

new ITSoc publications, a special topics journal and a magazine. More detail on both will be presented later in the meeting, with votes on the appointment of the respective steering committees to be held. The special topics journal will, pending BoG approval in this meeting, shortly move to the Phase I proposal stage. For the moment the (shortly to be approved) magazine steering committee is recommending pausing the magazine approval process to allow consideration of the special topics journal to occur first.

Elza next reviewed ongoing outreach efforts regarding which the BoG will hear today: the children's book, the "Information Theory Hall of Fame" videos, and Webex initiated seminars.

Elza then pointed to an IEEE-level review of the Society, scheduled to happen later this week, with a report on the Society to be presented at the ISIT Vail BoG meeting. She also mentioned a number of discussions at the IEEE and Society levels regarding diversity and inclusion. Elza will present a statement from the IEEE that the BoG can choose to adopt later in the meeting. There have also been grassroots movements to produce an ITSoc statement that would contribute to a conference code-of-conduct, and also to form a Society-level ad-hoc committee on diversity and inclusion. Discussion of both will follow in this meeting.

Elza next brought a few motions to the BoG's attention regarding appointments to various service roles.

Motion: To approve Aaron Wagner as new Treasurer of ITSoc. The motion was moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve Salim El Rouayheb as the new editor of the ITSoc Newsletter. The motion was moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve a steering committee for the Journal on Selected Topics in Information Theory (JSTIT) consisting of Jeff Andrews (Chair), Robert Calderbank, Muriel Médard, Vincent Poor, Rüdiger Urbanke. The motion was moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jong-Seon No (of Seoul National University) and Prof. Raymond Young (of the Chinese University of Hong Kong). Voting will be conducted online.

- 2) **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was deferred till later in the agenda due to flight delays.

include enforcing page limits or extra page charges. Neither has ever been applied to the Transactions, though one or both will almost certainly be applied to any new publication.

- 6) **Conference Committee:** Conference Committee Chair Emanuele Viterbo updated the BoG on the membership of the Committee, which includes three new members to be voted upon for approval. He thanked outgoing members Rudi Urbanke and Ubli Mitra. The proposed three new members are Daniela Tuninetti, Li Chen, and Salman Avestimehr.

Motion: To confirm Daniela Tuninetti, Li Chen, and Salman Avestimehr as members of the Conference Committee. The motion passed.

Emanuele then reviews the IT Symposia. Barcelona'16 is closed with a surplus of 8.1%, the audit is concluded. Aachen'17 is almost closed, with a surplus of about 10%. There was nothing to report about Vail'18. Paris'19 is requesting BoG approval of its loan so that it can

BoG members also noted out that it is very important to advertise the program of schools early and widely, before students firm up plans for summer travel or internships. The schedule, list of speakers, and speaker topics, should be made available as soon as possible. The Committee will monitor attendance.

- 8) **Publications:** EiC Prakash Narayan next discussed the state of the Transactions. Prakash will be stepping down as EiC on 30 June 2018. Sasha Barg will take over as EiC on 1 July 2018. And, as was approved above, Igal Sason will start his term as EE on 1 July 2018. Prakash reviewed the number of papers published and the sub-to-pub time. The latter has dropped from 20.7 months in 2012 to 15.4 months in 2017. For the past few years the annual page count of the Transactions has been roughly 7500. In 2017, however, the page

currently). To support these ideas, as well as to provide needed maintenance and upgrades, additional funding will be required.

- 11) **IEEE Division IX, Director:** IEEE Division IX Director Alex Acero attended the meeting the better to connect to ITSoc, which is one society within Division IX. Alex works at Apple and has been an IEEE volunteer for 25 years, closely affiliated with the Signal Processing Society. His hope in attending the BoG meeting was to learn from ITSoc so that he can use what he learned both to help the IEEE and to help ITSoc within the IEEE. As Alex has served on many committees within the IEEE he offered that his experience, e.g., on serving on financial committees, might help ITSoc better navigate some of the financial challenges

Motion: Conditioned on approval from IEEE regarding copyright issues, the Committee can make the book available for distribution. The motion was seconded. The vote carried.

- 13) Video Project:** Suhas Diggavi presented an update on the YouTube videos that are being created by Matthieu Bloch, Michelle Effros, Christina Fragouli and him. The first two videos, on Network coding and space-time codes, are now both available online:

Network coding: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0ZcAWEvjCA>

Space time codes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbD4NsZQKYw>

Two additional video efforts are in the works. The first will be on the Lempel Ziv algorithm and the second on low-density parity-check codes (where Rüdiger Urbanke is also involved). Looking forward, Suhas conveyed the following message from the entire team involved with this project. They would really like participation from the the BoG (and the broader ITSoc membership) to identify topics for videos that would cater to interests both inside and outside of ITSoc. He commented that a more systematic approach is required to broaden the set of people involved, necessary to sustain the effort.

- 14) JSTIT Proposal:** Jeff Andrews discussed the proposed IEEE Journal of Special Topics on Information Theory (JSTIT). A letter of intent (LoI) was submitted to the IEEE in August 2017, following a BoG vote at the July 2017 BoG meeting. The LoI was approved and IEEE provided some feedback. The next steps were the formation of a steering committee and the submission of a “Phase I” proposal to the TAB. Jeff reviewed the membership of the steering committee (see the President’s Report, above) and its key responsibilities. The latter include directing the journal to technical and financial success, selecting the EiC, selecting the initial senior editors, seeding early special issues, and drafting the bylaws that will govern the JSTIT. Jeff reviewed the process of the Phase I proposal and (assuming success) the follow-on Phase II proposal. He also reviewed the rationale for the journal:

the TAB for a special topics journal is less automatic than getting approval for a magazine.

disciplines. Not only do we need to develop connections — e.g., evidenced by the launching of the special topics journal and the magazine — but we need the best and brightest to choose information theory as their discipline of choice, and to stick with ITSoc. Stark described two proposals. The first is a statement that is proposed to be included in all ITSoc conference, workshops. The second is a proposal to form an ITSoc ad-hoc committee on diversity and inclusion. Both motions are described below and the ensuing BoG discussion is detailed thereafter.

Motion: The IT Society BoG is committed to creating and ensuring an inclusive, welcoming, and safe environment for everyone in the field of information theory at all of our events and experiences. In particular, we require ITSoc sponsored conference/workshop organizers to commit to uphold this standard at ALL events held at or in conjunction with their main conference/workshop, even and particularly at those events broadly defined as conference social events and non-technical activities. We require that the following note be displayed prominently in the conference programs/hand-outs/websites:

“Social outings, events, and activities are integral components of many academic workshops, and conferences. Despite the inherent hierarchical nature of academia in terms of seniority, advancement, contributions, and recognitions, academics often strive to build communities of coh () 0.2 fco ntodlhmmurly pe senitntn

