

ACM History Committee Meeting

Minutes, March 21, 2023

Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 12:00pm EDT /9:00am PDT via Zoom
- Time zone differences: North America shifted to daylight saving time on 3/12; many other parts of the world will shift to summertime on 3/26.

1. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- Troy Astarte
- Carol Hutchins
- ac Loup
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Erik Rau (joined shortly before the meeting ended)
- Kim Tracy
- Mary Whitton
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)

Not in attendance

- David Brock

2. Minutes (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- February 21, 2023 minutes: Approved pending adding a note on the budget.

3. Committee membership and recruitment (Owens)

- We reviewed the names of the individuals who have indicated interest.
- We decided to issue an invitation to one individual. Their starting date will be as soon as possible.
- Troy will talk to the second candidate and we will vote next month whether to invite if they are still interested.

4. Brief updates on committee work

a. Secretariat

- Accessibility standards: The Secretariat will develop a top 10 (or so) factors to keep in mind for HC documents, particularly those that will be posted outside of the committee. Resources include ACM's best practice guide

(<https://www.acm.org/accessibility>), the W3C web accessibility standards(<https://www.w3.org/standards/webdesign/accessibility>)

- ACTION ITEM: Barb will contact Vicki Hanson, the CEO of ACM, for her advice regarding the appropriate standards.
- ACTION ITEM: The Secretariat will continue its work with the HC Operations organization.

b. Fellowship (Tracy, Whitton)

- The fellowships subcommittee recommends funding five proposals, with four funded from the fellowships budget and one from the heritage budget:
 - Mitchell and Searleman “ACM SIGGRAPH History Archive: Expanding Conference Content”, \$4000
 - Walsh, “Select Oral History Interviews for the 35th Anniversary of the ACM/IEEE Supercomputer Conference”, \$4000
 - Plepys, “Long-term Storage and Preservation of the SIGGRAPH Video Review Media Archive”, \$4000 (Heritage budget)
 - Dunning, “Writing the rules of reason: The social life of notation from logic to computing”, \$4100
 - Rowberry, “The ACM Hypertext Class of 1987-1991 and the development of pre-Web reading on-screen”, \$4000
- Details of the proposals are on the HC Operations drive in the folder for Fellowships in 2023. Kim will post the summary information on the website.
- Carol suggested we ask recipients “How did you learn about the fellowships?” as well as adding it for next year’s application process. Kim will add this question to the award letters, with customization to avoid asking the question of repeat recipients.
- The committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed set of fellowship awards.
- The letters will go out by April 1, as promised in the schedule on the call.
- ACTION ITEM: Kim to update website and prepare follow-up letters for all recipients and other applicants.

c. Budget and Finances (Whitton, Rau)

- The budget was submitted and has been received by Pat Ryan.
- If any of our projects run short on funds, we can request bridging funds.
- Barb requested funds to support her participation in the SIGCSE Technical Symposium. Unanimous approval. Barb agreed to prepare a summary of the work she did during the conference (related to the HC).

d. ACM Key Awards Video Series (House)

- Chuck shared an update regarding the status of this project.

- Of 469 candidates, 14 have declined to be interviewed, 86 are deceased, and 22 are Turing Award winners (which takes precedence). This leaves a pool of 265 after removing doubles. Part of the strategy for picking interviewees is to avoid people for whom there is already at least one great interview.
- Currently, Chuck has done 118 interviews, which are at various stages of processing: 10 have no transcript yet, 44 have first-pass transcripts, 27 have edited transcripts sent to interviewee for review, and 37 transcripts have been approved. He shared coverage for the various awards and his planning. Chuck is optimistic that he will collect another 75 interviews, which will get the project to its goal of 144 interviews for the previous and current phases.
- Chuck has created 18 experimental snippets to date. At this point, there is no plan for how to best continue the work.
- None of the interviews have been filed at ACM yet. Each step has taken more time than he had expected, but the process is improving.
- We discussed ideas regarding how to interweave good outside interviews (would require cross-licensing), for example by including a link to the interview or obtaining permission to create snippets.

e. Turing Awardee History Project (Brock)

- No report today, David was not present.

f. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)

- Sachin's project is currently in limbo. He has not yet received the funds he requested for the retrospective interview.
- For the retrospective interviews, it is important that Sachin be present during the interview. It is also important that these interviews be conducted in a studio.
- ACTION ITEM: Sachin will submit an estimate to Barb, who will send it to Pat Ryan with a request to facilitate the transfer of funds to ACM India.

g. Heritage Project (Almstrum, Loup)

- Vicki reported having received a message from Craig Rodkin, Publishing Operations Manager for the ACM Digital Library, in response to the proposal for Heritage Insights. He reported that the structure is being put into place, including setting up the initial DOIs. The next step is to put the seminar information into place. ac will help prepare the videos from the seminar.
- Vicki will follow up regarding next steps. The HC must consider oversight and process for Heritage Insights. For example, we can invite earlier fellowship winners to submit; we can seek articles about ACM history; we could feature heritage articles published earlier in other settings.
- Troy suggested that we develop a statement piece regarding the HC vision for Heritage Insights. We discussed logistics for the editorial process for Heritage Insights and the role for the HC as a whole.
- ACTION ITEM: Vicki will draft an internal processes document, possibly inspired by the series we used as a model.

h. Outreach, Marketing, Web presence (Hutchins, Tracy)

- Nothing new to report.

i. DEI follow-up

- Barb discussed this primarily from the point of view of committee composition.
- Barb shared that the current terminology is DEIA (adding accessibility) or DEIA+. Vicki shared that ABET uses the acronym IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility)

j. Other?

- CC2023 SEP information from Vicki, plan for follow-up
 - BoF for the knowledge area "Society, Ethics and Professionalism (SEP)" within the CS2023: ACM/IEEE-CS/AAAI Computer Science Curricula. The curriculum currently includes a total of 17 knowledge areas. Each knowledge area has its own committee and work area.
 - Three links are relevant to this discussion:
 - The page for the project as a whole: <https://csed.acm.org/>
 - The work area for the SEP knowledge area': <https://csed.acm.org/society-ethics-and-professionalism/>
 - The beta version of the SEP knowledge area (PDF): <https://csed.acm.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SEP-Version-Beta.pdf>
 - ACTION ITEM: Vicki, Kim, Troy, Barb, Erik, Jeff will provide insights regarding reactions to SEP component, compose statement / feedback from HC. We should also ask Tom Haigh for comments.

5. Pending issues

- Digital Preservation Strategy + History of ACM webpage(s Timeline idea
 - We will defer this work until new members have joined the committee.

6. Additional business

- The SIG Governing Board met via Zoom on 3/10. Kim represented the HC.
 - Yannis discussed how the membership model could be improved to engage more of the computing community. Kim is seeking to obtain a copy of Yannis's slides.
 - Another topic was term limits for elected volunteer positions (a follow-up meeting was planned for the same afternoon as the HC meeting).
 - Another big topic was what should be disclosed in the case of policy violations (as in the CACM).
- Troy mentioned that Swansea is hosting UK ICER in September. They asked for advice regarding what Troy can do to advertise about and help the ACM HC at the conference.

7. Upcoming meeting Tues., April 18, 12:00 noon EDT via Zoom

- Daylight savings / summertime now active where it is used

8. Conclusion 1:00 pm EDT