

**IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting**  
**The Westin Seattle, Seattle, WA, USA, July 8, 2006**

Mehul Motani

**Attendees:** John Anderson, Alexei Ashikhmin, Guiseppe Caire, Daniel Costello, Thomas Cover, Richard Cox, Anthony Ephremides, Dave Forney, Marc Fossorier, Andrea Goldsmith, Alex Grant, Hideki Imai, Torleiv Kløve, Ralf Koetter, Frank Kschischang, J. Nicholas Laneman, Steven W. McLaughlin, Muriel Médard, Urbashi Mitra, Mehul Motani, David L. Neuhoff, Vincent Poor, Bixio Rimoldi, Nela Rybowicz, Anant Sahai, Shlomo Shamai, Ulrich Speidel, Joseph A. O'Sullivan, Desmond Taylor, Alexander Vardy, Venugopal V. Veeravalli, Adriann J. van Wijngaarden, Ken Zeger.

The meeting was called to order at 13:50 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 introduced Richard Cox, the IEEE Division 9 Director.

Mr. Cox reviewed the structure of IEEE, and briefly mentioned membership and public imperatives, periodicals, conferences, and standards.

Division 9 includes Aerospace/electronics, geoscience/remote sensing, intelligent transportation, information theory, oceanic engineering, signal processing, and vehicular technology. It was noted that there is still no clear understanding of the impact of being in one division versus another.

4. The President presented his report and miscellaneous announcements.

The President reported on the state of the Society, including the IT Transactions, conferences and workshops, awards, finances, and membership.

The President reported on recent IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) news and activities.

5. The President put forth two new appointments for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer respectively. João Barros was nominated as Secretary. Anant Sahai was nominated as Treasurer.

The Board unanimously approved the appointment of João Barros as Secretary.

The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Anant Sahai as Treasurer.

6. Muriel Médard presented the Treasurer's report.

The Society's finances were reviewed. The Treasurer reported that the surplus was going up for three years running. It was noted that this left some funding for new initiatives of the Society.

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

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

- (a) ISIT 2009 Seoul: Vince Poor summarized the progress of the organization. There was some discussion of the dates of the conference with respect to ICC. Vince Poor requested formal Board approval, with the freedom to adjust the dates is needed.  
The Board unanimously approved the proposal, with the freedom to the organizers to change the dates if needed.
- (b) ITW 2008 Portugal: Steve McLaughlin put forth a proposal for a ITW Workshop in 2008.  
The Board unanimously voted to approve the proposal.
- (c) ISIT 2008 Toronto: Frank Kschischang reported briefly on the progress.
- (d) ITW 2007 Norway: Torleiv Kløve reported briefly on the progress.
- (e) ISIT 2007 France: Guiseppe Caire reported briefly on the progress of the organization of the annual Symposium.
- (f) ITW 2006 China: Dan Costello reported briefly on the progress including finances. Things are on track.
- (g) ISIT 2006 Seattle: Jody O'Sullivan reported on the state of matters of the symposium, including the venue and the finances.
- (h) ITW 2006 Uruguay: There was nothing to report except that the workshop ran successfully.
- (i) ITW 2005 Japan: Hideki Imai reported briefly on the workshop.
- (j) ISIT 2005 Australia: Alex Grant reported briefly that the Symposium is pending an audit and aiming to close the books shortly.
- (k) ITW 2005 New Zealand: Ulrich Speidel reported briefly on the workshop. He requested that the New Zealand chapter be allowed to keep a portion of the surplus to fund local students and young researchers. The Treasurer replied that this might be a problem because the surplus goes straight to IEEE.  
There was discussion on whether and how the Society (or the Sympoisum/Workshop) should provide travel grants to students.  
The ad-hoc conference committee will consider this matter and report to the Board at a subsequent Board meeting.
- (l) Ralf Koetter raised the issue of encouraging authors to submit papers to ArXiv. He requested official board approval.  
The Board unanimously approved the proposal and endorsed the notion that Conference organizers should encourage authors to submit their papers to ArXiv.
- (m) Technical Co-Sponsorship of WiOpt: Tony Ephremides briefly described WiOpt and requested the Board to technically co-sponsor the workshop. There was a motion for the Board to technically co-sponsor the workshop permanently.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

There was a motion for the Workshop to place their proceedings on IEEEExplore, without any fee paid by the Society.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

- (n) Technical Co-Sponsorship of NetCod 2007: Ken Zeger described the 1-day NetCod workshop. There was a motion to technically co-sponsor the NetCod 2007 workshop and to include the proceedings in IEEEExplore, without any fee paid by the Society.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

- (o) Technical Co-Sponsorship of Allerton 2006: There was a motion for the Society to technically co-sponsor the Allerton 2006 workshop.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

- 8. Mark Fossorier discussed several conference related issues.

The first is the differential in registration fees for IEEE members and IEEE Society members.

The second issue concerned On-site membership promotions, namely giving non-IEEE member delegates who register on-site a discount if they join IEEE and the Society at the time of registration.

This matter was handed off to the ad-hoc Conference Committee for further discussion.

- 9. The President raised the matter of online access to conference proceedings.

The Society would like to include online access to all past and present Conference proceedings to all Society members. There was a discussion about whether if the Society should charge for this access (as requested by IEEE) or not.

There was a motion to include online access as part of the basic membership fee to all past and present conference proceedings to all Society members and discuss this with IEEE.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

- 10. The Society Online Editor, Nick Laneman, gave an update on the IT Society website.

There is a general desire to make the website more useful to the members by incorporating dynamic content and allowing users to contribute content.

There was a suggestion that the Society should purchase a dedicated server.

It was decided that the matter be discussed offline.

- 11. Andrea Goldsmith reported on the activities of the Society Student Committee.

At ISIT 2006, there will be a panel discussion and a research round table.

There was a motion to charge the TPC of ISIT 2007 to work out a detailed plan of how to award the Best Student Paper Award at the main Conference of the Society and present this to the Board at its September 2006 meeting.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

12. Bixio Rimoldi presented the Awards Committee report.

The Awards Committee recommends that the Best Paper Award be given to the following paper:

Universal compression of memoryless sources over unknown alphabets, A. Orłitsky, N.P. Santhanam, and J. Zhang, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, IT-50:7 (July 2004), pp. 1469-1481.

The Board unanimously accepts the recommendation of the Awards Committee.

The Awards Committee recommends that the IT Society Chapter of the Year Award be given to the Hong Kong Chapter.

13. Marc Fossorier raised the issue of a proposed change to the Society By-Laws with respect to the Chapter of the Year Award. There was a brief discussion.

There was a motion raised to change the eligibility criteria so that any chapter is eligible.

The Board unanimously approved this motion.

There was a motion to increase the prize from \$1000 to \$2000.

The Board unanimously approved this motion.

There was a motion to change the procedure so that the winner for year XX is recognized at ISIT in year XX and to recognize the Chapter Chairs at a lunch at ISIT XX.

The Board unanimously approved this motion.

14. 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.

The EIC noted two special issues with deadlines later in 2006, one on Relaying and Cooperation and another on Information Theoretic Security.

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

- Andi Loeliger (ETH) in Coding Techniques, effective September 1, 2006.
- Ludo Tolhuizen (Phillips Research) Coding Theory, effective September 1, 2006.
- Andrea Goldsmith (Stanford) in Communications, effective October 1, 2006.
- Alex Grant (South Australia) in Communications, effective November 1, 2006.
- John Anderson (Lund) for Book Reviews editorial position, effective January 1, 2007.

The Board unanimously approved all five AE appointments.

15. Alexander Vardy reported on the activities of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Growth of the Transactions. The Committee has compiled comprehensive data that reflects the growth of the Transactions in the past 18 years. Of note is the fact that the acceptance rate has remained roughly constant since 1989 but the number of published pages has been growing exponentially. The consequences of this growth and possible responses by the Society were discussed. The committee made the following recommendations:

- First recommendation: transition to all-electronic publication, with hard copies provided to libraries only; members should receive monthly push email with ToC/hyperlinks.
- Second recommendation: hierarchical organization of the table of contents and of the Editorial Board.
- Third recommendation: a page limit of five pages for correspondence items.

There was a motion to approve the recommendation to impose a page limit of 5 pages for correspondence items. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

There was a motion to implement the monthly push email with table of contents and hyperlinks. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

There was a motion to implement a hierarchical structure of the table of contents. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

16. Availability of Classic Information Theory Books

It was decided that this item would be discussed at a subsequent Board meeting.

17. The Nominations committee presented its report.

It was reported that 12 nominations had been received for the Board.

3 nominations were introduced and endorsed from the floor: Alon Orlitsky, Muriel Medard, Emina Soljanin.

The Board unanimously approved the list of 15 nominations.

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

- Bixio Rimoldi for President
- Marc Fossorier for 1st Vice President
- Venu Veeravalli for 2nd Vice President
- Andrea Goldsmith for 2nd Vice President

The Board unanimously closed and approved all the nominations.

19. There was no new business.

20. The next Board meeting will be held at the Allerton Conference on September 27, 2006 at approximately 7pm.

21. The meeting was adjourned at 19:30.