

# ACM History Committee Meeting

## Minutes, July 18, 2023

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### Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 12:00pm EDT / 9:00am PDT via Zoom
- Welcome to all.
- This was John Tucker's first meeting. He introduced himself and described the collection at Swansea ([swansea.ac.uk/library/archive-and-research-collections/hocc/](https://swansea.ac.uk/library/archive-and-research-collections/hocc/)).

### 1. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- Troy Astarte
- David Brock
- Jonathan Grudin
- Carol Hutchins
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Kim Tracy
- John Tucker
- Chuck House (guest)

#### ***Not in attendance***

- ac Loup
- Mary Whitton
- Jeffrey Yost

### 2. Minutes status (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- June 20, 2023 minutes: 10 votes to approve by the time of the meeting.
- Kim has updated the website with minutes up to May 2023.
- Meeting times for 2023-2024: We will keep the current meeting times until/unless someone notifies us that there is need for a change due a conflict.

### 3. Report from annual ACM Banquet (Owens, House)

- Barb felt being present at the banquet provided an excellent opportunity to discuss ACM history issues with a variety of individuals in different areas of interest. The message that "history is important" resonated.
- Chuck was able to talk to many past winners of ACM awards (which is important in support of the project he leads). He observed that participants at the Banquet were enthusiastic about the Banquet event itself as well as the attention to the awards ceremony and the time allocated for the award winners.

- A negative impression from the meeting was the gender imbalance in the Fellows being recognised. Barb discussed this and other factors that may have limited diversity at this particular event, including whether the perception of a dress code could discourage cultural differences.
- Chuck had a conversation with Roy Levin, past member of HC and current co-chair of the ACM Awards Committee ([awards.acm.org/committees](https://awards.acm.org/committees)). Roy noted the sparsity of nominations for women and international candidates and suggested this is due in part to a skewed nomination process and in part to challenges recruiting individuals to serve on the award committees.
- Barb emphasized the value of networking opportunities represented by events such as the Banquet because for many organizations, making progress with a history project depends on getting information and interacting with the appropriate people and organizations.
- We discussed the kind of things people might need from the HC, the Heritage project, and *Heritage Insights*. Barb emphasized several issues: where to put materials, how to share with people doing history projects, and what training should be available. Vicki responded that this all fits well with the vision we have on Heritage.
- John brought up the curricular implications during our discussion of history needs as part of the Banquet report. Discussed the process. Kim mentioned that the review process has also come up during the SGB meetings. Barb mentioned the project regarding the ACM TOCE [reviewing reciprocity](#) proposal, headed by Amy Ko and we discussed it briefly.

#### 4. Annual report (Owens, Secretariat)

- Submission date is 15th August, the same date as the next HC meeting.
  - Goal: collect all parts by the end of July to give enough time to read, organize, collate, and ensure consistency prior to submission.
  - We agreed that it works to edit the report directly on the HC Operations drive (Google versioning keeps good track of any changes). It is also fine to email the input for the various selections of the report to the Secretariat (either Vicki or Troy or both) so they can incorporate it.
- The Secretariat walked everyone through the content of the report.
  - Appendix with contact information
    - All members will check personal contact details in the appendix.
    - The appendix is included as part of the submission to ACM HQ. It is not posted on the HC website with the rest of the report.
    - We do store the appendix in the HC Operations drive under the annual report folder for the year, so it serves as contact information for other members of the HC.
  - Executive Summary at the beginning of the report
    - Will be completed once the rest of the report is substantially complete. Secretariat has lead on this part.
  - Section 1
    - Parts 1.1, 1.2, and 1.4 are complete.

- Part 1.3 must be updated to ensure the correct sub-committee assignments. Barb with Secretariat has lead on this part.
- Section 2, Development projects
  - Chuck has lead for updates on the status of the ACM Key Awards project
  - His report will combine the Phase I and Phase II information.
- Section 2, Ongoing projects
  - Turing Awardee project: David has lead for this part
  - ACM Heritage project: Vicki has lead for this part
  - History and Archiving Fellowship: Kim has lead for this part (Secretariat may have already completed so Kim should review)
  - India Technology Leaders: Sachin has lead for this part
  - Outreach and Publicity: Carol has lead for this part
- Section 3 (plans, changes to projects)
  - Part 3.1 — No new projects completed or terminated this year
  - Part 3.2, Turing Awardee project: David has lead on this part
  - Part 3.2, ACM Key Awards project: Chuck has lead on this part
  - Part 3.2, ACM Heritage project: Vicki has lead on this part
  - Part 3.2, India Video Project: Sachin has lead on this part
  - Part 3.2, Fellowship: Kim has lead on this part
  - Part 3.2, Outreach and publicity: Carol has lead on this part
  - Part 3.3, New projects (proposed or contemplated)
    - Heritage Insights — Vicki has lead on this part
    - Recruitment: Barb has lead on this part
    - History of ACM webpage: Vicki has lead on this part
    - ACM’s overall digital preservation strategy: No one has volunteered to lead; suggestion from Secretariat is Kim
  - Part 3.4, Committee diversity
    - Secretariat created a draft, rest of committee to check
- Section 4 (DEI)
  - Include visit by Vicki Hanson during the June HC meeting and ensuing DEIA discussion.
  - Barb has lead on this part
- Section 5 (comments) and “To Highlight” (information ACM outreach can use for publicity).
  - Defer these parts until the rest of the report is substantially complete.
  - All should propose additions and modifications as we work along.

## 5. Committee membership and recruitment (Owens)

- We confirmed that Erik Rau’s last meeting was the June 2023 meeting.
- Barb will contact him to invite him to be an ad-hoc, advisory person for the committee, particularly on finances (as discussed at the June meeting).
- Subcommittee assignments will be considered in conjunction with preparing the annual report.

- The Budget and Finance committee is the highest priority for new members. David Brock offered to become a member of this subcommittee, rather than the lead.
- We will focus on assigning the B&F lead after the annual report has been completed.
- Carol suggested we should ask ACM staff for their key points when someone becomes a new SIG chair, which materials they use to inform new ACM leaders about budgeting and other tasks. There may be training and orientation material that could help the HC better plan.
- We agreed to work further in developing the new idea of official advisory roles.

## 6. Brief updates on subcommittee work

We did not have sufficient time at this meeting to discuss subcommittee work.

## 7. Pending issues

- Digital Preservation Strategy, History of ACM webpage(s), Timeline idea
  - Still pending discussion

## 8. Additional business

- SIGGRAPH history special issue, edited by Mary Whitton and others
  - D. J. Kasik, M. C. Whitton and C. R. Johnson, "The Big 50: Celebrating 50 ACM SIGGRAPH Conferences," in *IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications*, vol. 43, no. 4, pp. 12-80, 1 July-Aug. 2023, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1109/MCG.2023.3266086>.
  - From Mary's Facebook post: "Along with my co-editors Dave Kasik and Chris Johnson, I'm happy to share the news that our special issue of *IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications* magazine with a focus on helping SIGGRAPH celebrate its 50 years of conferences is now online. It includes over 200 short memories of conferences past from 120 attendees / contributors. If you're one of those SIGGRAPH folks who always asks, "Do you remember .... ?" or if you have always wondered why people are so passionate about SIGGRAPH, take a trip down memory lane by downloading this article (for free)"
- Face-to-face meeting for the History Committee
  - To hold or not to hold? When? Probably best to target Spring 2024.
  - Discussed people to invite / meet with in order to enhance networking and connections.

## 9. Next meeting Tuesday, August 15, 12:00 noon EDT via Zoom

## 10. Conclusion 1:05 pm EDT