

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Information Theory / Société canadienne de théorie de l'information

Monday, June 6, 2016, 4:30 – 6:00 PM, Room EME 0050, University of British Columbia-Okanagan, Kelowna, BC (@ BSC 2016)

Present: Ravi Adve (UofT), Masoud Ardakani (UofA), Julian Cheng (UBCO), Jean-Yves Chouinard (U. Laval), Andrew Eckford (York U.), Chen Feng (UBCO), Simon Haykin (McMaster), Amir Khandani (UWaterloo), Ashish Khisti (UofT), Frank Kschischang (UofT), Yongyi Mao [via Skype] (U. Ottawa), Chintha Tellambura (UofA)

1. Call to order - Meeting called to order by Andrew Eckford.
2. Approval of the minutes of 2015 meeting - Motion to correct the minutes moved by Andrew Eckford and seconded by Frank Kschischang. All in favor.
3. Officers' reports:
 - a. President's Report
 - i. CSIT decided to continue BSC in December 2016.
 - ii. It is Andrew Eckford's 4th year as President of CSIT. The bank account has been transferred smoothly to Treasurer Julian Cheng.
 - iii. Julian Cheng has agreed to server as Vice President; Yongyi Mao has agreed to serve as Vice Treasurer.
 - b. Treasurer's Report
 - i. The account transfer has completed.
 - ii. CSIT is in very good financial status with \$8,856 in Money Market Funds and \$30,753 in Balanced Income Portfolio.
 - iii. The net profit of BSC 2016 is estimated to be \$7,500.
 - iv. For Tax purpose, note that only 50% of the food expense other than catering is deductible. It is strongly advised to keep all the receipts.
 - v. Some discussions:

Ravi Adve: We don't have full expenses except for catering?
Julian Cheng: Yes, e.g., the food for committee meetings is 50% deductible.

Frank Kschischang: The financial reports contain account numbers, which could be removed for privacy purpose.

- vi. Motion to accept the report moved by Ravi Adve and seconded by Masoud Ardakani. All in favor.

4. Report on Claude Shannon Centenary 2016 Ottawa event (see report to be attached)

- a. It is sponsored by ITSOC & University of Ottawa; organized by CSIT and U. Ottawa.
- b. It consists of a one-day technical conference and 3 exhibitions. There are 6 speakers, 9 posters (provided by ITSOC), and 62 participants. Participants each were given a custom-made T-shirt, a pen and a bag as a souvenir.
- c. Three exhibitions have been hosted in three locations in Ottawa.
- d. Photos will be included in the report.
- e. Total income: \$12,487 (with \$4,987 from ITSOC); Profit: \$690
- f. Some discussions:

Ravi Adve: What is the makeup of the attendees?

Yongyi Mao: graduate students + CRC + one student from Montreal

Julian Cheng: What is going to happen with the \$690 profit?

Yongyi Mao: \$70 (in USD) to ITSOC and \$600 to the university.

5. Report on BSC 2016

- a. 33 papers submitted; 20 papers accepted; 3 papers withdrawn after acceptance.
- b. 35 registered attendees: 24 full, 11 student.
- c. 6 complimentary: 2 plenary speakers, 3 tutorial speakers, 1 banquet speaker.
- d. Total income \$30,843 with sponsorship (Fields institute & Telus) \$17,000 and net registration fees from EDAS \$13,843.
- e. Some discussions:

Andrew Eckford: 44% acceptance rate?

Julian Cheng: Perhaps a wrong calculation.

(Note from Secretary: 44% should be the rejection rate.)

Yongyi Mao: Why full registration instead of student registration?
Julian Cheng: A full registration is needed for a full paper.

Andrew Eckford: Despite the low paper submission, the conference is running successfully.

6. Report on CWIT 2017 preparations

- a. It will be in Sherbrooke. The General Chair is Sebastien Roy with TPC Chairs: Jean-Yves Chouinard, Xianbin Wang, and Benoit Champagne.
- b. Tentative dates: May 15-17, 2017.
- c. Some discussions:

Yongyi Mao: Are the dates too early?

Andrew Eckford: These dates are not untypical.

Yongyi Mao suggested early June.

Frank Kschischang asked about plenary speakers, which are not decided yet.

Julian Cheng: How to get to Sherbrooke?

Andrew Eckford: An hour and a half's drive from Montreal.

7. Canadian Award for Telecommunications Research

- a. To discuss which approach we should take for CATR.
- b. Queen's U. didn't award it this year. CSIT can take it over.
- c. Simon Haykin: This award was originally from CRC.
- d. Frank Kschischang: The original cast (medal) was by CSIT. What other societies do for the awards? ITSOC has a process for the Shannon award.
- e. Masoud Ardakani recommended travel awards and paper awards in the future

8. General discussion of future workshops

- a. Amir Khandani: What will be the differences between CWIT and BSC?
Andrew Eckford: One is more communication/signal processing oriented; the other is more information theory oriented.
Simon Haykin: put communication and control together.
- b. BSC 2018 in Toronto. Ryerson U. and Fields Institute may be helpful.
- c. Frank Kschischang: What about Victoria for CWIT 2019?

9. Election of officers and directors

- a. The roles of Directors, President, and other Officers (e.g., Secretary and Treasurer) are outlined in ``Terms of Reference'' (in our shared Dropbox folder).
- b. Directors: Andrew Eckford nominated current Directors (Shahram Yousefi, Frank Kschischang, Yongyi Mao, Ashish Khisti, Octovia Dobre) to continue as Directors except for Yongyi Mao (who will serve as Vice President). Motion by Andrew Eckford, seconded by Ravi Adve. Frank Kschischang suggested Call for Nominations. All in favor.
- c. Officers

President: Andrew Eckford

Vice President: Julian Cheng

Treasurer: Julian Cheng

Vice Treasurer: Yongyi Mao

Secretary: Chen Feng

Motion by Andrew Eckford; seconded by Masoud Ardakani. All in favor.

Ravi Adve suggested to send an email one month earlier. We can create a mailing list.

10. New Business – No new business

11. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn: Andrew Eckford. Carried unanimously.