ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, November 21, 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
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Andrew Meade McGee
- Kim Tracy
- John Tucker
- Chuck House (guest)

Not in attendance
- Jonathan Grudin
- Carol Hutchins
- ac Loup
- Jeffrey Yost

2. Minutes status (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)
- August 15, 2023 minutes: Have seven votes to approve. Ready to post.
- September 19, 2023 minutes: Have nine votes to approve. Ready to post.
- October 17, 2023 minutes: Have seven votes to approve. Ready to post.
- Kim will add these minutes to the HC website in the coming weeks.
- We discussed the processes for producing the minutes and getting the votes, with the goal of becoming more effective at completing the process. We discussed sharing the task of completing the first draft of the minutes between Troy and Vicki.

3. Committee membership and recruitment (Owens)
- We welcomed Andrew Meade McGee to his first meeting as a member of the HC. He introduced himself briefly. Andrew shared that his predecessor, Paul Ceruzzi, donated his collection of books to Montana State University in Bozeman. We were very interested to learn that there is a computer museum in Bozeman! Website: https://acrmuseum.org/
- Subcommittee assignments
  - We must update the spreadsheet with subcommittee assignments and ensure they are up to date.
○ The subcommittees now include the new curriculum issues subcommittee chaired by John.
  ● Advisor role: We agreed to formalize the description of the HC advisor role and post that, as well as the list of HC advisors, to the HC website.
  ● ACTION ITEM: Vicki will guide Andrew on a walk-through of the HC Ops site.

4. Brief updates on committee work

a. Secretariat
  ● Troy and Vicki plan to resume their audit work on the HC Ops drive.

b. Fellowship (Tracy, Whitton)
  ● Call is ready to distribute after earlier updates.
  ● Kim will post the call on the HC website. He will also send it out to SHoT’s SIG-CIS and the ACM SGB. He will also ask Erik Rau to share with his science and medicine history list. Committee members are encouraged to share in other venues as well, noting the deadline of 2024-02-15.

c. Budget and Finance (Brock, Astarte)
  ● Chuck discussed the budget for his Key Awards project. The currently budgeted part continues through the end of this FY. We will begin budgeting this through the committee, rather than through the development funds.
  ● For the future, Chuck proposes to reduce the management fee in favor of other aspects of the project. He discussed expenses for creating an Expo Center (discussed below) and snippets. He recommends $64K for the Key Awards Project budget for the next FY.

d. Turing Awardee History Project (Brock)
  ● David reviewed the plans for the three interviews currently on the schedule (Butler Lampson, Ken Thompson, Jeffrey Ullman).

e. ACM Key Awards Video Series (House)
  ● During the budget portion of the meeting, Chuck reported on the status of the Key Awards project. His brief summary is below and the full presentation is located in the appropriate HC Operations folder.
    ○ Chuck expects to complete the interviews included in these first two phases by December 31, 2023. Details are in the presentation.
    ○ None of the interviews have been included on the associated ACM Award page at this point.
  ● The project is approved to conduct 12 interviews per year for new awards. Chuck proposes adding 4 interviews per year so the project can add interviews with earlier awardees. He would like to continue as the project manager next year, but wants to train someone who will carry the project onward.
  ● An important challenge is to make the interviews accessible and exciting.
○ Create snippets for all of the interviews so far, with the recommendation to do all of four awards rather than a smattering across all of the awards.
○ Carefully develop the new Expo piece. Pat Ryan recommended starting with the Turing Award, which is the award that everyone knows about. The cost “per Expo” (about 50 visuals) would be about $50-$100K.
○ We discussed seeking sponsors to fund the work for “their” awards.
  ● David asked how the transcripts will be made accessible for people to find. The current thinking is that after a transcript is edited, reviewed, and approved, it will be sent to Bruce Shriver at ACM so they can add a radio button on the appropriate ACM award page (and later snippets), analogous to what is already being done for the Turing Award.

f. Heritage Project (Almstrum, Loup, Grudin)
  ● Vicki reported significant progress with Heritage Insights. Craig Rodkin put Vicki in contact with someone who can process the videos from the seminar and put them into a format that can be posted in the ACM DL.
  ● Jonathan is leading the way with requesting permissions from authors to post their videos and asking them whether they also want to write a report of some sort to accompany their video. Still need to review, edit, and ensure the master list is complete.
  ● Vicki has initiated the process of setting up EasyChair for the review process.
  ● Troy raised the question of the new open access publication model and how that will affect Heritage Insights. Kim explained that the fee is intended for people at institutions that do not have an agreement with ACM to waive the publication fees. Troy notes this is only for international conference proceedings (ICPS) at the moment. Vicki will follow up with Craig on this question.

g. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)
  ● Barb said that the issue with international transfers is becoming clearer, allowing Sachin’s project to move along.

h. Outreach, Marketing, Web presence (Hutchins, Tracy)
  ● Nothing to add here.

i. DEIA follow-up
  ● Nothing to add here.

j. Computing curriculum
  ● John will work with the new subcommittee to move forward with this.

k. Other?
  ● Kim shared a report from his attendance at the recent SGB (SIG Governing Board) meeting.
  ● HC planning for face-to-face meeting
5. Pending issues
   ○ Digital preservation strategy – somewhat related to open publication policy
   ○ History of ACM web pages – need a strategy, may be a topic to pursue during the F2F meeting in NYC.
   ○ Timeline – still tentative. One possible route to success could be if Troy can set up a student project to complete the work.

6. Additional business
   ● No additional business.

7. Next meeting Tuesday, December 19, 12:00 noon EST via Zoom

8. Conclusion 1:00 pm EDT