

ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, December 16, 2019 (v. 1)

1. Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 11:00am EST / 8:00am PST via Zoom

2. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin (Turing oversight)
- Bernadette Longo (meeting notes)
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Ursula Martin
- Erik Rau
- Len Shustek
- Mary Whitton
- Amanda Wick
- Jeffrey Yost

Guests:

- Chuck House (ACM Awards Interview Project)

Committee members not attending:

- Vicki Almstrum
- Kim Tracy

3. Minutes from November meeting (Almstrum)

- Deferred

4. ACM Award Interviews Project (House)

- Chuck explained ACM Award Interviews Project with slides (which he sent via email before meeting).
- 2019 year-end status report:
 - 41 invitations for interviews
 - 28 accepted
 - 22 interviews completed
 - 18 interview transcripts in draft. (I think some of these drafts were done previously and are being added to project interviews.)

- Two slides mentioned “foreign” interviewees. Barb asked to change that to “non-US” interviewees.
- Chuck explained that the 3-year contract for this project ends 6/30/21, with 72 interviews as approved. Chuck estimated that he would need another year to do wrap-up.
- Chuck reported that scheduling interviews was the biggest challenge.
- He has started interviews with 10 minutes of background questions, followed by 3-4 significant points in the interviewee’s career, then the work recognized with award. He found that interviewees generally do not want to focus on ACM connections.
- Chuck has conducted all interviews to date and has finalized them for publication. He said it is not a difficult task, but it is time consuming.
- Roy asked how Chuck develops the transcripts. Chuck says he uses a transcription service and also uses an AI application. He then compares these two transcripts with the audio of the interview. Chuck says this is the most time-consuming part of the process. Roy commented that he experienced this as time consuming in the Turing interviews as well.
- Chuck believes that snippets enhance the value of the interviews when they are posted, so he tags interviews as he goes. Discussed keeping interview snippets on YouTube vs. another video streaming service.
- Carol noted that there are already 12 interview transcripts from ACM presidents in the ACM Digital Library and that it would be good to note those interviews somehow in other new interviews. There is a 1980s book that may contain relevant interviews.
- Consensus: \$1,000 per interview to create snippets is a reasonable cost. Roy suggested that we ask interviewers to flag items in interviews that might make good snippets.
- Barb suggested that Mary’s budget committee work with Tom Haigh to coordinate that cost, adding that we must determine whether those funds come from ACM or History Committee budgets. There was support for adding a snippet expense item to the committee’s 2020-21 budget.
- MOTION (made by Roy, seconded by Erik)
 - Pay Tom Haigh \$1000 per snippet up to four snippets from now until the end of the fiscal year, in addition to the two already authorized at our May 2019 meeting, with funds coming from the Turing interview budget.
 - The motion passed unanimously.

5. Heritage project (Almstrum, Wick)

- Amanda reported that she and Vicki are discussing the scope of the website and the future of the listserv.
- The committee plans to have an updated report on this project in early 2020.

6. India Oral History update (Maheshwari)

- Sachin reported positive developments in planning for the first interview. The Dean at Bombay IT University is willing to help with recording this interview, so they are working out details for some time in January.
- After this first interview, the next two should be much easier to set up.

7. Budget (Whitton)

- Mary asked that anyone who needs funding for 2020-21 to send that information to her.
- Roy said that he could roll snippet funding into Turing project budget.
- Erik noted that Chuck's work is on soft funding, so this should become a formal budget item to cover the rest of the contracted work.
- Barb asked that we have a line item for committee chair travel for committee business.
- Discussed the need for a Spring 2021 workshop. The committee will discuss further at next meeting.

8. Planning for F2F meeting (Whitton)

- For the March face-to-face meeting, we will meet Monday afternoon (March 16) and all day Tuesday (March 17).
- Mary noted that Ursula can connect virtually in conference room.
- Mary asked for ideas for who to invite for lunch or dinner.

9. Vision for 2020 Committee focus (Owens)

- Barb presented a vision for next year's committee activities: more concentration on non-US ACM activities to save history of these international efforts. Her intent is to make our committee, as part of ACM, a more international organization. She noted that there already exists some cooperation among ACM and non-ACM societies regarding historical preservation. She also noted that we might contact ACM headquarters to learn more about existing cooperative efforts, especially regarding Europe and India, where we have been starting to work, and China where we have not.
- Erik noted that Tom Misa is now president of SHOT, which is also building international activities and cooperation. Erik will report on SHOT efforts at our February meeting, in preparation for a larger discussion on this topic at our March in-person meeting.

10. Fellowship (Tracy)

- Barb reported that the fellowship activities are on schedule, with the call having gone out.
- Committee members will either schedule a 2-hour online meeting to review applications or plan to discuss at our face-to-face meeting.

11. Next meeting Monday, January 20 at 11am EST / 8am PST

12. Conclusion (no time noted)