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

Location: Hybrid Meeting @ ISIT 2022, Espoo, Finland

Dates: 26 June 2022

Time: The meeting convened at 10:00am. The meeting adjourned at 3:57pm, local time.

Meeting Chair: Christina Fragouli

Minutes taken by: Stark Draper with Parastoo Sadeghi's input

Meeting Attendees: Erik Agrell, Matthieu Block, Li Chen, Marko Dalai*, Natasha Devroye, Alex Dimakis*, Lara Dolecek, Stark Draper, Christina Fragouli, Tara Javidi*, Brian Kurkoski, Michael Langberg*, Muriel Medard, Henry Pfister, Joachim Rosenthal, Parastoo Sadeghi*, Anand Sarwate, Vincent Tan, Ashley Tufuga#, Aaron Wagner, Shun Wantanabe, Edmund Yeh, Aylin Yener, Wei Yu*

(Remote attendees denoted by *, non-voting by #.)

Business conducted between meetings: Between March 2022 and June 2022 Information Theory Society (ITSoc) Board of Governors (BoG) meetings, a number of items of business were conducted and voted upon by email. These items and the results are summarized below:

1) **Motion:** In March 2022, the Board voted to approve meeting minutes from the March 2022 meeting.

2) **Motion:** In March 2022, the Board voted to appoint Venu Veeravalli as Area Editor for the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory.

3) **Motion:** In April 2022, the Board voted to approve the hybrid format and USD7994 financial support for the 2022 East Asia School of Information Theory (EASIT), Shenzhen, China.

4) **Motion:** In April 2022, the Board voted to approve the virtual format and $4130 USD financial support for the 2022 JTG/IEEE Information Theory Society Summer School in Information Theory, Signal Processing, Telecommunication, and Networking, Mandi, India.

At 10:00am local time, ITSoc President Christina Fragouli called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves and a roll call was taken. The following motion was issued. **motion**: A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

1) **President's Report – Christina Fragouli:** ITSoc President Christina Fragouli presented the President's report. Christina started by introducing Ashley Tufuga the new ITSoc administrator to the Society. She then provided updates since last BoG meeting. The first issue of Bits published (https://www.itsoc.org/bits). The first online issue of the Newsletter published (https://www.itsoc.org/newsletter/newsletter-issues). The D&I Survey results published. A summary was published in the Newsletter with a link to the complete report, available on the D&I Committee part of the ITSoc website. Direct links to both follow online are as follows. Newsletter article:

   https://www.itsoc.org/newsletter/article/summary-report-2021-itsoc-diversity-and-inclusion-survey

   Full report:

   https://www.itsoc.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/ITSoc_D_I_Survey_Analysis.pdf

   The BoG has formed an AdHoc committee on Sharing Teaching Resources. This committee is chaired by Martina Cardone. The BoG has also formed a committee on

Alumni in Industry. This committee is chaired by Christina Fragouli. Both committees will report in this meeting.

The IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) meeting just ended. The IEEE Joy Thomas Tutorial Paper Award was approved thanks to the serious efforts of Suhas Diggavi who led the effort and handled all interactions with IEEE Foundation and IEEE TAB ARC. Christina highlighted some points from the TAB meeting. These included that at the TAB meeting there seems to be increased interest for open access conferences where authors (and not participants) pay for the conference fees. There is yet no clear model/understanding on this, but it seems this will be something that will be explored in the near future. She reminded the BoG of our discussions on the possibility of initiating an open access journal for ITSoc. IEEE hybrid journals will have transformative status, once they reach 75% open access (OA) articles they will flip to 100% OA. She mentioned that some interesting statistics regarding online and hybrid conference were presented at the TAB meeting, but those statistics cannot be made public. In another direction, the IEEE wants to collect information across societies of members whose work impacts climate change and to build educational materials around their contributions. ITSoc has joined this effort. Christina then reported that she brought up during the Presidents' meeting at the TAB meeting, volunteer concerns from interactions with MCE. She presented feedback from five ITSoc conferences indicating that MCE seems to prioritize defending financial interests of IEEE at the expense of volunteer time. She suggested at the President's meeting that IEEE could collect more data across Societies and technical Councils to see if this is a common concern across Societies and Councils. Christina concluded by recognizing that in the past year we have sadly lost eminent colleagues including Toby Berger, Bob Lucky, Pravin Varaiya, and Alex Vardy. There will be a minute of silence at the Opening ceremony of ISIT in their memory.

Some comments from floor: Members of this society can make contributions to the climate change initiative, the effort to reduce conference overhead is appreciated.

2) **Discussion of Bylaws:** Senior Past President Aylin Yener, Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (members are A. Yener & W. Yu) introduced three motions to make to implement minor changes to the Bylaws. A quick recap: There was extensive discussion at the Nov. 2021 BoG meeting and further discussion at Mar. 2022 meeting. The three motions distributed to BoG on 04 June 2022.

motion: "Article IV.3, remove the text 'the Executive Editor of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory,'" The rationale for this is that the Executive Editor position no longer exists under the new editorial structure of the Transactions. No points of discussion were raised by the BoG. The motion passed.

motion: "Article XV.13, add the following text 'The term of the paper award committee members shall be no more than three years. A committee member may not be reappointed for two years after the conclusion of their term.'" The rationale for this change is that the paper award committee is the only committee that did not have a term limit specified in the bylaws. The proposed term and gap preserve memory while providing renewal. No points of discussion were raised by the BoG. The motion passed.

motion: "Article XV.14, term for fellow committee chair: replace three with two." The rationale is that per IEEE rules the chair term is two years. We have been following the two-years' duration for the past two chairs. This brings our Bylaws in line with IEEE. No points of discussion were raised by the BoG. The motion passed.

Executive session began_____

3) **BoG slate nominations:** Nominations and Appointment Committee Chair Aylin Yener reviewed the process followed to assemble the slate of candidates. It took approximately 5 weeks to converge to the current slate of names, with everything done over email with full confidentiality. Floor nominations are allowed, each floor nomination (for one of these positions) requires support of five or more BoG members. Aylin reviewed the slate. No additional nominations were made.

motion: To approve the slate of 2023 Board of Governors candidates. The motion passed.

Matthieu Bloch was nominated for the position of ITSoc President for 2023. No additional nominations were made.

Star Draper was nominated for the position of ITSoc First Vice-president for 2023. No additional nominations were made.

Meir Feder and Aaron Wagner were each nominated for the position of ITSoc Second Vice-president for 2023. No additional nominations were made.

The vote for the 2023 officers will open for 3 weeks following the date the ballots are distribute.

4) **Trans. Inf. Theory EiC Report:** Transactions EiC Muriel Medard presented her report on the state of the Transactions and the review processes. She proposed appointment of 7 new editors for the Transactions.

motions: "To appoint new Area Editors for the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory as follows: Praneeth Netrapalli for Machine Learning and Statistics, Xinbing Wang for Networking and Computation, Po-Ning Chen for Shannon Theory and Information Measure, Yao Xie Machine Learning and Statistics, Diego Napp for Coding and Decoding, Maite Brandt-Pearce for Networking and Computation / Communications and Ali Tajer Signal Processing and Source Coding." All motions passed.

5) **Papers Award Committee:** First Vice-President Matthieu Bloch next presented the Awards Committee Report. As Christina had a CoI, Junior Past-President Wei Yu presided. BoG members with a CoI left the room and/or logged out of the Zoom session. After some discussion, to the following motion was tabled.

motion: The BoG shall follow the recommendation of the Committee and not accept the original report. The committee shall submit an amended report to the BoG within 8 weeks. The motion passed.

Executive session ended_____

6) **External Nominations Committee:** External Nominations Chair Muriel Medard next presented the report of the Committee. The Committee has been getting people nominated and is assembling a growing repository of awards. Now have a living document with all of the different cognate awards (national award, regional awards, what is the remit of each award, and what is the due date). Muriel commented that the Committee doesn't always know whether people are nominated or not (of course the committee knows its own nominations). Muriel would like (i) a way for people to have access to the shared document, and (ii) a way for people to inform the committee of nominations (with or without names), so the Committee knows which awards have been "covered" and the Committee can waterfall appropriately. Muriel noted that the Committee is also willing to help nominators, e.g., getting an extra letter if needed.

7) **JSAIT EiC Report:** Tara Javidi took over as Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of JSAIT in January 2022. One issue (Lead Editor: Elza Erkip) has come out. A second (Lead Editors: Salmon Avestimehr & Mohammad Ali Maddah-Ali) is almost out. Three more issues will be published in 2022. There will also be an issue in memory of Alex Vardy which will be organized by Tuvi Etzion and Paul Siegel. Tara thanked the editors of all the issues. She also thanked the JSAIT senior editors, who play a very important role. One important aspect of JSAIT's success is that guest editors are allowed to submit, but conflict-of-interest issues must be managed. These are managed by the senior editors. Tara has asked two people toserve as new senior editors — Francis Bach and Martin Wainwright. Tara would like to formalize the process for appointing senior editors and would like to review how contributed issues are arranged. E.g., she thinks there is an opportunity to pair up more junior guest editors with more senior ones. In the fall meeting, Tara would like to discuss with the BoG considerations of open access and competition with journals such as Entropy.

8) **BITS Magazine Report:** Robert Calderbank, the Editor-in-Chief of the BITS Magazine, reported no change to the composition of the Magazine's steering committee or editorial board. He stated that the pipeline for upcoming issues is not as robust as it should be. The first issue appeared in 2021. Three issues are scheduled for 2022, including two special issues and one regular issue. Four issues are scheduled for 2023, of which two issues are already being planned. He thanked Christina Fragouli and the BoG for their support.

9) **James L. Massey Research and Teaching Award Committee Report:** Tara Javidi, Chair of the Massey Committee, discussed the process of the committee. There were two rounds of review. The first prioritized discussion of candidates and criteria. In the second round the list was narrowed to two candidates. The Committee was unanimous in its decision to name Mary Wootters of Stanford University as the Massey Lecturer. This award has already been announced.

10) **Treasurer Report:** Edmund Yeh, the ITSoc Treasurer reported that the Society is in excellent financial shape. At the end of 2021 there was an actual $8.776M in the reserve, which is the final figure. This is compared to around $7.255M in a previous report. Edmund recalled that a fraction of the reserve and operational surplus can be used for funding new initiatives. Of the reserve, 3% can be used for funding special projects. Of the operational surplus, 50% can also be used for special projects.

At the end of fiscal year 2021 the operational surplus was USD $790k. Contributing sources of included conferences, publications doing better than expected, and lower committee costs. Total special projects in 2021 was budgeted at $270k; at end of year only $132k was spent. The net (operational net - special projects + IEEE reserve allocation which included investment returns) = $1.52M. This will go into reserves which will result in a total reserve of $8.776M. For 2022 special projects are budgeted at $169k (under the 3% rule) which was reduced to $103.6k (due to IEEE spending cap, with the rest being funding under the 50% rule). For 2022 can have $658k for special projects, a huge number. As of May 2022, the operational surplus is $304K, but this figure is expected to fluctuate. Edmund commented that for the 2022 budget and thereafter, we cannot expect to receive an IEEE investment windfall every year.

Questions raised by the BoG included whether some of the surplus could be allocated to ISIT travel grants. This year NSF did not give out travel grants, which reduced the funds available. A question was raised by the BoG about revenue vs. expenses of the Transactions. A BoG member suggested we are likely to continue to have surpluses, and that there is too much money in the reserves. It was suggested that we should reduce the student registration for ISIT and ITW by, say, $200 permanently. One former

treasurer, now a BoG member, noted that the last time the Society was in the red was 2011. Since then, we have always overshot the budget. Another BoG member suggested that the surplus could be used to cover speaker costs, especially of non-IEEE members. There was a discussion of the amount of travel funds for ISIT'22 and so whether extra funds could be allocated.

11) **motion:** "To approve $30,000 USD in funds from ITSoc for Student Travel Support at ISIT 2022." Clarification was requested by a BoG member whether funds could be used both for young (non-student researchers) and students, the answer was that it could. The motion passed.

12) **Conference Committee Report:** Li Chen, Chair of the Conference committee, first provided a report on the progress of upcoming ISIT and ITW events. For ISIT 2022, 845 submissions were received of which about 67% were accepted. About 500 people have thus far registered for the in-person event and 100 for virtual attendance. (Some people register on site.) He then summarized some of the upcoming proposals. ISIT 2023 will be bringing forward two ideas this meeting to try out double-blind review and to arrange corss-society invited sessions co-organized with the flagship conference in a sister society. ITW 2022 in India is going to be a hybrid event, some days virtual followed by in-person days. Organization is going well in terms of sponsorships, promotion, and other event arrangements. Li highlighted that the ITW 2022 organizers are requesting USD $10K to support student travel. 177 submissions were received with the three major geographical regions being the US, India, and China.   BoG members may recall difficulties with setting up banking (as also noted by President Fragouli in her report). The banking problem have now been resolved. ITW'23 is on track, it is just preparing the organizing committee. Li then stated that two new proposals will be coming forward for ISIT'23 and '24. One proposal will be to hold ISIT'24 in Athens, Greece. The second will be to hold ISIT'25 in Guangzhou, China. Organizers will present today.

Li mentioned that technical co-sponsorship (TCS) for two conferences, namely CISS and WiOpt have been approved since March 2022 and two other requests for TCS by Allerton and ISTC are in process.

ISIT'22: ISIT'22 General Co-chair Camilla Hollanti reported next. About 25% of talks will be recorded.   These will be integrated into sessions that also will host in-person presentations. As of the BoG meeting there have been 637 registrations. There will be 7-10 parallel sessions and 6 tutorials. Sponsorship totals were 31k EUR plus additional budget for travel grants. To date 30k EUR has been allocated to travel grants. They have been able to support about half the applications, so the additional funding for travel would help.   For travel grants the committee has been prioritizing currently underrepresented groups and geography. Early-bird registration was Euro 760. There was a discount of 120 for virtual presenters (accounting for cost reductions due to no banquet attendance, etc).

motion: To approve 30k USD in funds from ITSoc for Student Travel Support at ISIT 2022. The motion passed.

ISIT'23: ISIT'23 General Co-Chair Po-Ning Chen presented a proposal to hold an invited session of "information theory for circuits and systems" fostering connections between the communities and interplay between ISCAS'23 and ISIT'23. Stefan Moser (TPC co-chair) presented a proposal to try out double-blind review. Aspects would include the following. First, submissions should not reveal the identity of the authors in any way with name, affiliations, funding acknowledgements not appearing in the submission and reference to own work being in third person. Second the policy would be "soft" double-blind with publication on the arXiv not being recommended but not forbidden, though reference to an arXiv version would not be permitted. Third, to allow for proper reviewing,

an optional appendix would be allowed. The page limits would be 5 pages (paper) 1 page (reference) 5 pages (appendix), all double-column; the optional appendix would need to be removed from the final camera-ready version.

A BoG member spoke in support, noting that last year's D&I Survey indicated majority support from the membership to try double-blind. A BoG member asked about if the appendix does not appear in published version, could that then appear in a longer version later posted online. Stefan confirmed, yes, can upload whatever you want to the ArXiv. A BoG member noted that ISIT'23 should take care to inform the community of the 5 + 1 + 5 format well in advance since that differs from the traditional format. Two BoG members asked about how would we measure whether double blind is better than what we have done before? One stated that they are supportive of trying new things, but that if meaningful measures are not attached then it could be a waste of time. They also raised the questions of whether, with a 67% acceptance rate, would this really make any difference? Stefan commented that they don't have a plan yet on measuring the benefit of double-blind review. They can think about this. A BoG member commented that this policy is in line with computer science conference. However, in those conference the conference paper is the terminal publication while ISITs/ITWs are intended more for interaction and the paper is not the end of the story, so would double-blind later be applied to journals? BoG members asked about what if someone previously has presented at a workshop, Stefan responded that this is not about "hard" but a suggestion. A BoG member commented that there is currently lots of disagreement about "hard" double-blind. A BoG member re-emphasized the comment on needing metrics and whether, as a small society with high-acceptance rate, this experiment will be worth the effort. A member asked about whether the appeals process would also be double-blind. The response was that the appeals process would be handled by the TPC chairs.

ISIT'24: Next Leandros Tassiulas presented the ISIT'24 proposal. Location would be Athens, Greece, July 8-12 2024. Leandros outlined the organizing committee. Urbashi Mitra will serve as general co-chair; possibly there will be a third. He presented an initial list of organizing committee members. Not all roles have yet been finalized. He reviewed the budget and income and expenses categories.

Multiple BoG members thanked Leandros and suggested that those involved in organizing previous ISITs could help with organizing. A BoG member commented that we may not need to hit the standard levels of conference profit, especially in the current climate of overall excess profits of the Society. A member asked about the TPC co-chairs. TPC co-chairs had been arranged for the previous plan to hold ISIT'24 in New York. While the general co-chairs changed, since the TPC runs mostly separately, why were the previous TPC co-chairs not kept on? It was clarified that the entire team changes, including the TPC, and further the New York plans for ISIT were only pre-proposals. Following up on earlier comments, a final BoG member commented if the organizers need not hit the IEEE-mandated profit targets then the BoG should make that very clear to the organizers.

motion: To approve the proposal to hold ISIT 2024 in Athens, Greece. The motion passed.

ISIT'25: Li Chen next presented a proposal to hold ISIT'25 in Guangzhou, China. Li is partnering with Pingzhi Fan and Raymond Yeung to serve as general co-chairs. Li recapped the history of the China Information Theory Society symposia and that of ITSoc events (ITW'88 in Beijing, China, ITW'06 in Chengdu, China, ISIT'15 in Hong Kong, and ITW'18 in Guangzhou, China). The Guangzhou chapter was awarded chapter-of-the-year in 2021. Li reviewed some information about Guangzhou, the location, the budget, and estimated registration for ITSoc members would be about 650 USD. BoG members

commented that the planned 25% surplus is larger than may be needed even if that has been a target in the past. Perhaps BoG could set a new expectation of a target surplus (below 25%). Multiple people suggested targeting 0%, though even a 10% budget leaves high registration costs. A BoG member commented on whether the COVID travel policies of the world might change a lot between now and 2025 and whether we need now to decide on the location for ISIT'25. BoG members raised the question of the geopolitical situation, e.g., US-based faculty members have been advised by their university not to bring electronic equipment to China. Others commented that the geopolitical situation will likely not evolve in a BoG meeting or two, plus organizers could adapt to the political situation, e.g., adapting hybrid formats as needed. A BoG member suggested one possibility would be to have two locations, to avoid geopolitical issues, e.g., a satellite event in the US which would alleviate the problems that could be faced by US-based scholars. A BoG member commented that we could do a hybrid version (like ISIT'22 is doing) rather than have a satellite location.

motion: To approve the proposal to hold ISIT'25 in Guanzhou, China. The motion passed.

ITW'22 Student Travel Support: The initial version of the following proposal was for 10k USD. Based on the allocation of 30k USD to ISIT for travel grants, there was a motion made to amend the request to 20k USD which was seconded, no objections were made.

motion: To approve 20k USD funding towards student travel support for ITW 2022 Mumbai, India. The motion passed.

11) **Schools Subcommittee Report:** Parastoo Sadeghi, Chair of the Schools Subcommittee, provided a brief update on the progress of the four 2022 ITSoc schools. One has already been held in India, and three others are to be held in Austria, China, and the USA in July and August. Parastoo confirmed that organization is going well for all schools and registration numbers are healthy. Parastoo encouraged all BoG members to distribute news about the three upcoming schools that will run after ISIT and promote attendance by students and postdocs.

Parastoo then provided a brief overview of the three upcoming proposals for schools in 2023 in Bangalore, India (JTG/IEEE); Philadelphia, USA (NASIT); and Bristol, UK (ESIT). Parastoo highlighted the organization teams and lists of confirmed or potential speakers for each school. She stated that all schools are planning to offer accommodation subsidies for students. Each proposed school had provided a detailed presentation slide pack and a video recording for BoG members to review.

A question was raised, that if travel funding is being increased this year for ISIT and ITW, should we increase the allocations to the schools? Parastoo would communicate with organizers and see whether additional funds are needed.

motion: "To approve the 2023 JTG/IEEE Information Theory Society Summer School in Information Theory, Signal Processing, Telecommunication, and Networking, IISc, Bangalore, India with the financial support of USD $10k." The motion passed.

motion: "To approve the 2023 IEEE North American School of Information Theory, UPenn, Philadelphia, USA, with the financial support of USD $15k." The motion passed.

motion: "To approve the 2023 IEEE European School of Information Theory, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom, with the financial support of USD $15k." The motion passed.

12) **Digital Presence Committee Report: Digital Presence Committee chair** Brian Kurkoski first report on the Committee's progress. The role of the Committee is the management of ITSoc's web presence, email lists, and social media. He reminded the BoG that ITSoc has developed a low-cost custom-designed conference website for

ITSoc-sponsored events, video presentations can be uploaded, and Zoom is integrated. The IEEE BITS Magazine and ITSoc Newsletter are now both available online; there will be no further print issues of the latter. The table-of-contents of the Transactions has been mailed to subscribers for each issue for some time now. Brian made a request: The Committee would like to add videos. If anyone organizes a conference, a workshop, or a school, please record the videos. Budget for year is $30k. About $25k remains. Martina will discuss one new idea on shared teaching resources where most of the remaining $25k will go towards the shared teaching resources website. Later in year may be a report on alumni.

13) **Initiative on Alumni/Industry:** Christina Fragouli, Chair of the Alumni/Industry Ad-Hoc Committee, reported on this new initiative. She noted that IEEE does not have a formal definition of alumni, they focus only on (current and perhaps prospective) members. However, alumni can be very important at the Society level where an important aim should be to support our students and postdocs in their job-hunt. Maintaining connections with alumni post-graduation could help with this. Alumni from our community understand and value the type of training students from ITSoc get. The aim of this initiative is to make existing ad-hoc networks more systematic and widespread leading to better job opportunities and successful careers. The Ad-hoc Committee Christina has assembled thus far includes Dakshi Agrawal (IBM), Christina Fragouli (Chair), Rajiv Laroia (Celect), Tom Richarsdon (Qualcomm), and Devavrat Shah (MIT, Celect) where the intention is to have and receive input people from industry. Next steps include publishing columns in IEEE BITS highlighting the careers of ITSoc members in industry. Journalist Uduak Grace Thomas will conduct an interview with Rajiv Laroia. The second step will be to build a directory of members, which Christina asked BoG members to assist with. Third will be the creation of web-based resources populated with live job opportunities and possibly to host career development and networking opportunities for those interested. An event is planned for ISIT'23.

14) **Initiative on Teaching Resources:** The Chair of the Teaching Resources Ad-hoc Committee, Martina Cardone, first recalled that motivation for forming this committee. While many members teach IT, coding or related courses with many common elements, teaching resources such as slides, and homework questions are shared between only a few members in a private and ad-hoc manner. The aim of this committee is to make good teaching material more widely available to members, especially to junior faculty who may be teaching a course for the first time.

In terms of progress, a draft of website needs had been formulated and shared with a developer for a quote. Functionality would include: (i) upload files in bulk, (ii) group files to form courses, (iii) provide each user a list of own files, (iv) search results from inside PDF. The estimated cost is USD $22k.

A BoG member pointed out that it would be helpful to have a mechanism that allows people to add comments on errors (e.g., "see equation (4) is incorrect"). Discussion indicated that a mechanism for feedback from users of the website would allow content owners to correct their own files. There was a question about allowing source code (.tex) to be shared. In the current discussions with the developer the committee is thinking only about PDF and media files. BoG members asked who the target audience is. Martina responded that, currently, only faculty. In particular, teaching faculty since may share exam problems. Martina indicated that current thinking is that one would not need to be a member of the ITSoc Society. A BoG member asked why open it beyond ITSoc Society members — since ITSoc is spending money on this? Martina indicated that the thinking is that opening it early will get take-up, but that the site might revert to ITSoc-members-only after the first year. Another BoG member commented that if something start free, it is hard to change, or allow to be open for some amount of time then after some length of

time one will need to become an ITSoc member to continue to access the resources. Another BoG member commented about different gradations of openness (i) course notes most open, (ii) problem sets less so, (iii) exam questions even less, (iv) exam solutions least. A BoG member commented two types: uploads of content and downloads and that there are maybe more downloads. Questions of copyright and privacy were also raised, e.g., what if someone uploaded an image that is copy-written? The BoG had received presentation about this in the past. A member pointed out that having a login helps protect a lot (though not perfectly) from "drive-by-lawyers".

15) **Discussion on strategic goals:** Christina discussed strategic goals. She noted that ITSoc is one of the few IEEE societies that do not have explicit strategic goals. That said, if one looks at the President's Column in the ITSoc Newsletters, there have recently been at least three clear themes: (i) D&I, (ii) communication with other technical societies, (iii) working to increase public visibility (Shannon Movie, etc). Thus implicitly, those have been our strategic goals. Examples of new efforts include strengthening connections with our alumni and supporting efforts around climate change efforts. Christina wanted to bring this up — should we, as a society, adopt in a more formal manner strategic goals / goal-setting process?

One BoG member commented that it is often good for ideas to grow from bottom up. Further, since there is an excess of funds, we don't need to choose between two options, we can just fund all and see which grow a lot. A BoG member was in favor and suggested we could identify some strategic goals, set money aside and then people bring in who have ideas related to that goal. One may be "conference fees not more than X-hundred euros". A BoG member suggested to use available funding for a totally free open-access journal or paying ourselves for T-IT to be open access. One member, building on an earlier comment suggested that we set up an allocation of a certain budget for IT+X workshops and then people can apply, perhaps needing to jointly propose with a co-leader not in the IT community.

16) **Other Discussion:** A BoG member raised (again) formalizing a set-point of conference profit, e.g., a 0% profit. A BoG member commented that one reason that no one wants to take responsibility for going into the red is that there can be consequences with the IEEE for the organizers.

A BoG member raised an issue of timing of publishing both in ISIT and in the Transactions. The member noted that some papers fall in the gap where if a paper is submitted to T-IT then a summary may not be allowed to be published in the ISIT. Alternately if a paper was earlier submitted to T-IT, is accepted and appears, then the conference version may be rejected by ISIT since it already appears. The Signal Processing Society has a protocol where any accepted letters that have been published in the year preceding an ICASSP (a specific window is defined) are eligible for presentation at ICASSP, space allowing. These contributions are neither reviewed, nor appear in the proceedings. A possibility may be the following: submit to T-IT, once first round of reviews are returned then, assuming positive reviews, the AE could approve an ISIT paper. Discussion amongst BoG members indicated that perhaps this is something that needs to be clarified and formalized at the Conference Committee level so that it can be communicated to the chairs in a consistent manner.

17) **Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 pm local time.