

ACM History Committee Meeting

Minutes, January 20, 2020 (v. 1)

1. Welcome (Owens)

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

2. Attendees (House)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum (minutes)
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin (dropped off early)
- Bernadette Longo
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Ursula Martin
- Erik Rau
- Len Shustek
- Kim Tracy

Committee members not attending:

- Amanda Wick
- Mary Whitton
- Jeffrey Yost

Guests:

- Charles House

3. Minutes from November and December meetings (Almstrum)

- Vicki requested assistance finalizing the 2019 minutes and procedures. Barbara assigned this task to the subcommittee that consists of Vicki, Bernadette, and Kim
- The November minutes are incomplete, so deferred review until the February meeting.
- The December minutes were approved. The only change was to note times as standard time rather than daylight saving time.

4. Status of Turing update (Levin)

- Not much progress over the past month. The work with ACM HQ is moving slowly for the moment for reasons that are unclear.
- David Jefferson hopes to schedule three interviews during the next six months (the remaining fiscal year). Uncertain which three.
- ACTION: Roy will double-check with Tom Haigh to be clear what he has agreed to produce and the anticipated schedule.

5. Budget (Rau, Whitton)

- The budget for the next fiscal year is due in early February, but could possibly be delayed so it can be approved during the February Zoom meeting. Erik had shared an email reminding us of the 2020 budget and justification.
- Mary needs budget requests and had questions about several issues.
 - **ACM deep archival storage:** Roy's impression from ACM HQ (Wayne) is that the committee will not be responsible for the cost of the deep archival storage. The storage will be an ACM-wide resource and not pushed into committee budgets.
 - **Fellowship:** The Fellowship budget has been \$16K for several years. Should this amount should be increased? We decided we should wait to see whether there appears to be a need to increase the amount based on this year's proposals.
 - **Heritage Project:** Should we pursue special project funding directly for the heritage work. Vicki will discuss with Amanda and Kim to provide input into the budgeting process.
 - **Workshop:** No workshop planned for 2020.
 - **Turing Project:** Need to increase this project's budget in order to cover the snippet work and to allow three interviews. The committee had already approved \$1K per snippet for up to four snippets through the end of this fiscal year.
 - **Travel:** Support for the chair or an alternate to attend various meetings. Could include other travel, such as support to allow committee members to attend conferences or meetings to promote History Committee projects.

6. Heritage update (Almstrum, Wick)

- Vicki explained that there has been no progress, but that the goal will be to finish a prototype during February, which can be discussed at the face-to-face meeting.

7. India Oral History update (Maheshwari)

- Sachin reported that there has been very little progress setting up the interview with Mr Kohli, things seem somewhat stalled at this point.
- The other two interviews should be quicker to arrange, because both of those individuals are quite active.

8. Fellowship committee (Tracy)

- Kim says we are waiting for proposals, which are due by February 15. Decisions must be delivered by April 1. Kim will send out reminders. No submissions at this point.
- Discussed the options we have for evaluating the proposals and making decisions. The subcommittee will set this up for either on-line discussion or for the F2F meeting.

9. ACM Award Winner Interviews (House)

- Chuck has completed two interviews and has two more scheduled. Things are moving along.

10. Web work (Tracy)

- Kim is still planning the prototype. Part of the challenge is to map out the information from the old website and decide what should be available where.
- Kim has discovered a great deal of historical information buried in the current website, for example, the old Council minutes starting in about 1948. Carol volunteered to go through this information and attempt to glean whatever information she can regarding the history of the ACM's Constitution (motivated by an email query Chuck received from Moshe Vardi). This information is stored in the HC Operations Google drive.
- Carol stressed the importance of using the historical information to understand past decisions and relationships, such as ACM's status as a non-profit and the organization's relationship to IFIP. For example, John White recently researched ACM's relationship to IFIP. Len may have records about IFIP based on work that the Computer History Museum did to determine copyright issues; he will look for that information.
- We discussed the importance of producing succinct information, perhaps for Wikipedia. We talked about a timeline format, which several SIGs have. Does there exist a useful timeline with milestones for ACM as an organization?

11. New topics

- Regarding the idea of an expanded focus on ACM history in international contexts:
 - During the December meeting, Barb presented a vision where the History Committee promotes collaborations relevant to ACM as an international organization. There is already some cooperation among ACM and non-ACM societies regarding historical preservation, but it is desirable to establish an explicit plan. For example, one idea would be focused outreach to ACM Europe, India, and China.
 - Vicki suggested considering how to foster local history subcommittees, with a formalized approach to coordinating projects and communication.
 - Another idea would be to support travel to certain conferences to promote ACM history work. This could include a strategy of proposing history-related panels led by a member of the History Committee and additional folks coming from the relevant community.
 - Bernadette and Erik reflected on coming and recent meetings in Mexico and Columbia that pulled in many attendees from Latin America, as well as the recent SHOT meeting in Milan that pulled in attendees from India and Africa who otherwise might not attend such meetings. Brazil has been a very active area for ACM.
 - Len shared ACM's interactive map of the world that shows locations of chapters and when they were established. <https://www.acm.org/chapter-map>
It would be useful to investigate this tool: Who compiles it and from what data? Can a snapshot be saved periodically for the purpose of tracking change over time?

12. Next meeting Monday, February 17, 2020 at 11am EST / 8am PST

13. Conclusion 12:00 EST / 9:00 am PST