

## IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting

Palacio da Bolsa, Porto, Portugal, May 4, 2008

Joao Barros

**Attendees:** Behnaam Aazhang, Joao Barros, Ezio Biglieri, Daniel Costello, Michelle Eros, Anthony Ephremides, Dave Forney, Andrea Goldsmith, Tor Helleseth, Gerhard Kramer, J. Nicholas Laneman, Hans-Andrea Loeliger, Muriel Medard, David L. Neuhoff, Bixio Rimoldi, Anant Sahai, Shlomo Shamai, Amin Shokrollahi, Aylin Yener.

The meeting was called to order at 14:00 by Society President G. David Forney, who welcomed the members of the Board.

1. Board members were encouraged to look at the agenda and other materials online at the Society development server.
2. By consent, the Board unanimously approved the agenda of the meeting.
3. By consent, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the previous meeting (Allerton, Monticello IL, September 26, 2007).
4. By consent, the Board approved technical co-sponsorships for the following conferences:
  - 2009 Workshop on Network Coding, Theory, and Applications (NetCod 2009),
  - International Conference on Information-Theoretic Security,
  - XII International Symposium on Problems of Redundancy in Information and Control Systems.
5. The President presented his report and miscellaneous announcements.

The President noted that the Society is in very good financial shape, with surpluses that are beyond expectation.

The President thanked Bixio Rimoldi for his contributions as President of the Society, and Andrea Goldsmith for attending the forthcoming TAB meetings.

Eros noted that different Associate Editors and Editor-in-Chiefs have different ways of approaching the review process. Muriel Medard suggested assigning a staff person to usher the papers from submission to publication, as is done by other Societies. The Editor-in-Chief mentioned that he plans to work on a best-practices document.

8. Ezio Biglieri presented the following motion:

1. There will be no more Correspondence section in the Transactions.
2. No submission in the Correspondence category will be accepted as soon as the new policy is posted on the IT society web page and mentioned in the Transactions, and



- (b) Change our guidance to conferences to allow them to budget on a breakeven basis.
- (c) Increase level of Society expenses.

The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Concrete proposals will be discussed in Toronto.

17. Andrea Goldsmith presented the report of the Awards Committee. Three awards were discussed: the IT Paper Award, the Joint IT/Comsoc Paper Award (decision will be made next week), and the IT Student Paper Award (the decision is to be made soon). One of the issues to be considered is whether a paper can get both prizes (IT and Joint). A recommendation has been made to ComSoc to extend the award window to two years. The Bylaws require that the publication committee submit 9 nominations, which has not been done in the past. Andrea Goldsmith will ask for inputs, and possibly suggest a bylaws change.

The IEEE Awards Board has recently decided to recommend discontinuing the Baker Award for the most outstanding paper in any IEEE publication in a given year on the grounds that finding the right criteria and the right people for the awards committee is too hard, despite interest expressed by IT and several other societies in funding and sustaining this award. Andrea Goldsmith proposed to convey the Society's disappointment in this outcome at the IEEE TAB meeting in June.

18. Aylin Yener presented the report of the Student Committee. Special events have been arranged at CISS 2008 (round table event for students only) and ISIT 2008 (round table research and panel discussion, both at lunch time). The students will receive free T-shirts at the panel event at ISIT 2008. New initiatives include (a) moving the Student Committee web site to a content-based system and (b) increasing the number of volunteers. The preparation for the Summer School on Information Theory are well under way, with over 150 applicants (more than twice what was predicted). Consequently the budget has had to be revised.

Aylin Yener presented a motion for an additional \$10K from the society to cover School expenses and provide travel grants for attendees. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

19. The President reported on an IT Society proposal for an endowment by the widow of Michel Goutmann to be combined with a matching fund by the Society for a Goutmann-Servetto travel grant for the School. Mrs. Goutmann declined this proposal in favor of a proposal from the Signal Processing Society for a student paper award honoring Dr. Goutmann.

20. Daniel Costello presented the report of the Fellow Committee. The Committee has addressed the following questions from the officers:
- (a) Are we getting enough Fellow nominations? If not, what can we do to improve?
  - (b) Some concern has been voiced that it seems to be harder to become a Fellow via the IT Society than via some other societies. Is there any hard evidence for or against this proposition? If so, is there anything we can do about it?

