

IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting
Allerton Conference Center, Monticello, IL USA, October 1, 2003 19:30

Mehul Motani

Attendees: Alexander Barg, Thomas Cover, Michelle Effros, Anthony Ephremides, Tom Fuja, Marc Fossorier, Andrea Goldsmith, Torleiv Kløve, Ralf Koetter, Ryuji Kohno, Steven W. McLaughlin, Muriel Médard, Urbashi Mitra, Mehul Motani, David L. Neuhoff, Lance Perez, Bixio Rimoldi, Joseph A. O'Sullivan, Alexander Vardy, Sergio Verdu, Han Vinck.

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 by Society President Han Vinck. The members of the Board were welcomed and introduced themselves.

1. The agenda was approved and distributed.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting in Yokohama, Japan on June 29, 2003 were approved as distributed.

The following action items from the previous meeting in Yokohama, Japan were reviewed.

→**Action Item** It was agreed by the Board that the Joint IT/ComSoc Paper Award procedures be added to the Bylaws. This needs to be in conjunction with ComSoc.

→**Action Item** The Board voted unanimously to revisit the Bylaws with respect to voting for the IT Paper Award at the BOG meeting.

→**Action Item** The Board requested that the ad-hoc committee looking at publications issues write a detailed task description and report at the next meeting in October.

→**Action Item** The Board requested that the Education committee present a more detailed report on their activities at the next meeting in October.

→**Action Item** The Board requested that the ad-hoc committee tasked to liaison with the NSF report on their activities at the next meeting in October.

Steven McLaughlin reported on the reorganization at NSF. He commented that Venu Veeravalli is now the program director responsible for communications funding at NSF.

Anthony Ephremides discussed his experience as a member of the NSF Visiting Committee and expressed some concern about leadership at NSF.

→**Action Item** The President requested that the NSF ad-hoc committee submit a report of their findings.

→**Action Item** It was also agreed that the remaining action items from the previous meeting stated above be revisited.

3. The President began by thanking the organizers of ISIT'03.

Regarding the Society BOG elections, the President explained the circumstances of Hideki Imai's name appearing on the ballot.

The President commented on the need for a new webmaster for the Society web pages.

It was noted that Muriel Médard would be replacing Marc Fossorier as Treasurer of the Society.

The President announced the results of the Society BOG elections: Hideki Imai as President, Steven McLaughlin as 1st Vice President, and David Neuhoff as 2nd Vice President.

By a clear majority of votes, the following paper was selected for the IT Society Paper Award: Lizhong Zheng and David N. C. Tse, "Communication on the Grassmann manifold: A geometric approach to the noncoherent multiple-antenna channel", IEEE Trans. Info. Theory, vol. IT-48, pp. 359 - 383, February 2002.

It was noted that Robert Gallager was the recipient of the 2003 Marconi Award.

It was noted that the Germany chapter was selected as the Best Chapter for 2003.

The President discussed the meeting with the Japanese society SITA. It was noted that SITA is organizing ISITA'04 to be held in Italy next year. The abstracts for ISITA are to appear in IEEEExplore.

The President discussed a proposal for a joint workshop with ISITA in 2005 and to use the IEICE Meeting as a joint meeting. Marc Fossorier and Ryuji Kohno are coordinating this effort.

→**Action Item** The Board supports this and encourages a detailed proposal.

The President discussed reciprocity of fees for ISIT and ISITA. He suggested a meeting in Chicago to discuss a formal agreement.

→**Action Item** The Board unanimously supported the President in investigating this matter with IEEE.

4. Steven McLaughlin reported on membership development. He noted a 12% IT Society membership and a 6% drop in IEEE membership. He also reported a positive reaction in the IEEE-wide membership survey.

The Chapter Chairs meeting attracted the participation of 20 chairs. It was announced that the German chapter was selected as the Best Chapter for 2003. There were also two new chapters in 2003, Bangalore and Beijing.

The following ideas were suggested: (a) mentoring program, (b) Best Student Paper Award (Michelle Effros), and (c) Social event with students and BOG (Andrea Goldsmith).

→**Action Item** The Board requested that David Neuhoff, along with Michelle Effros and Andrea Goldsmith, follow up on the ideas suggested above.

5. Marc Fossorier presented the Treasurer's report. It was noted that the IEEE is changing policies, resulting in less freedom for individual societies to develop their own finances.

It was commented that IEEE charges are based on services not on account balance.

Things are on target for 2003. The Society gets money returned based on hit count (downloads) and citations. The IT Society benefits based on these criteria.

It was reported that the Society will get \$10,000 over a two year period for the digital library.

ISIT 2002 reported a surplus of \$64,000. There was a suggestion to return the surplus to the chapter to use for activities (both local and society wide). There was a suggestion

to revisit a proposal made by Jim Massey, a proposal for which more information is needed.

→**Action Item** The Board requested Anthony Ephremides to develop a proposal for dealing with the surplus.

6. The President reviewed the report of the IT Transactions Editor-in-Chief.

The Board unanimously approved the following Associate Editor appointments: Galen Sasaki, Bruce Hajek, Ralf Müller, and Xiaodong Wang.

7. There was nothing to report with respect to the ad-hoc committee on publication issues.

8. Lance Perez reported on the IT Society Newsletter. He noted problems with delivery outside the USA as IEEE is using a third-party vendor.

There was a suggestion to go fully electronic with the Society Newsletter. Several board members expressed strong interest in keeping the paper version.

There was a suggestion for the Society to assume responsibility for layout and distribution of the Society Newsletter.

→**Action Item** The Board requested Lance Perez to look into this matter and report back to the Board.

The idea of a digital archive of the Newsletter was proposed and the Board fully supported Lance's effort in pursuing this course of action.

Lance announced that the deadline for the December 2003 Newsletter was October 15, 2003.

9. There was nothing to report with respect to the IT Society Website.

10. Matters related to Symposia and Workshops

- (a) The Board heard two proposals for ISIT 2006. Jody O'Sullivan made a proposal for ISIT 2006 in Seattle, Washington, USA. Andrea Goldsmith made a proposal for ISIT 2006 in San Francisco, California, USA.

The Board approved a motion to vote on ISIT 2006 at this current BOG with 12 in favor, 2 against, and 1 no vote.

The Board then voted and selected Seattle as the next location of ISIT 2006 by a margin of 8 in favor of Seattle and 7 in favor of San Francisco.

- (b) The Board unanimously approved the Information Theory Workshop to be held in New Zealand in August 2005.

- (c) Ryuju Kohno presented an update on ISIT 2003.

- (d) Sergio Verdu reported on the ITW Workshop in San Antonio, to be held from October 24-29, 2004.

- (e) Ralf Koetter reported that all was on track for ISIT 2004 to be held in Chicago.

- (f) There was nothing new to report regarding ISIT 2005.

11. There was nothing to report with respect to the Education Committee.
12. Steven McLaughlin commented on the new CD/DVD initiative. It was agreed to postpone the discussion and decision until we have information of the total costs involved.
→**Action Item** The Board requested Steven McLaughlin to make another proposal once all the information is available.
→**Action Item** The Board requests Lance Perez, Steven McLaughlin, and Alexander Vardy to form an ad-hoc committee to look at the digital library issue.
13. The President led a discussion on the outcome of the IEEE questionnaire.
14. The floor was then opened up for all other business
The Board thanked Han Vinck for his service as President of the Society.
The Board also thanked Marc Fossorier and Michelle Effros for their contribution to the Society.
It was announced that the 2004 BOG meetings will be held in conjunction with CISS in Princeton, ISIT in Chicago, and ISITA. Further details will be provided at a later date.
15. The meeting was adjourned at 23:10.