

ACM History Committee Meeting

Minutes, September 19, 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
- Jonathan Grudin
- Carol Hutchins
- Kim Tracy
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest) [only for the first part of the meeting]
- Mary Whitton (guest)

Not in attendance

- ac Loup
- Sachin Maheshwari
- John Tucker

2. Minutes status (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- August 15, 2023 minutes: Not yet ready for review, approval deferred to the October meeting
- Updates on website: Vicki has sent the July 2023 minutes to Kim to be added

3. Committee membership and recruitment (Owens)

- We discussed timing for inviting potential members (some are interested, but the timing is not yet right for them), as well as potential venues for recruiting members (such as SIGCIS and SHOT). Jeff pointed out that it is better to identify candidates and ask them individually about their interest in the committee rather than to announce it publicly. Troy suggested the post-fellowship reports as another way to identify candidates. The new advisory role might also offer a path for people who would be willing to join the committee at a later time.
- We discussed creating a more formal explanation of the member/advisor roles and expectations in order to make clear what we are asking of people.
- Mary has agreed to remain as an advisor after leaving the HC.
- The subcommittee assignment process is still pending.

4. Brief updates on committee work

a. Secretariat

- Nothing to report beyond the work on the minutes.

b. Fellowship (Tracy, Whitton)

- The public call for applications for Fellowships should be distributed in early November. We must update the call for the 2024 round and want to add a question along the lines of “where did you hear about this opportunity?”
- We discussed the maximum amount for each award.
 - Mary noted that the amount awarded has been the same since she joined the committee in 2010.
 - The realities of air fares would support an increase the amount allotted to individuals.
 - Mary added that such a change in the Fellowship program will affect the overall HC budget and should be included in any request to ACM HQ.
- Troy questioned whether there is a need for becoming more insistent regarding final reports from the awardees.

c. Budget and Finance (Brock, Astarte)

- David will be the new chair of the Budget and Finance subcommittee, with Troy as support until someone else joins this subcommittee. Mary and Erik have shared information to help David and Troy more quickly orient to the materials. The HC Operations drive contains historical information and procedure documents that will be helpful as the new committee members get started.
- Mary suggested doing the budget in December before she completely departs the committee. We should plan the coming budget for all of our projects. If there are changes, it is important to communicate with the budget committee in advance.
- Notes about finances and planning:
 - Committee Meetings and notes are a good method for capturing expenditures.
 - While the fellowship award was not increased this year, we must keep this in mind for the next budget.
- International and Finance: Mary recommended that Barb document the process for international payments to help the finance subcommittee going forward.
- Barb asked where the ACM volunteer forms for daily mileage, etc. are located. Using these forms helps ensure expenses are posted in the correct category.
- ACTION ITEM: Mary will send the question about forms to ACM HQ and will copy David and Troy as an introduction to the new committee members.

d. Turing Awardee History Project (Brock)

- David reported that Frannie Corry is back from leave. She will work to set up the plan for the interview with Jeffrey Ulman, with an interviewer chosen with input from Ulman. This will be an ACM-only interview.
- The interviews of Butler Lampson and Ken Thompson will be in partnership with the Computer History Museum. Lampson has agreed to be interviewed in early December. The interview will take place at MIT, with David Brock as the interviewer. David reports that the arrangements for the interview with Thompson are still pending.

e. ACM Key Awards Video Series (House)

- Chuck told David he will complete the essay he has promised as soon as he gets the chance.
- Chuck explained he had been invited to present to the UN General Assembly the week after our HC meeting. The focus will be on tools for understanding pandemics, in particular the database he developed with data about the propagation of COVID19, including geospatial mapping.

f. Heritage Project (Almstrum, Loup, Grudin)

- Vicki has uploaded the videos from the 2022 Heritage seminar to the YuJa service she uses at Texas State. YuJa automatically captions and the result is generally fairly good. For each day, there are three recordings with a different view (speaker, presentation slides, with audience), so those will have to be woven together into the final merged result.
- Vicki shared that we must identify a service to create the final version of the recordings for the Digital Library. Creating the final product will require considerable editing effort. We must identify a professional to hire for this purpose. David will poll the media specialists at CHM for suggestions of free-lancers and the subcommittee will seek recommendations from other sources, including Craig Rodkin at ACM.
- Help Needed with creation of a final version of the recordings of the 2-day ACM Heritage Seminar: Vicki described the considerable editing effort needed to come up with the final product. The group quickly concluded that aid from a professional is the way to go. While this needs to be someone who takes on freelance work, David will poll the media specialists at CHM for suggestions. Mary pointed out that the recorded Heidelberg Laureate Lectures (ACM participates) offer a fine example of how a recorded lecture is presented for later review. Mary recommended the recorded Heidelberg Laureate Lectures (ACM participates) as a fine example of how a recorded lecture can be presented for later review.
 - Links to Fred Brooks' page and the two lectures he gave:
<https://www.heidelberg-laureate-forum.org/laureate/frederick-brooks.html>

- The lecture about the VR work:
<https://www.heidelberg-laureate-forum.org/video/lecture-what-makes-the-illusion-work-studies-in-effective-immersive-virtual-environments.html>
- The lecture “A Personal History of Computers”:
<https://www.heidelberg-laureate-forum.org/video/lecture-a-personal-history-of-computers.html>

g. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)

- Pat Ryan and Barb have figured out the process for international payment transfer for Sachin. The process for dispersing finances using a currency other than US\$ has been set up through Pat’s team. This paves the way for the amount Sachin needs for conducting the retrospective interviews for his project can be paid to him via the ACM India Council.

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

- Carol noted problems with the appearance of Mastodon posts compared to the earlier experiences with Twitter.

i. DEIA follow-up

- No updates reported.

j. Curriculum input

- No updates reported.

k. Other?

- No updates reported.

5. Pending issues

- Digital Preservation Strategy, History of ACM webpage(s), Timeline idea
 - We discussed the timeline idea as a visual representation of ACM’s history. Several members are interested in delving into the tools and methods. Overall, this could be a useful and intricate project.

6. Additional business

- Barb drew our attention to an interview of Eugene “Spaf” Spafford in Security Weekly Magazine, September 6, 2023. Jeff noted that has conducted an oral history with Spafford as well.
<https://www.scmagazine.com/podcast-segment/interview-with-dr-gene-spafford-eugene-spafford-psw-vault>
- HC meeting face-to-face.
 - There is general agreement that a F2F HC meeting would have many positive outcomes. The two venue options are NYC and NC.

- If we are able to make NYC work, the HC may be able to invite different members of the staff to meet with us. Meeting ACM staffers can help the HC better understand their perspectives and help things move better.
- ACTION ITEM: Barb will approach Pat about possible dates for a F2 meeting in NYC, as well as to double-check logistics.
- We should consider whether there are any events of special interest to the HC on which we could piggyback our meeting (which in turn could help pinpoint timing).
- Lessons from the SIGGRAPH celebration
 - We spoke briefly about the SIGGRAPH 50th anniversary celebration.
 - Several parts emphasized different aspects of SIGGRAPH's history. Mary reflected on this as a huge job, crowd sourced, and without sufficiently many links to background information.
 - Vicki suggested that we schedule a debrief with Bonnie and Mary about lessons learned from the history work for this SIGGRAPH event.

7. Next meeting Tuesday, October 17, 12:00 noon EDT via Zoom

8. Conclusion 1:00 pm EDT