

ACM History Committee Meeting

Minutes, April 19, 2021 (v. 1)

Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 11:00am EDT / 8:00am PDT via Zoom

1. Attendees (Owens)

- David Brock
- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- Carol Hutchins
- Roy Levin
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Ursula Martin
- Mary Whitton
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Amanda Wick
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)

2. Minutes from March 2021 meeting (Almstrum)

- March 15, 2021 minutes: Discussion and approval deferred until May meeting.

3. Budget and Finances (Whitton, Rau)

- No new information at this point. We will hear once ACM has made a decision.

4. Fellowship (Tracy, Almstrum)

- Discussed budget adjustments to one of the proposals, where the information was unclear. The committee approved this adjustment.
- Barbara had distributed the follow-up messages to all applicants, with support from Kim.
- Received a response regarding one of the awards, where the dollar amount was unclear as written. The amount was increased to the approved amount. This award had requested a two-year coverage, but Kim made clear that the award is only one year at a time and does not include any amounts awarded in an earlier year but not used. We voted to update the amount to include the full amount requested (\$4K).
- Fellowship history work will happen after the end of the semester.

5. Turing Video Clip Publicity (Hutchins, Almstrum)

- No progress regarding the video clip information, as Carol and Vicki had not met.

- This point led to a good discussion on publicity (covered in the next point)

6. Publicity (Hutchins, Almstrum)

- How can we communicate about and showcase HC projects more effectively?
 - Keep it simple
 - Careful not to self-censor
 - Good to think strategically, ensure there is a drip-drip-drip of info
 - Encapsulate without getting muddy.
 - What are the key items that have to be known, the axioms of the History Committee, in order to derive other aspects (audiences, how to distribute)?
- Discussed the follow-up we have discussed for Barb to do regarding committee activities.
 - A target the ACM leadership (Pat as CO, Vicki as CEO, Gabrielle as President)
- Need to decide the ask, a proposal: “Who in ACM can help with this?”
 - Should approach with a proposed solution, what we need
 - Need to think about PR at ACM level (press releases; Bruce Schreiber)
- Kim will attend the SGB meeting on Friday, 4/23/2021.
 - Can he add some information under “other business”? (Turing clips + ACM Award Video Project are key items he could highlight)
- There is now a publicity folder in the HC Operations drive
 - We have started a document where we can collect ideas related to our vision for publicity
 - Each subcommittee will have different needs; we will need to think about how to use different channels
 - Need to understand the vision of ACM level leadership for communication

7. Turing Project (Levin)

- The Dana Scott interview has been completed.
 - It is about four hours. The transcript has been edited and they are preparing what they have so far for the website.
 - The interview covers less of his career than Roy and David had hoped. Roy is looking at supplementary interviews to fill the gaps, perhaps with help from Moshe Varde.
- David Jefferson is concerned that the project has fallen behind the planned schedule due to the Zoom-only situation. It will take a while to catch up on the current phase.
- David wants a plan for transitioning, which includes identifying a trainee. This will add bandwidth, given that David and the trainee will be able to split the work. The budget will be the same, since it is piecemeal. Roy asked the committee to think about candidates. No fixed schedule for this, but David would like to have a plan in place.
- Barb mentioned the notice about Fred Brooks in ACM Bulletin today on the occasion of his birthday. Mary shared information about a group e-card is in process to congratulate him for his 90th birthday.

8. Web work (Tracy)

- On-going web work. The 20201 fellowship information has not yet been posted. Vicki will coordinate regarding the fellowship history update.

9. Heritage Project + Preservation Outreach (Almstrum, Wick)

- Vicki reported on the two pieces of information Amanda had shared, taken from the SIGGRAPH seminar. Vicki will add these to the website.
- Vicki is rethinking the white paper, which has been stalled, and will focus on the website work to give a concrete part of writing a clear statement of the Heritage project.
- Amanda mentioned Zoom appraisal sessions as an option for the toolkit.
 - An appealing aspect of this is that this opens participation more broadly; it overcomes the stumbling block of travel for the purposes of appraisal.
 - Erik mentioned challenges with a few collections they have been considering for the Hegley, which have been stalled due to travel restrictions. This is an example of where Zoom appraisals can be helpful.
- This summer is a good timeframe for making progress with both the main website and the exemplars.

10. Global (Martin, Maheshwari)

- Sachin: Has been using the commercial transcription software and now has basic transcriptions for the recordings. For the final recordings, things are generally the same as in February. The resistance is less about doing it than about getting it done.
- Sachin: Regarding the retrospective idea with the person who passed away, the planning is proceeding with three interviews that address three different parts of his life (early days, personal life with a family member, research with a student of his).
- Carol and Ursula reported about a conversation they had shortly before the meeting.
 - Considered global activities of the ACM and returned to the question of talking to the CEO. It would be helpful to understand ACM Council's global posture right now..
 - Questions about how the ACM regional centers work.
 - There is a very good interview with John White, who helped ACM become more global in its operations. The interview is here <https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/1141880.1854012>
 - The committee should commit to bringing a global perspective to our activities, which is a different approach than forcing things into a global shoebox.
 - Carol brought up the idea of questions to bring to the highest levels of ACM, with the goal of helping us as a committee adapt our approach.
 - Gathering this information will help us as a committee better match activities to the ACM's global positioning.
 - RECOMMENDATION: View the John White interview

11. ACM Award Video Series (House)

- Chuck reported that he will be making a major move on short notice, so interactions with him may be spotty for the near future.

12. ACM History page (acm.org/about-acm/acm-history) (Almstrum)

- ACTION ITEM: Mary will send a paragraph to Barb regarding the SIGGRAPH approach.
- ACTION ITEM: Barb will reach out to ACM Leadership (president, vice-president) regarding this issue.

13. Additional business

- ACTION ITEM: think about new committee members (in addition to thinking about a trainee for the Turing project)

14. Upcoming meetings

Monday, May 17, 2021, 11:00 am EDT via Zoom

15. Conclusion 12:02 pm EDT / 9:02 am PDT