

**IEEE Information Theory Society Board of Governors Meeting**

**Location: Chicago, USA**

**Date:** 7 October 2017

**Time:** The meeting convened at 9am CDT (GMT-5); the meeting adjourned at 1:27pm.

**Meeting Chair:** Rüdiger Urbanke

**Minutes taken by:** Stark Draper

**Meeting Attendees:** Suhas Diggavi, Alex Dimakis, Stark Draper, Michelle Effros, Elza Erkip, Christina Fragouli\*, Tara Javidi, Matt LaFleur#, Ubli Mitra, Pierre Moulin, Krishna Narayanan\*, Alon Orlitsky, Anand Sarwate#, Emina Soljanin, Daniela Tuninetti, Rüdiger Urbanke, Michele Wigger\*, Aaron Wagner#, Greg Wornell

(Remote attendees denoted by \*, non-voting attendees by #.)

**Business conducted between meetings:** Between the Jun. 2017 and Oct. 2017 Information

**2) Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Daniela Tuninetti next presented her report. We still have money for new initiatives. Under the half of any surplus in year n can be used in year n+1 for new initiatives. This amounts to \$4.6k USD for use in 2017, which to date is unused. Under the up to 3% of society reserves in year n can be used for new initiatives in year n+1. This latter spending is subject to IEEE approval. E.g., for 2017 the society asked for \$140k USD for new initiatives and the IEEE approved \$105k USD of spending. The \$105k was targeted to continue the broad outreach efforts initiated in 2016. To date about \$50k has been spent. Turning to the actuals of the budget, Daniela first noted that none of the 2017 events have yet closed their books. The net forecast for Q2 was negative \$95k USD. (This a problem because it includes \$105k USD of spending under the 3% rule so the operational net was positive, which is what the IEEE wants to see.) Due to under.67 583.3 TmTJETQq0.00000912 0 612 792 reW\* nBT/F3 11.04 Tf1 0 0 1 200.

members serving in the presidential shift-register. However, appointed members of the BoG (secretary, treasurer, Conference Committee Chair) are appointed annually and traditionally serve for three years, i.e., three terms. Further, appointed members have often then been elected to the BoG as regular members after their appointed term(s). The proposed (and accepted) change to the Bylaws applies the two-term-limit only to elected members of the BoG, thereby making the document consistent with accepted and long-standing practice. There was discussion of changing term limits to a fixed number of years, or to removing term limits altogether. Since either of these ideas would mean a change in policy, they were not included in the revision but instead remain topics for further discussion.

Michelle next turned to the question of how to improve the process of garnering nominations for paper awards, especially the ITSoc Paper Award. The current Bylaws put the onus of generating paper nominations on the Publications Committee. However, this Committee is heavily loaded with running the Transactions, and often the Awards committee receives few nominations. Michelle then led a discussion on what alternative nomination processes might be re-designed. An immediate clarifying question from the BoG asked how detailed nominators must be. Michelle responded that there committee

event planning, the Committee is trying to move towards a set of recurrent events. For such events the template would be held constant, saving on organizing.

The need for more mentoring and the desire to repeat events, led to the design of the activities at ISIT 2016 and ISIT 2017. At both ISITs the Committee organized round-table events. The goal was to provide the time and space for mentoring to occur. With the framework fixed, the topics can continue to evolve. Mentors only need to show up. Mentees have the opportunity to talk and connect with multiple senior people.

A question



