints at the ArXiv server at www.arxiv.org.

9. It was reported that the Institute for Information Transmission Problems (IITP) of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) may be absorbed into a larger institute within RAS and this may have an adverse impact on the field of information theory.

It was suggested that the Board send a letter to the RAS President in support of IITP.

The Board unanimously approved this motion.

10. The Society website was then discussed. It was reported that a redesign is being planned and more details will be made available in the coming months.

It was noted that the Society might provide some funding to support the development of the website.

→**Action Item** Steve McLaughlin, Nick Laneman and Mehul Motani to come up with a proposal and budget.

11. The Awards committee report was presented.

The 2005 IT Society Best Paper award nominees were discussed. The committee reported that of the 12 nominated papers, 4 were shortlisted for the final round. After deliberation and ranking, there was a clear winner.

The committee recommended that the 2005 IT Society Best Paper Award be given to Shuo-Yen Robert Li, Raymond W. Yeung, and Ning Cai for their paper, "Linear network coding", which appeared in the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, vol. 49, no. 2, pp. 371-381, February 2003.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the Awards committee recommendation.

It was reported that Vladimir Levenshtein has been nominated for the Richard W. Hamming Medal.

It was reported that the winners of the 2005 Joint ComSoc/IT Society Paper Award are Nihar Jindal, Sriram Vishwanath, and Andrea Goldsmith, for their paper "On the

Duality of Gaussian Multiple-Access and Broadcast Channels,” which appeared in the IEEE Transactions Information Theory, vol. 50, pp. 768-783, May 2004.

It was announced that Ian Blake has been awarded the Society Distinguished Service Award.

12. The Nominations committee presented its report.

It was reported that 13 nominations had been received for the Board.

The Board unanimously approved the list of 13 nominations.

It was reported that the following nominations had been received for Society officers.

- Dave Neuhoff for President
- Bixio Rimoldi for 1st Vice President
- Marc Fossorier for 2nd Vice President
- Venu Veeravalli for 2nd Vice President

The Board unanimously approved all the nominations.

13. There was no new business.

14. The location of the next Board meeting was discussed.

There was discussion of the meeting to be held in Princeton at CISS or in Punta del este, Uruguay at the ITW. The Board voted in favor of Punta del este.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 18:30.