

ACM History Committee Meeting

Minutes, January 16, 2023

Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 12:00pm EDT /9:00am PDT via Zoom

1. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- Troy Astarte
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Mary Whitton
- Chuck House (guest)

Not in attendance

- ac Loup
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Amanda Wick
- Jeffrey Yost

2. Minutes (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- November 14, 2022 minutes: Seven votes to approve by meeting time
- December 20, 2022 minutes: Seven votes to approve by meeting time
- Both minutes approved and to be sent to Kim to post on the HC website

3. Committee membership and recruitment (Owens)

- Vicki showed the reorganized Committee Membership folder (part of the work in the Secretariat's action item to audit and clean up the HC Operations drive).
 - The file Membership Log includes both current and past members.
 - The file Subcommittee Assignments has the annual subcommittee assignments for the years we have had official subcommittees.
- Erik has notified Barb that due to his increased workload he must resign from the HC. He provided a recommendation for a new member and promised to remain active until we have a suitable replacement.
- We explored additional recruitment ideas and strategies. Troy pointed out that our notes regarding recruitment are on the HC Operations drive in the Committee Membership folder in a subfolder named Candidate Member Notes.

- We decided to contact past HC members and selected ACM Fellows to seek suggestions for potential committee members.
- ACTION ITEM: Secretariat will update the Membership Log with current and past member email addresses.
- ACTION ITEM: Troy will draft the text of an email to send to past HC members and ACM Fellows. Vicki will review, then the Secretariat will share with the HC and plan next steps for distributing.

4. Brief updates on committee work

a. Secretariat

- The Minutes folder has been updated to add the structure for meetings during 2023 and will be updated to put the 2022 minutes “to bed”. The 2022 minutes remain at the top level until the 2022-2023 annual report is completed.
- The audit and clean-up of the HC Operations Drive has moved forward. The Secretariat folder includes an audit project spreadsheet where Troy and Vicki are tracking plans and progress. Troy’s focus has been to review older minutes for completeness and record status in a spreadsheet. Vicki has updated the Fellowships folder to make the organization more consistent and complete.

a. Budget and Finances (Whitton, Rau)

- Nothing new to report.

b. Turing Awardee History Project (Brock)

- David plans to provide a summary report for the Turing project, including priorities, at the next HC meeting. He requested about 15 minutes during the February meeting.
- David has sent a corrected transcript to Judea Pearl for review.

c. ACM Key Awards Video Series (House)

- Chuck interviewed Mark Rottenberg last week. The interview went very well and Chuck is excited about the result.
- Chuck has been working to catch up with the backlog of transcripts.

d. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)

- No updates this time.

e. Heritage Project (Almstrum, Wick, Loup)

- No progress during the past month. The intention is to pick up loose ends by next meeting, including progress with the process needed for the digital library.

f. Outreach and Marketing (Hutchins)

- After sending an email to social@acm.org, Carol received a response from Na Zhong (zhong@acm.org). Na is new at ACM and her role is Content Marketing Specialist. She works in the Marketing group, which is headed up by Bruce Shriver.
- Carol shared that the ACM's Mastodon instance includes about 400 ACM members. She observed that the shift from Twitter appears to be moving forward in spurts.
- Barb asked about the interface of Mastodon, noting the challenges she experienced. Troy reported their success while exploring Mastodon and offered that a key notion is "federated", which means the activity is split between different servers, with hashtags that connect topics across servers. There are a large and growing number of servers and each can access posts ("toots") on any other server. To start, one chooses a server on which to create an account; an obvious choice for HC members is <https://mastodon.acm.org/home>.
- Carol asked about mobile apps v. desktop. We discussed briefly, but did not reach any conclusions.
- Troy added the following information about Mastodon:
 - Once you have an account on that server, you can see all toots on that server in your Local feed.
 - To see posts in your Home feed, you must follow something. This can be a user or a hashtag (possibly other things?).
 - You can follow a user from any server. Enter a username in the search box, e.g., @tka@toot.wales, or a hashtag, e.g., [#ArsenalFC](#), click on the result, and click the follow button. Because hashtags cross servers, it is especially important to add them to toots.
 - Your Explore feed can help you find things you would like to follow because it shows things that are popular or relevant from any server. The Local feed shows every toot on your home server. The Federated feed shows every toot on every server and seems of less value due to how fast it updates.
 - As toots appear, you can interact with them through commenting, retweeting (sometimes called reblogging), favoriting, bookmarking, etc. Most of these work similarly to Twitter with the exception of favoriting — only you can see what you have favorited.
 - The website <https://fedi.tips> has useful guides and information. You can follow the account which runs it [@feditips@mstdn.social](https://mstdn.social).

g. Fellowship (Tracy, Whitton)

- Kim reported that he has received a few queries about the fellowship.
- Kim talked briefly about follow-up responsibilities for those who receive the fellowship awards. He says he has to do several follow-ups with some recipients about their final reports.

- Vicki suggested we highlight the opportunity to publish in Heritage Insights as a way to showcase projects that have received funding through the HC fellowships, which in turn can be a motivator. Two options could be to publish a document for each project or to publish a single document that summarizes all of the projects awarded in a particular year.
- Barb suggested we advise fellowship recipients to use hashtags, e.g. #ACMHistory, to connect their work to the ACM social networks. This in turn can ensure that items relevant to the HC show up in appropriate searches.

h. Web presence (Tracy)

- Kim asked whether it might make sense for the web presence to no longer be a separate subcommittee.
- Barb suggested folding the web work into the outreach and marketing subcommittee. We reached general agreement to make this change.

a. DEI and accessibility issues

- Barb reported no progress as yet in this area. She has been following conversations around DEI at ACM and expects this information will help set a strategy for our HC work.

b. Other?

- Nothing new at this time.

5. Pending issues

a. Digital Preservation Strategy

- Deferred. This work likely relates to the Digital Library work for the Heritage project. Mary mentioned it also relates to work currently underway for SIGGRAPH.

b. History of ACM webpage(s)

- Deferred. It may be appropriate to discuss this with Na Zhong.

c. Timeline idea

- Deferred.

6. Additional business

- Troy shared that they cannot join the regular meeting time during February, March, and April because of teaching responsibility conflicts. We will consider whether to adjust HC meeting times. The Secretariat will set up a poll to consider options and availability.

7. Upcoming meetings

TBD. Preliminary: Monday, February 20, 12:00 noon EDT via Zoom,
final time announced after survey of times

8. Conclusion 1:00 pm EDT