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SPCOM TC Meeting ICASSP 2013, Vancouver

Tom Luo, Past-Chair
Tim Davidson, Chair

29 March 2013

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Welcome

Welcome to new TC members

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- Min Dong, U. Ontario Institute of Technology, Canada
- Kaibin Huang, Hong Kong Polytechnic U., Hong Kong



- Syed Ali Jafar, U. California, Irvine, USA
- Joakim Jaldén, KTH, Sweden



- Michael Rabatt, McGill U., Canada
- Shengli Zhou, U. Connecticut, USA

Agenda

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1:30 Process for paper awards

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- Minutes of 2011 meeting have been distributed
 - Do we have a quorum of members who were at that meeting?
 - Would anyone be prepared to move a motion to approve the minutes?
-
- Minutes of 2012 meeting have been distributed
 - Do we have a quorum of members who were at that meeting?
 - Would anyone be prepared to move a motion to approve the minutes?

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- Would anyone be prepared to move a motion to approve the minutes?

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- Do we have a quorum of members who were at that meeting?
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Highlights of Chair's report

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- Propose a vote of thanks to Tom for his astute leadership of the TC over the last two years
- Propose a vote of thanks to retiring members for contributing their ideas, energy and time to the TC, most over 6 years:
Mats Bengtsson, Huaiyu Dai, Daniel Palomar, Hamid Sadjadpour, Akbar Sayeed and Zhengdao Wang
- Congratulations to members re-elected to a second term: Amir Leshem and Zhi (Gerry) Tian.

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TC subcommittees

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- The membership of our subcommittees has not been affected by retirements
- However, we do need a volunteer for Webmaster, to take over from Zhengdao Wang

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Nominations

- **Congratulations to Shuguang (BPA) and Erik (MBCA)**
- Nominations for Distinguished Lecturer (Barbarossa, Heath): Successful
- Nominations for BPA (Heath *et al*), YABPA (Ma *et al*) and MBPA (Saad *et al*): Not successful
- No nomination for Best Column Award
- Nomination for technical achievement (Geoffrey Li): Not successful
- No nomination for Society Award

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- ICASSP 2013: Most submissions since 2006
Consistent with this being a popular ICASSP
Our TC provided 11.6% of submissions
- SPAWC: More submissions than in previous two years.
Also more accepted. Acceptance rate lower than last
year
- Continued participation by TC members will be
important for maintaining our level

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- **Sigport: arxiv for SP; but there will be a small fee**
- GlobalSIP: Paraphrasing—perhaps TC's might want to host their workshops within GlobalSIP.
- We are doing reasonably well in terms of affiliate members, but that will continue to need work. Encourage your colleagues and students to sign up.
- There are IEEE managed email lists for affiliates, and in terms of engaging our community in our activities, we will be expected to communicate some of our activities more broadly

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- A workshop in memory of Alex Gershman
- Held in Darmstadt the weekend before SPAWC 2013
- Tutorial presentations from:
 - Moeness Amin
 - Sergio Barbarossa
 - Yonina Eldar
 - Geert Leus
 - Ken Ma
 - Bjorn Ottersten
 - P. P. Vaidyanathan
 - Alle-Jan van der Veen
 - Watao Yin
 - Georgios Giannakis
 - Nikos Sidiropoulos
- Details are in your inbox

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- Darmstadt, Germany, 16–19 June
- Monday morning: Tutorials by
 - David Gesbert,
 - Mérouane Debbah and Romain Couillet,
 - Marco Luise and Giacomo Bacci
- Plenary speakers
 - Helmut Bölcskei
 - Tom Luo
 - Vincent Poor
 - Khaled Ben Letaief
 - Gerhard Fettweis

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- Call for expressions of interest in hosting SPAWC 2015
- Location and timing of related conferences
 - 19 Apr – 24 Apr: ICASSP 2015: Brisbane, Australia
 - 26 Apr – 1 May: INFOCOM 2015, Hong Kong
 - 14 Jun – 19 Jun: ISIT 2015, Hong Kong
 - VTC Spring: Glasgow, Scotland
 - ICC 2015: I have not been able to find this one.
- We had previously suggested Asia (Hong Kong, Singapore)
- Depending on ICC, Europe or North America, possibly in July, might be more strategic
- Alternative: GlobalSIP 2015

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Cap on re-election

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- In response to review of TC in 2011 we introduced a cap on renewals
- In short, if M positions open, renewals limited to $\lceil M/3 \rceil$
- If not enough “approved” candidates in place, more renewals possible
- Vote to make this change was close, 13/12/1
- This year, 6 members retiring after 2 terms; 9 coming to the end of the first.
- 15 open positions, only 5 available for renomination
- The 4 who are not re-elected could be candidates in the 2014 election
- Are we happy with this?

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Industrial members

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- In last 2 reviews we have been strongly criticized for not having industrial members
- Last year, the first two unsuccessful candidates for election were industrial members
- Should we continue to try to elect an industrial member in the regular way?
- Is it time to experiment with a quota?
15 openings, at most 5 renewals?
- With that big election, can we just “hope” again this year

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- In last 2 reviews we have been strongly criticized for not having industrial members
- Last year, the first two unsuccessful candidates for election were industrial members
- Should we continue to try to elect an industrial member in the regular way?
- Is it time to experiment with a quota?
15 openings, at most 5 renewals?
- With that big election, can we just “hope” again this year

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New eligibility rules

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We are not allowed to nominate our own. What to do?

- a. Do not consider any TC member, or any paper written by a TC member
- b. Keep our processes essentially the same.
 - The eligible candidate with the highest ranking becomes the TC's nominee.
 - For any ineligible candidates with higher scores, a subset of the TC, excluding Awards subcommittee, nominates the candidate through the "public" track

Do you have a preference?

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Do you have a preference?

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- Career awards
 - Current: Society, Technical Achievement, Meritorious Service, Education
 - New: Fourier (IEEE level)
- Paper awards
 - Current: BPA, YABPA, MPBA, Magazine Best Column
 - Ought to be doing: Marconi award for TWC
 - New: Best paper in SPL
 - Do our our current methods scale to this level?
 - If not, what process should we use?

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- Nomination, by anyone (TC members encouraged)
- Renomination based on significant support
- Scan review of previous year's papers, plus "highly cited" eligible papers
- Scan review developed by Nikos to broaden the pool of considered papers
- Citation analysis: idea arose at ICASSP 2009; being adopted by other TCs
- Statistics for last year:

Method	Number of papers	Number needing reviews
Nominations	7	6
Significant support last time	4	0
From scan review of 2011 papers	23	23
From citations, renominated	4	0
From citations, via scan	6	6

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Constructing the slate: Alternatives

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- is the most recent year the right year to scan?
- scan the X most cited SPCOM papers in the eligibility window;
 - $X=300$ would give same workload as this year.
 - in subsequent years there may be some re-scanning
 - implicitly uses citations as a proxy for quality
- “Conference model” suggested by Sergiy
- Any other suggestions to ensure broad slate?
- Would we want to try one of the alternate models for Marconi or SPL?

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Process — Voting

- Current process is multiple rounds of first past the post;
 - 3 equally weighted votes in first round;
 - one in the second;
 - one in consensus round
- Many other voting systems exist.
- There is a mathematical theory to evaluate the performance of voting systems
- Kemeny-Young system widely recognized as good
 - Only requires one round of preferential voting with predefined maximum number of choices (e.g., vote for your top 3 and rank them in preference order)
 - Computational sorting algorithm (not plyn time)
 - If there is a choice that wins all pairwise contests, then this choice wins
 - Also has a maximum likelihood interpretation
- What kind of system would you prefer (all are fallible)
- Are there other decision methods that we might consider

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- Do we want a rep. from Society on IEEE Standards Board?
Do we want a Standards Committee within the Society
- Awards process (topic of extensive discussion)
 - TDB looking to have uniform processes across TCs
 - avoiding perceptions of conflict of interest is set in stone
 - process for handling “public” nominations is “evolving”
- GlobalSIP
 - Symposium based
 - Again TC’s encouraged to think about putting workshops there. Reduced work load, possibly less community building
- TCs will be expected to be doing some community building, mentorship; we will have to report activities
- SP Competitions: “grand challenges”

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