

INFORMS TECHNICAL SECTION ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

MINUTES OF SEATTLE MEETING 11/4/07

(Minutes taken by Luis Gouveia, Secretary, INFORMS Technical Section on Telecommunications).

The meeting was called to order by S. (Raghu) Raghavan. Present at the meeting were: S. Raghavan (Univ. of Maryland), Stefan Voss (Univ. of Hamburg), Ed Wasil (American University), Si Chen (Murray State University), Bruce Golden (University of Maryland), Mike Bartolacci (Penn State University), Abdullah Konak (Penn State University), Tim Matis (Texas Tech), Stanko Dimitrov (University of Michigan), Aaron Phillips (Texas Tech University), Binod Maharjan (Texas Tech University), Ivan Guardiola (Texas Tech University), Luis Gouveia (University of Lisbon), Gautam Natarajan (Texas A&M), Youngho Lee (Korea University), Soumyo Moitra (Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta), Larry Leblanc (Vanderbilt University), John Reynolds (Oregon Public Utility Commission), Eli Olinick (Southern Methodist University), Halit Uster (Texas A&M).

The chair thanked the organizers, Abdullah Konak and Halit Uster, of the Telecommunications cluster of the 2007 INFORMS Seattle Meeting for their leadership and the excellent job they have done putting together the Section's cluster. There were a total of 9 sessions in the Telecommunications Cluster.

A motion was proposed by Larry Leblanc and seconded by Mike Bartolacci to approve the minutes of the 2006 business meeting in Pittsburgh. The motion was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Eli Olinick reported on the financial status of the Section. As of June 30th, 2007 the Section has a balance of \$35,198.83. This is quite modest. The Section Chair indicated that our goal would be to maintain this balance (to fund Section activities) and to also hopefully grow this balance if we have a successful conference in March 2008.

The chair discussed the upcoming elections for Section Officers to be held in May 2008. The positions that the Section will hold elections for are: Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Member-of-Council (3 positions). Stefan Voss is the Chair-Elect, and will take over as Section Chair after the elections. The outgoing chair, S. Raghavan, together with the past chair, Joakim Kalvenes, are responsible for nominating a slate candidates for these open positions. The Chair asked members to send him names of individuals who might be interested and serve well as Section Officers.

The chair sought volunteers to organize the Section's cluster at the INFORMS meeting in Washington. Halit Uster and Timothy Matis have agreed to organize the Section's Sponsored sessions at the Washington

INFORMS meeting in October 2008. For continuity Tim Matis will also organize the Section's cluster in 2009 together with a new volunteer.

Stefan Voss raised an issue with regards to help form INFORMS in making new members feel more welcome. He suggested that people signing for membership should, at least, receive an acknowledgement and welcome notification from INFORMS. The chair will follow up with the INFORMS Business Office on this issue. There was also a discussion of encouraging students to join the Section by giving them free membership. A motion was proposed to offer free membership to students. The motion passed with 19 votes in favour and 1 against. The chair will follow up with INFORMS to revise student dues as soon as feasible.

The chair raised the issue of supporting other conferences within a six month window before and after our own conference. It has been the section policy not to support conferences that fall within this time window. The chair invited comments on this policy from the floor. Arguments were raised both in favour and against this policy. The chair will keep in mind member's sentiments on this issue, and also be consistent in responding to requests for the section to support other conferences.

The Section Chair gave some details on the next Telecommunications conference to be held in March 2008 at the University of Maryland. Among others, he mentioned that 3 plenary speakers have been lined up. They are Wayne Grover (TRLabs and University of Alberta), John Kneuer (Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) at the U.S. Department of Commerce), and Chris Volinsky (Director Statistics Research, AT&T Labs). Also, a special volume (to be published by Springer) containing select papers from the conference is almost ready. It will contain about 17 papers and should be ready to send to the publisher by the end of November. The deadline for submission of abstracts has been postponed to December 15th in order to increase the number of participants. The chair also invited all the members to make an effort in submitting papers and organizing sessions and pointed out the broad scope of the conference. Finally, the chair mentioned that the organizers were working or putting together a (free) workshop on network design aimed at Ph.D. students on the day before the conference.