

## WNCG Board Meeting 2006 Minutes

### Attendees.

Board Members: Eric Starkloff, (NI), Joe Kovacs (NI), Maden Jagernauth (Nortel) Steve Scarlett (Nortel), Don Shaver (TI), Yoon Chae Cheong (Samsung), Dave Wolter (AT&T), Mike Lazorik (Dell), Liam Quinn (Dell), Pat Kelly (Sigmatel), Len Disanza (Sigmatel), Willie Anderson (Qualcomm)

WNCG Faculty: de Veciana, Andrews, Rappaport, Bovik, Evans, Heath, Vishwanath, Aripostathis, Caramanis, Nettles, Powers, Ragan, Bard.

Guests: Amy Magnus, (AFOSR), Mary Beth Maddox (College of Engineering), and Harold Rosenberg, Teck-Ming Chew, Daniel Mack, Frans Stork all with Agilent.

### Handouts

*(Available WNCG Intranet [wncg.org](http://wncg.org): Username: affiliates; Password: wncg2003)*

1. Board Meeting Slides and Financial Overview
2. Student Resume Book
3. WNCG Research
4. New WNCG overview
5. Video of the board meeting.

### Minutes.

The meeting commenced at 1:30 with WNCG Director Gustavo de Veciana giving an overview of the State of WNCG until approximately 3pm. He began by getting consent on filming the meeting so that board members not able to attend could get access to the meeting.

Some particular items and comments were as follows:

- Noted that in the past year, the number of affiliates is the same (12) with Time-Warner leaving the board, but Qualcomm joining (welcome!)
- Introduced new WNCG faculty member, Constantine Caramanis, in the area of robust optimization and network control. Joined us from MIT.
- Changes within WNCG in the past year
  - Leadership change, Ted taking a leave.
  - Adopted a more distributed approach to affiliate interaction with primary and secondary contacts for each affiliate
  - WNCG became an Organized Research Unit (ORU) within the College of Engineering provides for more autonomy on our operations
  - For quarterly mailings, now in CD format with abstract booklet for browsing. This was based on 2005 board member feedback. This lowers cost, increases the number we can send to each affiliate (2 automatic, more upon request), and

hopefully increases the ease with which our research can be distributed at each company (vs. the large box of papers in the past)

- Introduced new web page format, which is database driven and easier to navigate
  - Eric Starkloff noted that more than “snazzy design”, what is really needed is timely and better information
  - We will notify affiliates when new site is launched, welcome your feedback
- Showed use of affiliates funds for 2006. \$445K spent vs. \$550K taken in; needed to build a \$150K reserve fund to make sure staff salaries are covered for one year into the future (morale, stability issue).
- Len Disanza asked what WNCG would do with additional affiliates money? Most important needs identified included: resources to support a staff member responsible for IT, establishing fellowships to support new and ongoing students, establishing affiliate directed research project areas.
- Overviewed recently proposed and awarded projects. It was noted that WNCG has been unusually successful, by both its own and external standards, in landing federal grants thus far in 2006. This leverages affiliate funds and supports more basic research.
- Overviewed recent WNCG graduates; discussed new WNCG leadership award meant to encourage leadership and collaboration among the students
- Proposed the creation of an annual or semi-annual “Affiliates Day” on campus.
  - Affiliates send their technical employees to interact with the students and faculty and enhance collaboration.
  - Recruiters also can come to collect resumes, do informal interviews
  - More “grass roots” than the board meeting; meant to promote collaboration on specific projects, match students with specific liaisons within our affiliate companies
- Affiliates Day was widely lauded as a good idea
  - Tentative Date: Early to Mid-February
  - Action Item: Will lock down date soon and organize rough agenda
  - Liam Quinn felt twice a year was better than once
- Due to time constraints, the successful EURECA undergraduate research program, funded by NSF and led by Sriram Vishwanath, was not discussed in detail. This is a new program meant to encourage undergraduate research state-wide.

At 3pm, The Dean of Engineering, Ben Streetman, came to address the board. He focused on the state of the college, and emphasized the recognized excellence of WNCG within the college.

From 3:20-4:20pm, the board members had a lab tour and private poster session with WNCG students.

From 4:30-5:00pm, discussion items from the first part of the meeting were discussed and several decisions were taken.

- Action items for the 2005 board meeting were overviewed and status given
- WNCG symposium’s reincarnation as the Texas Wireless Summit was discussed
  - General feeling was that this year’s was not technical enough, or technology focused. Too much emphasis on business/strategy
    - Wolter: Poster session longer, almost an afterthought

- Kovacs: There needs to be more of a research edge. Business folks want to learn what's going on in research, what's new.
    - Starkloff: Too business focused
    - Yoong Byae: Missed the link between research and new business opportunities
  - Action: Follow up with Erin to make next year's more balanced between research, innovation, and business aspects. For example, more time for student posters and inclusion of some academic speakers.
- WNCG Seminar series
  - Dave Wolter suggested having WNCG faculty speak in the seminar series
  - Board requested to be notified about upcoming seminars
  - Actions:
    - In Bits and Bytes, we will have a regular section that lists upcoming seminars in the next month
    - Also in Bits and Bytes, we will list recent dissertation defenses.
    - Consider mechanisms to push timely information on ongoing talks by visitors, faculty and students to affiliates – possibly with option to opt out.
  - Idea is to provide more information to affiliates, without flooding their Inbox.
- Giving Affiliate's early access to our students
  - Actions: Devise a web based mechanism to view and track WNCG students, along with above mentioned Affiliate day to enable both recruiting and research interactions.
- Benchmarking WNCG
  - Liam Quinn asked how we would benchmark our program relative to other universities?
  - Action: Gustavo suggested this would be hard, but that he would attempt to do something informally along those lines.

From 5-6, top 5 “Letterman style” lists were discussed

- 5 top research ideas WNCG is working on or has recently solved
  - Capacity of cognitive radio (Vishwanath)
  - Video and Image quality assessment (Bovik)
  - Adaptive Space-Time Modulation (Heath)
  - Non-equilibrium Information Theory (Andrews)
  - System-level optimization of broadband wireless systems (de Veciana)
- Top 5 areas to watch, Affiliates and faculty voted the following:
  - TBD (Also, I can't remember the order here, was on slides)
- Top 5 things our students are looking for in employers (Evans)
- Top 5 things affiliates are looking for in our students (Vishwanath)

Ted Rappaport wrapped up the meeting by discussing the 3 year long committee he was on at the National Research Council, and the committee's recent published report on “The state of

telecommunications research”, which makes aggressive recommendations for improving and sustaining the US’s leading role in this sector.

The meeting was adjourned and the board met for dinner at the Mansion at Judges Hill.