

ACM History Committee Meeting

Minutes, May 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
- ac Loup
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Erik Rau
- Kim Tracy
- Mary Whitton
- Chuck House (guest)

Not in attendance

- Jonathan Grudin
- John Tucker
- Jeffrey Yost

2. Accessibility Awareness (Vicki Hanson, ACM CEO)

- Due to a miscommunication, Vicki Hanson was unable to join us. We will defer her topic to a future meeting.
- Vicki A. shared that Thursday, May 18, would be Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD), which fits well with the theme of what Vicki H. will share.

3. Minutes (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- Now that the spring semester has ended, Vicki and Troy will regroup to review and finalize the minutes for February, March, April, and May. They will notify the committee as soon as the minutes are ready to review.

4. Committee membership and recruitment (Owens)

- John Tucker has been invited to the committee and has accepted. Kim will add him to the committee mailing.
- ac shared a suggestion for a committee member to consider. ac will forward additional information about this person.

- Barb proposed a new category of member / advisor: “ad-hoc community minded member”. We will discuss exactly what this will mean at a future meeting.
- Vicki A. will contact both Jonathan and John to set up a session to introduce them to the organization on the drive and answer questions.
- Subcommittee assignments
 - We will defer.
 - Both Mary and Erik are leaving the HC. The budget subcommittee will need new members, so an heir apparent should shadow the work on this year’s annual report.

5. Brief updates on committee work

a. Secretariat

- Did not discuss other Secretariat tasks. The minutes were the focus.

b. Fellowship (Tracy, Whitton)

- Fellowship winners have been posted on the website.
- Carol mentioned the rising cost of air travel and whether the awarded amount needs to take this into consideration.
- ACTION ITEM: Vicki and Kim will look at the historical information about the fellowships to ensure the updates are current.

c. Budget and Finances (Whitton, Rau)

- Budget has been approved. Otherwise quiet, which is good.

d. Turing Awardee History Project (Brock)

- With the budget in place, David reports plans to interview Allman, Thompson, and Lampson. Franny Corry will conduct the interviews upon returning from maternity leave on 1st August.

e. ACM Key Awards Video Series (House)

- Chuck reports it is nearly time to post these on the web. Bruce Shriver and Wayne Graves will be driving this forward.
- 125 interviews have been collected. The process that results in a completed transcript is fairly lengthy.
- ACM will have to create web pages for a number of the interviewees (prior to 2012?) and post transcripts for many of these.
- Chuck is sending the raw footage for the video, but this will not be posted until it has been processed and is ready for consumption.
- Erik explained the process at Hagley, which depends in part on whether the interview has been indexed. The front end generally includes a summary. This is a link to their Kevlar Oral History Project:
https://digital.hagley.org/2014249?solr_nav%5Bid%5D=f606aae6041133f0bb3d&solr_nav%5Bpage%5D=0&solr_nav%5Boffset%5D=0

- David says the start of the interview usually includes a title slide that gives key information like location, people involved, and duration. Vicki explained the CEOHP cover pages for these audio-only interviews.

f. Heritage Project (Almstrum, Loup)

- Vicki A. proposes an additional item in the Heritage Insights series: short, blog-like posts about current Committee work.

g. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)

- Nothing to report here.

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

- Heritage Insights will need publicity once it becomes a reality.

i. DEIA follow-up

- We will include the “A” in our label for future work. This topic was deferred in anticipation of a meeting with Vicki H. at some future point.

j. Other?

- Nothing further.

6. Pending issues

- Digital Preservation Strategy, History of ACM webpage(s), Timeline idea
 - Assign to a sub-committee?
 - Examples of where people have been touching on these areas, Chuck and David in particular for their projects.
 - Carol asked whether ACM HQ is working on a preservation strategy. Barb mentioned a committee with Wayne Graves, Bruce Shriver, a third person. Chuck noted that the new DL board has really taken charge. SIGGRAPH will be working closely with them and we may learn from that relationship.

7. Additional business

- Google drive access:
 - Who should have access to the drive? When should past committee members be removed? We agreed that the end of year annual report is good timing for removing earlier members.
- AI regulation and government
 - Carol shared about a Senate hearing related to regulation of AI. This gave an interesting basis for understanding what government officials are learning and need to think about.
 - Barb observes we are all affected by AI-related concerns.

- Chuck notes the Committee might consider working on “history of movements,” such as the recent machine learning developments.
- Troy suggests targeting SIGAI for recruitment.
- Discuss face-to-face option:
 - When? Where? Mary is still willing to host in North Carolina.
 - We discussed timing with respect to surgeries and travel. One possibility is the second weekend in November, with January as an alternative.
 - We discussed concerns with carbon footprint related to everyone traveling. One idea was to hold sub-committees of geographically close members concurrently. Another suggestion was to hold the HC F2F meeting in conjunction with another large meeting HC members are likely to attend.

8. Upcoming meeting Tues., June 20, 12:00 noon EDT via Zoom

9. Conclusion 1:00 pm EDT