

**IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting**  
**Allerton House, Monticello, IL, USA, September 27, 2006**

João Barros

**Attendees:** Alexei Ashikhmin, João Barros, Daniel Costello, Dave Forney, Marc Fossorier, Andrea Goldsmith, Ralf Koetter, Frank Kschischang, J. Nicholas Laneman, Muriel Médard, David L. Neuhoff, Sandeep Pradhan, Anant Sahai, David Tse, Alexander Vardy, Venugopal V. Veeravalli, Ken Zeger.

The meeting was called to order at 19:42 by Society President David Neuhoff. The members of the Board were welcomed and introduced themselves.

1. The agenda was approved and distributed. Board members were also encouraged to look at the agenda and other materials online at the new Society development server.
2. The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
3. The President presented his report and miscellaneous announcements.

The President reported on the state of the Society, including the IT Transactions, conferences and workshops, status of various initiatives, and membership.

The President addressed topics related to the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB), including a possible shift of policy with respect to voluntary page charges and hardcopy reprints. The Board did not indicate a desire to eliminate voluntary page charges.

The President presented for comment a draft of the presentation to IEEE TAB/PSPB PSC in which he will present BoG's previously approved proposal to include online access to IT conference and workshop proceedings as a basic benefit of IT membership.

4. Muriel Médard presented the Treasurer's report.

The Society's finances were reviewed and found to be healthy.

The financial activities of the Society conferences and workshops were reported in the Treasurer's report online.

5. The President presented the Editor-in-Chief's report, who submitted a new associate editor appointment.

The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Lang Tong to one of the two Associate Editor positions for Detection and Estimation.

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

- (a) ISIT 2009 Seoul:

The President reported briefly on the progress. Preparations are on track.

- (b) ITW 2008 Portugal:

João Barros reported briefly on the progress. Preparations are on track.

- (c) ITW 2007 Lake Tahoe:  
William Ryan put forth a proposal for a ITW Workshop in 2007.  
The Board unanimously voted to approve the proposal, conditioned on approval of the budget by the Treasurer.
  - (d) ITW 2007 Norway:  
A report was posted online. Everything is on track.
  - (e) ISIT 2007 France:  
Marc Fossorier reported briefly on the progress of the organization of the annual Symposium, including sponsoring.  
Andrea Goldsmith described a proposal put forth by the TPC of ISIT 2007 for a Best Student Paper Award at ISIT 2007.  
The Board unanimously approved the proposal.  
The goal is to make it a regular award, handled by the IT awards committee.
  - (f) ISIT 2008 Toronto: Frank Kschischang reported briefly on the progress.
  - (g) ITW 2006 China: Dan Costello reported briefly on the progress, including the workshop's acceptance rate.
  - (h) ISIT 2006 Seattle: Jody O'Sullivan's report was displayed and discussed.
  - (i) ITW 2006 Uruguay: No report was submitted.
  - (j) ISIT 2005 Australia: Alex Grant's report was displayed and discussed. It indicated that the conference had closed with a considerable surplus.
7. The President reported on the current status of technical co-sponsorships by the Society.
  8. Marc Fossorier reported on the report of the ad-hoc conference committee, which supported the creation of a conference committee and recommended changes to the bylaws.  
  
The Board discussed the role of this committee and made suggestions with respect to the proposed bylaw changes. One goal is to increase the efficiency of Board of Governors activities.  
  
There was a motion to approve a conference committee along the lines of the proposal. The committee should have at least three members, whose names are to be put forth by the President and approved by the Board. This is to be an ad-hoc committee until modifications to the bylaws to create a standing conference committee are proposed and adopted.  
  
The Board unanimously approved the motion.
  9. The President and the Second Vice-President discussed several of the proposed bylaw changes contained in the report of the bylaws committee.  
  
A motion was made to change the bylaws with respect to the schedule of activities related to the Joint Information Theory and Communications Societies Paper Award.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. This will now be proposed to the Communications Society.

A motion was made to change the bylaws to include the Chapter Award. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

A motion was made to change the bylaws to incorporate into the bylaws the renaming of the Distinguished Service Award as the Aaron D. Wyner Distinguished Service Award. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

The Board discussed the quorum definition for Board of Governors meetings. A motion to change the definition of a quorum to a majority of the Board of Governors. The Board voted 8 against 3 in favour of the motion.

Marc Fossorier raised the issue of terminology in the bylaws, in particular the distinction between voting members and elected members.

The President discussed the possibility of extending the size of the Nominations and Appointments Committee. The discussion will be referred back to the bylaws committee.

10. Andrea Goldsmith reported on the activities of the Society Student Committee, including financial aspects.

Frank Kschischang suggested that successful Student Committee activities, such as the panel discussion and the research round table at ISIT, be used to increase the number of Society members.

There was a motion to increase the budget of the Society Student Committee to 10000 USD. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

11. The Society Online Editor, Nick Laneman, gave an update on the IT Society website. A dedicated media server was purchased and put in operation.

12. An apparent decrease in the amount of NSF funding for the information theory research community was discussed. Some members of the Board believe that the NSF funding of research in information theory has declined significantly in recent years. The Board discussed the need for an increased effort in promoting information theory at NSF and at other funding bodies. Alexander Vardy reported on a similar effort currently underway in the ACM Special Interest Group on Algorithms and Computation Theory (ACM-SIGACT).

A motion was made and approved to have the President appoint an ad-hoc committee that will investigate funding for information theory research, at NSF and in general.

13. Sandeep Pradhan raised the issue of difficult access to out-of-print information theory books and older journals. The Board discussed possible solutions to make these works more easily available.

Sandeep Pradhan will contact editors and investigate this issue further.

14. There was no new business.

15. The next Board meeting will be held at CISS in Baltimore.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 23:33.