

ACM History Committee Meeting

Minutes, March 17, 2020 (v. 1)

1. Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 11:00am EDT / 8:00am PDT via Zoom
- Replacement for the Face-to-Face meeting planned for the same day. COVID-19 restrictions forced cancellation of F2F meetings.

2. Attendees (House)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin
- Bernadette Longo (first part of the meeting)
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Amanda Wick
- Mary Whitton
- Jeffrey Yost

Guests:

- Tom Haigh
- Charles House

Committee members not attending:

- Ursula Martin

3. Minutes from February meeting (Almstrum)

- Approved after correcting three small errors.

4. Fellowship applications (Tracy)

- Kim presented the Fellowship subcommittee's current ranking of the proposals, which had been determined during an earlier meeting.
- Reminder of criteria: Intellectual merit, Relationship to ACM, Potential for Success, Consequence or impact
- Budget thoughts
 - Can some funding from the Heritage project budget support one or more of the SIG-related and Committee-related proposals?
 - Discussed the SIGGRAPH funding in the context of history projects.

- Can we divert some of the money NOT spent for the F2F to fund additional scholarships? (Could be seen as an exception.)
- Differences among SIGs: Heritage will focus on organizational records, which may not directly include conferences. The role of conferences within each SIG differs and may be considered differently.
- The sub-committee had met earlier to rank individual proposals in a scoring spreadsheet (located elsewhere in the HC Operations drive).
- Final decision
 - Combine fellowship and Heritage funding in order to support additional proposals this year. Total amount awarded: \$22,125
 - Proposals receiving funding at the requested levels (ordered alphabetically):
 - i. Babintseva, AI and Cold War [\$4678]
 - ii. Mitchell & Searleman, Enhancements to digital archive for SIGGRAPH Art Show [\$4002]
 - iii. Morrison, History. of SIGCSE's Conferences [\$4000]
 - iv. Perry, History of pioneer women artists in computing (SIGGRAPH) [\$4000]
 - v. Plepys, Preservation of SVR (SIGGRAPH Video) [\$4000]
 - vi. Townsend, ACM-W History [\$1445]
- Bernadette will draft the acceptance and rejection letters with feedback, Barbara will sign and send them out by April 1.
- Discussion points for revision of the Call for next year.
 - How heavily should the issue of ACM-relationship weigh against other factors?
 - Advantages of supporting projects not specifically ACM-related by historians of technology (young doctoral students, recent Ph.D.s).
 - Should support be for activities other than time or salary? For example, scholarly v. collections v. other types of projects, with the goal of balancing the types of projects the Committee is supporting.
 - Need to specifically address the international aspect in the Call.
- Follow-up with recipients from earlier years:
 - Underway by Erik and Bernadette
 - Vicki reminded about the worksheet she created last year that lists the results from previous years. It is located in the Google spreadsheet
HC Operations -> Fellowships -> Fellowship winners

5. Web (Tracy, Hutchins)

- Discussed current status and needs. Kim will continue to work with the content of the website. Barb expressed concern that the new site feels somewhat incomplete.
- Top-level ACM history (Carol)
 - Timeline for ACM Constitution. Carol shared as an example the timeline for SPIE.
 - HC as consultant for how to present history at the top level.
 - Considers the main ACM website, not the HC website. This is uncoupled from work on the HC website. Could go under the “about” section of the ACM site.
 - Question to Jeff and Amanda: Does CBI have archived versions of the ACM Constitution? Typically have photocopies, not the original. Do have various

versions over the years. There is a good finding aid for the collection. Amanda's hope is to get the entire collection digitized at some point.

archives.lib.umn.edu/repositories/3/resources/318/collection_organization

6. Leadership and committee membership

- Must plan for updating the committee membership. Mary will rotate off in 2021, for example.
- Ensuring international involvement is an on-going concern.
- Important to think about our committee's role in documenting how a situation such as the one we face now with COVID-19 affects an organization such as ACM.

7. Turing project (Levin)

- Have concluded an agreement with the CHM to do a number of the interviews together. Result was essentially as described in the February minutes. This will save money and make it easier to collect the interviews.
- David Jefferson has lined up Dana Scott for an interview, with help from Moshe Varde. Tentatively scheduled for September. Gordon Plotkin (URL?) will conduct the interview.
- An interview with David Wilkes was completed last week.
- Press announcement for the next Turing Award winner should be distributed tomorrow (3/18/2020).
- Tom Haigh has completed additional snippets. He has worked with ACM to set up a separate channel for the snippets. This removes part of the bottleneck with setting up the snippets.

8. Next meeting Monday, April 20, 2020 via Zoom

9. Conclusion 12:51 EDT / 9:51 am PDT