

IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting  
Location: Maison de la Mutualité, Paris, France

Date: July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Time: The meeting convened at 1:00pm CEST (GMT+2); the meeting adjourned at 5.45 pm CEST (GMT+2).

Meeting Chair: Emina Soljanin

Minutes taken by: Lara Dolecek

Meeting Attendees:

Alexander Barg, Andrew Barron, Matthieu Bloch, Suhas Diggavi, Alex Dimakis (\*), Lara Dolecek, Stark Draper, Elza Erkip, Christina Fragouli, Andrea Goldsmith (#), Yu-Chih Huang (#), Tara Javidi, Gerhard Kramer (#), Frank Kschischang, Vijay Kumar, Brian Kurkoski (#), Matt LaFleur (#), Olgica Milenkovic, Henry Pfister, Vincent Poor, Gireeja Ranade (#), Parastoo Sadeghi, Lalitha Sankar (#), Anand Sarwate (#), Igal Sason, Emina Soljanin, Changho Suh (#), Daniela Tuninetti, Tadashi Wadayama (#), Aaron Wagner, I-Hsiang Wang (#), Lele Wang (#), Shun Watanabe (#), Michelle Wigger, Gregory Wornell, Aylin Yener, and Wei Yu.

Remote attendees are denoted by (\*); non-voting attendees are denoted by (#).

### **Business conducted between meetings:**

The following votes were conducted by email between the Feb. 2019 Information Theory Society (ITSoc) Board of Governors (BoG) meetings and this meeting:

- (1) In April 2019, Parastoo Sadeghi was elected as the new BoG member.
- (2) In April 2019, Special Issue in IEEE Transactions on Information Theory honoring late Vladimir Levenshtein was approved.
- (3) In April 2019, minutes from the Bog meeting at ITA in February 2019 were approved.
- (4) In April 2019, the motion coming from the N&A committee that a public call for nominations for the next IEEE Transactions on Information Theory Executive Editor be made via the the ITSoc web site and the ITSoc email list was approved.
- (5) In April 2019, the motion coming from the Membership committee that the student subcommittee and the outreach subcommittee be combined as the Student and Outreach Subcommittee and that Vincent Y. F. Tan be appointed as the chair of this subcommittee with a term ending 12/31/2019 was approved.

At 1:00pm local time, ITSoc president Emina Soljanin called the meeting to order.

Next, the attendees introduced themselves, and consent agenda was approved. Consent agenda is available on the ITSoc website.

Emina next started by reviewing the meeting agenda.

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

President Soljanin presented President's Report. She reminded the BoG that the Fall meeting is less than 3 months away, and that her goal is to discuss the technical part of the society and TAB events. She expressed a few words of caution regarding the state of the society and summarized several challenges that had occurred at the beginning of the year, including the fear that the rift within the society would deepen, the fact that an unusually large number of new officers were appointed, that the budget appeared to be going in red, that ISIT organizers were facing multiple constraints, and so forth.

Despite these mounting challenges, President Soljanin also reminded that there is still an important society that needed to be run, and that there appears to be a lot of enthusiasm at the moment. She congratulated new elected BoG members: Matthieu Bloch, Suhas Diggavi, Stark Draper, Olgica Milenkovic, Prakash Narayan, Henry Pfister, and Parastoo Sadeghi. She also thanked many other BoG members that took on extra responsibilities. She also welcomed new officers and committee chairs: Aylin Yener, Wei Yu, Frank Kschischang, Lara Dolecek, Vijay Kumar, Christina Fragouli, Brian Kurkoski, Antonia Tulino, Dan Costello, Gireeja Renade, and Christina Lee Yu. She also stated that there was a lot of help from many others who previously held these positions.

President Soljanin then summarized 5 new good-news items: surplus of money for new initiatives; new proposals that will make use of this surplus; record number of registrants at ISIT 2019; many new actionable items from committees; the movie about Shannon that is showing well.

President Soljanin concluded by instructing how/when the presentation of the confidential report prepared by the Awards Committee Chair Aylin Yener will be handled.

Next, Aaron Wagner presented Treasurer's Report. Aaron explained that the IEEE has strict rules on year boundaries and that its fiscal year is the same as a calendar year. He next reviewed IEEE accounting, previously presented at the BoG meeting in February 2019.

Next, he presented 2018 general funds. These were finalized on May 14, 2019. There was a budgeted surplus of \$8K. Surplus was forecasted at ISIT 2018 in Vail to be -\$68K, and subsequently was forecasted at 2018 Allerton to be +\$81K. Final surplus was announced in May to be +\$292K. Aaron explained what are the sources of the differences between the projected and the final budget, including conference surplus from ISIT 2018, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory surplus, and the reduced "tax" to the IEEE. There was also extra spending on committees, which somewhat reduced this overall surplus.

Despite the +\$147K in surplus, due to the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory surplus, Aaron cautioned that this item line masks other issues, for example that the revenue is consistently decreasing. He explained that the Transactions cost is page count times per page production charge, roughly speaking, and that the IEEE retroactively reduced the cost of the per

page production charge. Aaron explained that one potential explanation for why IEEE often reduces per page production charges late in the year. He also pointed out that a major challenge in spending this extra money is that it is reported to the Society May of year n+1 for year n, when the money is already locked into reserves.

Next, Aaron presented annual trends of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, plotting revenue, costs, and surplus. Recently, the surplus has held constant, although this is a consequence of decreasing per page production costs, which cannot be expected to continue indefinitely.

Aaron next described 2018 Special Projects that included Brit Cruise videos, children's book, Latin American Week on Coding and Information, and the Web Server upgrade. He thanked the leaders of these special projects and those that turned in their receipts.

After that, Aaron discussed 2019 General Funds. He stated that the budgeted surplus is +\$46K, and explained expected sources of this surplus.

He then discussed 2019 Discretionary Expenditures. A BoG member asked about why no funds are allocated to the web server for 2019. Aaron explained the web server is being upgraded during 2019 and all of the costs associated web server as being recorded as new initiatives.

Next, Aaron presented 2019 Special Projects. He has called out for new initiatives, and has received many excellent ideas. All special projects, except for the student travel grant, have been approved by BoG, president, and/or officers.

A motion to approve the a proposal for a ISIT student travel grant program was presented. It was explained that the support of \$20K for the student travel grant is comparable to the support typically given by NSF and EU. The wording of the motion led to some discussion regarding the scope of the grant. Upon the input from a BoG member, a revised motion was then issued.

**Motion:** to approve retroactive student travel grant of \$20K for ISIT 2019 to students attending ISIT 2019 from Regions 8 (Africa, Europe [excluding those students eligible for support under the ISIT EU travel grant], and the Middle East), 9 (Latin America), and 10 (Asia and the Pacific), as eligible under IEEE rules.

The motion passed unanimously.

Next, Aaron presented the 2020 Budget. He clarified that he had revised it based on various inputs from the IEEE. The estimated surplus is +\$88K. He stated the differences relative to the 2019 budget. He next presented the list of 2020 Special Projects along with their requested budgets.

The following motion was issued.

**Motion:** to approve student travel grant for 2020, as revised for 2019.

In response to a question from a BoG member, Aaron explained that Region 7 (Canada) was not included in this motion.

The motion was moved to the Fall meeting. Aaron concluded by reiterating the charge of the ad-hoc committee on finances.

Next presentation was given by Sasha Barg. In his capacity of the Editor-in-Chief (EiC) of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory (T-IT) he reviewed the state of the journal. He presented Sub-to-Pub statistics, showing mean and median values by quarters. He stated that the numbers are not bad, but are not ideal either. He stated that the average time from the submission to the first decision has held steady at around 30 weeks. One of the goals of the EiC is to try to reduce this time. He has already discussed possible ways to do so with the editorial board and associate editors. One of the initiatives is to update the system of automatic reminders. Currently, automatic reminders from ScholarOne are sent to late reviewers only for the first 1-2 months after the due date of the report. As a result, Associate Editors and Editor-in-Chief need to do more follow up work, in particular EiC needs to act on every 2 weeks on 120 papers, creating substantial burden. Sasha also stated that these issues will be further discussed at the Editorial Board meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at ISIT 2019.

Sasha next presented the statistics for the journal citations. The decrease of the impact factor (IF) in 2018 was due to citations in the ISIT 2017 papers that had not been accounted for at the time when IF was determined. To address this problem, submissions to ISIT2019 were scanned using an automated script developed by Alex Dimakis. He also stated that in regards to the impact factor T-IT has returned to Q1 tier in Computer Science journals, although it is still in Q2 tier in EE, and that this could be an issue for promotion in academic positions. In response to a question from a BoG member, Sasha also explained that IF has also increased for IEEE T-Wireless, T-Comm, and T-SP.

Next, Sasha discussed IEEE and Open Access (OA). He presented his impressions from the IEEE Panel of Editors meeting in April 2019. The message from the IEEE is “to dominate the Open Access community in engineering/technology while mitigating risk to revenues from subscription packages.” He presented the reasons for switching to the OA model, including changing business model and comprehensive initiatives of major European publishers. Sasha stated that there is a multitude of actions stemming from switching to the OA model. Library funds at universities may have to be directed to OA expenses as proposed by the Director of Libraries of the University System of California.

A BoG member asked about the financial impact of switching to the OA model. Sasha responded by saying that he does not have all the information to provide a meaningful answer at this time. Another question was about the usage of a hybrid model, and Sasha explained that T-IT authors tend not to choose this option. He also stated that it is presently unclear whether the OA profits go back to the society or to the IEEE, or even how are they split.

Next, Sasha discussed a special issue in T-IT dedicated to the scientific legacy of V. Levenshtein. Submission deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. The special issue will consist of invited

and contributed papers. Lead Guest Editor is Olgica Milenkovic. Sasha clarified that the publication cost of the special issue can be absorbed in the budget.

Another new initiative Sasha discussed was the invited papers in T-IT. These papers are cross-cutting, interdisciplinary, and focused on new applications of information theory. There are currently 5 papers that are being processed and they were invited by Prakash Narayan. In response to a question from a BoG member, Sasha clarified that invitations are extended by the EiC, taking into account multidisciplinary nature of the work, visibility of the authors and results, among other factors.

Next, Sasha presented candidates for editor positions. Their biographies are available online. For the position of Executive Editor, a multi-stage procedure led by the N&A Committee (open call for nominations) is in place. Proposed candidate will be announced by the N&A Committee. For the position of Associate Editors, Stephane Boucheron, Mari Kobayashi, and Mohammad Ali Maddah-Ali were nominated.

The 3 candidates were approved by the board.

In his concluding remarks, Sasha stated that T-IT remains a high-quality, highly regarded publication, and that this quality is supported by dedicated Associate Editors and the wonderful IEEE support team, Lisa Jess and Megan Hernandez. He has requested funds to support their travel to the ISIT 2020.

Next, Christina Fragouli provided the report of the Magazine Steering Committee. She went over the motivation to introduce an IT Magazine, and what its goals and scope would be. She stated that there would be several possible sources and formats of published articles. She then presented a possible launch timeline. Letter of intent was submitted in Fall 2017. Next deadline is to submit Phase I proposal by September 15, 2019. She presented major highlights from the Phase I Proposal, and she stated the intended scope of the magazine. She also reviewed readership survey, whose findings regarding the launch of this magazine were encouraging. She next presented a table of the issue frequency and page counts for the years 1-3. She explained the rationale behind the page counts and why the breakdown needs to be finalized now. She discussed submissions of the tutorial articles and technology trends that would be included in the magazine. Next, 3 candidates for the magazine title were presented.

The following motions were issued.

**Motion 1:** to approve Submission of Phase I proposal by Sept. 15, 2019.

**Motion 2:** to approve magazine title.

**Motion 3:** to approve travel funding for a steering committee members to attend TAB meetings in November 2019 and February 2020.

Motions 1 and 3 were passed unanimously.

It was decided that Motion 2 will be decided later, as another candidate for the magazine title was presented during the meeting.

A BoG member asked about the cost of running this magazine. Christina clarified that the IT magazine will be operationally on the smaller side, so the loss, if any, would be expected to be smaller.

Next report was given by Frank Kschischang, on behalf of the Nominations and Appointments Committee. He presented the society bylaws regarding the nomination to the board.

The following motion was issued.

**Motion:** to elect Erdal Arikan as the next Executive Editor of the IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

The motion passed unanimously.

Next, Frank Kschischang, presented a report on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Several housecleaning changes were presented. At this meeting they are informational, and will be voted upon in the next meeting.

They presented 6 IEEE must-haves for governing documents, as well as the IEEE proposed “nice to have” items. These items are for now informational and will be voted upon later. A BoG member asked about the clause regarding “removal with or without cause”, which was then clarified. IEEE suggests creating Conflict Resolution Committee. It was also suggested that the Ethics Committee for the Society be created. A BoG member stated that that even though IEEE has recommendations, it does not have a precedent of success here. It was concluded that the society should be careful here. A suggestion by a BoG member was to also include an ombudsperson outside the society.

Frank next explained the roles of the appointed officers of the society, and discussed pros and cons of removing secretary’s vote. He then explained the positions of the ex-officio members of the board. Next, he presented the role of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, as well as the roles of the Cover Award Committee and the Massey Award Committee. He also presented a reorganization of the Membership Committee and of the Publications Committee, and the motivation behind these proposed changes. He also presented the revised Journal Steering Committee, Selection of EiC and Executive Editor (EE) for T-IT, and the rationale behind the proposed changes.

All the changes to relevant bylaws are redlined in the presentation available on the Information Theory Society website.

There was some discussion regarding these changes. A BoG member asked if the ITSoc website could include a visualization of the committees and members. Some BoG members, including

Elza Erkip, who is on the committee, expressed concern regarding the proposed policies for selecting the next EE.

In summary, Frank stated that the formal approval on the proposed changes listed above will be requested at the next BoG meeting. He added that the comments and suggestions are welcome.

Next, Aylin Yener reported on behalf of the Awards Committee. She presented the members of the committee and discussed the procedure for selecting each of the three annual paper awards. First, she summarized the procedure to select the finalists of the Jack Keil Wolf Award and added that the award would be decided after the session in which the finalist papers would be presented on Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup> at ISIT 2019. She next discussed the joint Communications-IT Award, explaining that each of the two societies takes the lead in alternate years. She noted that this year Communication Society was the lead. She explained that future revisions to the bylaws for the Communications-IT Award should include the papers published in JSAIT. She next discussed the IT Paper Award. Per our bylaws, the report describing the multi-step procedure on the award selection was sent to the BoG (except members with a CoI) three weeks prior to the annual meeting. The report was just accepted in the consent agenda. She has subsequently made the following motion:

Motion: 2019 IT paper award to go to “Phase Retrieval via Wirtinger Flow: Theory and Algorithms,” by Emmanuel Candes, Xiadong Li and Mahdi Soltanolkotabi, published in IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, Volume 61, Issue: 4, April 2015.

The motion passed unanimously.

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After a short break, the next report was presented by Vijay Kumar, on behalf of the Conference Committee. Vijay started by thanking committee members. In particular, he thanked Brian Kurkoski for agreeing to serve an additional year for continuity purposes.

Next, Vijay, summarized the status of the upcoming IT Symposia. In particular, the status updates are as follows. Additional detail on ISIT 2020 in Los Angeles appears below. ISIT 2021 in Melbourne has submitted its budget for approval, vetted by the conference committee and is part of the Consent Agenda for this BoG. ISIT 2022 in Helsinki has nothing to report at this time. ISIT 2023 in Taipei was preponed from 2024 to 2023 per BoG/Conference Committee request at the ITA 2019 BoG meeting as well as its aftermath. A presentation by the ISIT 2023 team was made that included presenting the BoG with a choice of 3 venues as well as the conference budget. For 2024, it was noted that there is an expression of interest from the New York team led by Anand Sarwate and Jeorg Kliewer to hold ISIT 2024 in New York as opposed to an earlier plan to hold it in New York in 2023. This change was made in response to a request

from the proposed organizers of ISIT in New York. Vijay re-iterated that decision concerning an ISIT venue is typically made no earlier than 4 years in advance.

With regard to ISIT 2020 in Los Angeles, Vijay reported, based on information received from conference co-organizer Salma Avestimehr, that

- a contract with Westin Bonaventure Hotel as the venue has been signed and executed by IEEE;
- a contract with Universal Studios for the ISIT 2020 banquet on Wednesday is awaiting IEEE approval and signing of contract; the negotiated contract with Universal Studios includes admission to the park(~\$100 value), so that ISIT attendees can spend the day in Universal Studios ahead of the banquet;
- the organizers were getting quotes for AV setup at the hotel;
- they are approaching sponsors, and have heard positive response from Intel and Qualcomm, and hoping to get more sponsors lined up;
- flyers should be ready for distribution at ISIT 2019.

Next, Vijay summarized the status of the upcoming Information Theory Workshops. ITW 2019 will be in Visby, Sweden in August. Conference planning is on track. ITW 2020 will be held in Garda Lake, Italy, September 13-17, based on updates received from Enrico Paolini. The CFP would be distributed at ISIT 2019; call for sponsors is ready; the website is also ready; organizing committee is finalized. Last budget details are being discussed with the IEEE.

A proposal for holding ITW 2021 in Kanazawa, Japan has been received and vetted by the Conference Committee and the proposal will be presented to the BoG at this meeting; planning is on track. A preliminary expression of interest for holding ITW 2022 in India was received from Lalitha Vadlamani of the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Hyderabad.

Vijay then passed on to the BoG, a request from Aaron Wagner that ISIT conference organizers ensure that suitable arrangements are made for the various activities of the IT Society that take place at an ISIT such as the BoG meeting, WITHITs, mentoring roundtable, meet the Shannon lecturer, and the AE meeting. While the costs of these events is borne by the IT Society, it was strongly suggested that the respective conference organizers include these costs in their budget negotiations with the conference venue; the reason being that when these events are separately budgeted, the costs tend to be far higher. While the Awards Ceremony/Awards luncheon is an ISIT event, it is paid for by the conference organizers. The society pays for the cost of the award plaques and for shipping them to the ISIT venue etc.

Next, Vijay discussed the status of the ISIT 2019 student travel awards. He stated that student travel awards were given out this year only to students from US & EU because the ISIT organizers were able to obtain sponsorship only from the US NSF and two EU organizations supporting students from their respective geographic regions. A concern about lack of support to ISIT from non US-EU regions was voiced by Vinod Prabhakaran (TIFR, Mumbai, India), and was shared by others. Vijay provided country-wise breakdown of registered non-US-based students. Vijay appreciated the proposal put forward by Aaron Wagner and approved by the BoG to provide support to students, to the extent of \$20K, under new initiatives. Application for the travel grant can either follow the procedure adopted for ISIT EU and US student in full, or



follow a simplified procedure. The decision was left here to the conference committee. Vijay also mentioned that Tara Javidi had raised the issue of support for students from Iran, and perhaps elsewhere. It was decided that this issue could be addressed by the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion.

Vijay concluded the presentation with a summary of planned actions, some immediate and some to be carried out over the term of his tenure. These include updating the IT Society website (in conjunction with the ITS Online Committee), identifying new Conference Committee Members for 2020, and identifying Organizers for the ISIT and ITW conferences down the road. It was discussed that ISIT and ITW be hosted on the IT Society website, as too much of a burden was being placed on the Online Publication Committee Chair, as pointed out by one BoG member.

BoG also briefly brainstormed ideas on how to support students and colleagues from embargo countries. BoG wants to find good ways to accommodate these special circumstances, and the details on how to do this will be discussed at a later time.

The next presentation was given by Gerhard Kramer on behalf of the ISIT 2023 organizing committee. He summarized the key facts about the symposium and thanked the organizing team and Po-Ning Chen in particular for doing a great job. Gerhard went over the motivation for choosing Taipei, and listed recent related conferences that were successfully held there. He also provided the numbers of the sizeable and active IT community in the region. He presented an estimated cost for the registration, in the amount of \$848, which is comparable to recent ISIT conferences. Next, he discussed tourist attractions and transportation systems in Taipei. He went over the members of the organizing committee. He then presented a detailed program schedule table, including special sessions.

Next, Jerry and I-Hsiang presented options for the conference venue in detail. There were 3 choices, with budget details provided in the longer report. Estimated income the same for all 3 options. Next, they went over the pros and cons of each options. First option is National Taiwan University Hospital International Convention Center. It is centrally located but it is a smaller venue. Second option is Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center. It is a brand new center, opening in December 2019. The concern is that it is expensive. Option 3 is Taipei International Convention Center. This option is new, whereas the former two were presented at the last BoG meeting. The only concern is that the venue was built in 1992. On the plus side, a low venue cost has been negotiated. Also, this center will be the conference venue for Globecom 2020. Organizing committee carefully compared all three options and recommends Option 3 for the overall balance.

A BoG member suggested that for special sessions bigger rooms can be split. BoG also requested to be mindful of student cost registration and lodging. Organizing committee also clarified that there are many open spaces for networking and breaks, and that the renovations will be ready by 2023. Based on the input from a BoG member, organizing committee will look into the

possibility of reducing the registration cost by \$100. A BoG member asked about the implications of conversion fees and taxes. Gerhard explained that there will just be a one-time currency exchange.

Next, the following motion was issued.

**Motion:** to vote on Taipei as the location of ISIT 2023 and venue Option 3.

The motion passed unanimously.

Next presentation was given by Brian Kurkoski, who discussed the proposal for ITW 2021 in Kanazawa, Japan in the period October 17-21, 2021. Brian explained that Kanazawa is a historical town and is accessible from Tokyo on a high speed train in 2 hr 37 min.

Kanazawa has a unique historical element, including an exemplary garden and tea house district, and is popular for excursions and sushi. Brian stated that both the Organizing Committee and TPC are in place. He then went over the statement on gender diversity for ITW 2021. He next stated that 4 focus research topics are planned: low latency communications; information theoretic security; machine learning for communications; and codes in the cloud. Proposed program spans 4 days, and adding tutorials on Sunday as in ITW 2018 is being considered. Proposed venue is Kanazawa Bunka Hall, which is centrally located. Brian next stated that the estimated registration fees are favorable relative to past ITWs, as is the preliminary budget. He stated that the venue cost is low, as it is run by the city. He also said that there are many affordable hotel options in the vicinity. October date being close to Allerton appears not to be an issue.

Next, the following vote was issued.

**Motion:** to vote for ITW 2021 in Kanazawa for Oct 17-21, 2021.

The motion passed unanimously.

Next presentation was given by Stark Draper, on behalf of the ITSoc Schools Committee. He stated that the following schools are taking place in 2019, and are already approved: Australia, European School of Information Theory, India, and North American School of Information Theory. For 2020, European School of Information Theory in Stuttgart, Germany, was approved in February 2019. At today's BoG meeting, the following will be presented. A proposal for the NASIT'20 in Vancouver, Canada, and a proposal for E.Asia'20 in Seoul, Korea.

Afterwards, Lele Wang presented the details of the proposed NASIT 2020 at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. She went over the organizing committee, and provided the list of 5 confirmed speakers, along with their tentative talk titles. Next, she went over the

location options; location has not been finalized and there is a back up option. Proposed dates are July 8-10, 2020 to avoid overlaps with other conferences. She went over the proposed program, budget and requested contribution.

The following motion was issued.

**Motion :** “The BoG authorizes 10K USD to be allocated from the ITSoc 2020 budget to support the North American School in Information Theory (NASIT) to be held in Vancouver, Canada.”

The motion passed unanimously.

She clarified that the cost for lodging will be around \$89 CAD per night in a double room.

Next, Changho Suh of KAIST presented on behalf of Youngchul Sung of KAIST, a proposal for East Asian School in Information Theory (EASIT). He motivated that EASIT would be successful due to a large percentage of IT student members. EASIT was organized as a new initiative in 2018, and it is the goal of the organizing committee to make it a regular event. The following places are planned for the upcoming years: 2020 Seoul, South Korea; 2021 Hong Kong; 2022 Shenzhen, China. Changho went over the organizing committee and the program outline, stating that it would follow the template of the Taiwan School. There will be tutorials and lectures, the latter focusing on more advanced and interdisciplinary topics. Cost estimates were presented. Suggestions from BoG were to make the program more balanced and spread student posters more evenly. He also presented cost estimates, including lodging and travel support for students and international speakers. Changho stated that the venue is still tentative. He also stated that there is no registration fee for this school, but that there is lodging fee. He asked for a budget to support international students. BoG suggested adding a small registration fee to ensure commitment. There was a short discussion regarding travel support.

The following motion was issued.

**Motion :** “The BoG authorizes 20k USD in 2020 new initiative funds to be allocated to the East Asian School in Information Theory (EASIT) to be held in Seoul, South Korea.”

The motion passed unanimously.

The next presentation was given by Wei Yu, on behalf of the Membership Committee. Wei went over the list of members of the committee. He then went over the committee budget, pointing that the committee will be able to fund the ITA event as the new initiative. Next, he went over the Distinguished Lecturers (DL) Program, listing DLs from the last and from the current year. He stated that the call for DL 2020 will be around October 2019. He then stated that the Chapter-of-the-Year Award is given to the Japan Chapter. He also stated that new chapters are formed in Estonia and in Qatar. He then summarized the activities of the Student and Outreach Subcommittee, and the Women in Information Theory Society (WITHITS), whose event with 170 registrants will take place on Monday July 8, 2019 at ISIT. The event was advertised by Gireeja Ranade.

The following presentation was given by Brian Kurkoski, on behalf of the Online Committee.

Brian reported on the recent activities of the committee and thanked Anand Sarwate for his help. Brian explained that the ITSoc website was upgraded from Plone 4 to Plone 5 system, and that in the process of doing so, new costs emerged.

Brian stated that “ITSoc Recent News and Events” is the society’s new mailing list, and that there will be a web site for the new JSAIT journal.

Regarding the server upgrade, Brian expressed concerns with continuing with the current vendor due to mounting costs. His suggestion was to freeze the developer for now and reevaluate the cost, version options, etc. in order to keep the cost within the budget. Based on the questions from BoG members, Brian clarified that the current online version is based on Plone 5, due to enhanced security.

Regarding the questions about the cost, Brian clarified that there is a plan to gather additional quotes. A BoG member pointed out that some on-line logins are not working. Brian explained that these are being resolved, but that he needs more volunteers on the committee to help with these issues. Next, Brian presented a proposal for Subsite Design and General UI Improvements, that would also support the on-line version of JSAIT, in the amount of \$4K. He showed what the front page for JSAIT would look like, and that it could include space for a distinctive logo.

The following motion was issued.

Motion: To approve \$4K budget for ITSoc website improvements.

The motion passed unanimously.

After Brian, the next presentation was given by Andrea Goldsmith. In her capacity as EiC, she updated on the status of JSAIT. She presented the executive summary, and provided updates since the last BoG meeting. In particular, senior editorial board was finalized in March 2019. Steering Committee and the Industrial Advisory Board were also recently finalized. The first issue of JSAIT will be on Deep Learning: Mathematical Foundations and Applications to Information Science. Lead guest editor will be Alex Dimakis. Submission deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Notification of paper acceptances is March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Expected publication is in April/May 2020. The second issue of JSAIT will be Quantum Information Science. The lead guest editor will be Andreas Winter. The rest of the editorial board is being formed now. The current goal is to issue Call For Papers in September/October 2019, with the submission deadline being in December 2019/January 2020. Andrea then went over the launch plan and the logistics for JSAIT in the steady state, explaining that there will be initially 3-4 issues per year, and increasing to 6 issues per year by Year 3. Further discussion on the JSAIT leadership structure was saved for a later time.

Next presentation was given by Elza Erkip, on behalf of the ITSoc Inclusion and Diversity Committee. She advertised Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Event, taking place on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, at ISIT 2019. The event will overview the activities of the committee. Jose Moura, President of the IEEE, and Andrea Goldsmith, Chair of the IEEE (TAB and Board) Committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Professional Ethics, are speakers. Next, Elza, reported on the activities of the ITSoc Inclusion and Diversity Committee, including gathering relevant data and statistics, identifying best practices, specifying ITSoc code of conduct, and summarizing the NASEM Report on Sexual Harassment of Women in Academia. She also presented the statistics on gender distributions amongst the authors of the best paper awards at major CS conferences. The data was collected by Jingyan Wang and Nihar Shah. She pointed out that less than 4% of best paper awards at ISIT have female authors, and that these percentages are low across the board.

The next presentation on Diversity and Inclusion in the IEEE was given by Andrea Goldsmith, in her capacity as the Chair of the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, and as the Chair of the IEEE Board Ad-Hoc Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Ethics. She went over the recent IEEE survey that found that female technologists face unequal treatment and sexist workplaces. She went over the activities of the TAB committee and the committee's accomplishments to date. She also went over the IEEE Diversity and Inclusion Activities outside TAB, as well as the plan for 2019 of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. She then reported on the activities of the IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Professional Ethics, and discussed activities of various subcommittees. She presented recent progress highlights and IEEE Board of Directors Motions. She concluded by stating that more work is needed to make better the road ahead for the next generation of women in EE and STEM. This work entails collecting statistics, raising awareness, tracing diversity/inclusion progress, recruiting advocates of both genders, and activities taking place in professional organizations (particularly the IEEE), universities and companies.

After Andrea, the next presentation was given by Lalitha Sankar, on behalf of the Women in Information Theory Society. Lalitha's presentation was in a quiz format, highlighting very low percentages of female representation in the society's leadership roles and various awards. She concluded that there is much work left to do to improve these numbers, and invited meeting attendees to participate in the society events including WITHITS and diversity events.

The next presentation, given by Elza Erkip, and prepared by Elza Erkip and Wei Yu, was the proposal for the "Goldsmith Lecturer". Elza stated that the initial proposal was presented at the last BoG meeting, where it was viewed favorably. She next provided further background information. Andrea Goldsmith won the 2019 IEEE Eric E. Sumner Award. Elza explained that Andrea wants to give back to the ITSoc by donating her prize money to endow an award for junior women at a time when it could be a real catalyst in their career trajectory, akin to the existing Padovani Lecturer Award. Elza also explained that Andrea will also help prepare and execute a funding plan for additional funding. Next, she went over the scope of the "Goldsmith

Lecturer” award. At first, Andrea’s endowment will be used to create a “Goldsmith Lecturer”. Award will be given to a junior woman researcher. The awardee will give a lecture at an IT School. She next explained eligibility criteria for the award, and the nomination and selection procedures. She also described professional benefits of having received this award, funding amount and sources for the award, and she presented a list of potential industry donors for the continuation of the award.

The following motion was issued.

**Motion:** To approve IEEE Information Theory Society Goldsmith Lecturer.

The motion passed.

There was some discussion regarding how the Padovani Lecturer award was funded. It was explained that the initial \$10K was from him and there were subsequent matching funds. A BoG member asked how is the presentation of a Padovani Lecturer at an IT School organized between American and non-American schools. It was suggested that could be additional fundraising efforts for the schools. Elza also explained that there will be a coordination between Padovani Lecturers and Goldsmith Lecturers across different IT schools.

Next item on the agenda was new business.

The first open discussion was regarding the process of selecting the incoming Executive Editor (EE) for IT Transactions.

Some meeting attendees and BoG members commented that the proposed appointment procedure of the EE gives too much weight to the opinion of the incoming EiC. Others pointed out that accounting for EiC's preferences is an indispensable part of the procedure given the need for daily interactions between the EiC and EE, which requires establishing good working relationship. Other BoG members, while being in favor of supporting a productive relationship, did not support the procedure for succession proposed earlier in the presentation of N&A Committee Chair Frank Kschischang. Some BoG members have stated that no veto practices are adopted by other journals and professional organizations. It was also suggested that senior editors be introduced to help distribute the work load.

Next presentation was given by Christina Fragouli. She reported on the status of the book “Information In Small Bits: Information Theory for Kids,” written by Christina Fragouli, Anna Scaglione, and Dawn Faelnar. The book is available for purchase on Amazon. Christina asked for colleagues to provide book reviews.

Regarding the new IT magazine, on behalf of the Magazine Steering Committee, Christina also explained that the Phase 2 proposal will be due on December 15, 2019, provided that Phase 1 is approved by the IEEE. Further information will be provided at the next BoG meeting.

There was a brief discussion regarding the spending of the reserves, and how much per year of the reserves can be spent. It was suggested that a separate Finance Committee be formed.

The meeting adjourned at 5.45 pm local time.