ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, December 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
- Jonathan Grudin
- Carol Hutchins
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Andrew Meade McGee
- Kim Tracy
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)
- Vicki Hanson, CEO ACM (guest)

Not in attendance

- David Brock
- ac Loup
- John Tucker

2. Visit from Vicki Hanson

- New ACM project to document the many volunteers who have contributed to ACM over the years. Currently have a page about the past presidents: [acm.org/about-acm/past-presidents](acm.org/about-acm/past-presidents); the new project will expand this to include other types of volunteers, both to give recognition and improve community understanding about the large number of people it takes to keep ACM running.
- ACM has good digital records for about the past 20 years about people in key volunteer roles. She is seeking assistance from the HC to figure out where to obtain information from earlier years, as well as strategies and tasks.
- The plan is to start with the ACM elected officers, SIG chairs, SGB chairs, executive committees, editors-in-chief, councils, and conference chairs, initially about the past 20 years, then expand to other types of volunteers and further back in time.
- For presenting the information, they are looking at creating tabular lists, with a simple landing page, then different categories of people.
- Barb mentioned that a number of SIGs have collected relevant information in conjunction with their 50th anniversary celebrations.
- Chuck suggested that Tom Misa could be an excellent resource for delving into the material housed at CBI. Jeff has gotten the impression from visitors who have used the
archives at CBI that there is a great deal of information there. Andrew confirmed this based on his own experiences using the CBI archives.

- Carol shared in the chat that a folder on her laptop includes ACM Council minutes going WAY back. SUGGESTED ACTION: Upload to HC Operations, possibly under the folder “ACM HQ info”.
- Vicki A. asked for a “short catchy name” to define the project and make it easier to talk about.
- Carol wondered how far back ACM keeps roles of members, referring back to the research Tom Misa has done.
- Vicki A. asked about GDPR and any restrictions on publishing information like people’s names. She has encountered challenges with this in previous projects. Vicki H. said that there is already a policy that allows anyone to request that their name be removed from ACM records.
- Chuck noted that CACM publishes information about the people in key volunteer roles, so an archive of CACM could contain much of the information this project is seeking.
- Chuck concluded with a question regarding images as part of the follow-up. He added that it would be nice to have images of people next to their names. Vicki H. mentioned that they do not currently have pictures for everyone in all of those categories.

3. ACM Key Awards report (House)

- Chuck shared highlights from his report; the PDF of the report is in the meeting folder for this meeting, as well as under reports in the Key Awards project folder.
- Chuck observed that website organization for the Turing Award is reasonably good. Some of the material is strategically linked; for other recipients, the organization is not as good (e.g., David Patterson). Chuck recommends the Diffie profile as an exemplar (amturing.acm.org/award_winners/diffie_8371646.cfm)
- Chuck has ambitious ideas regarding how to display different kinds of information. The Key Award winner web pages are currently rather dry; adding snippets would help make the information a more exciting multimedia experience. He is working to pull together a good start on the Expo idea with an exemplar
- For funding, the current project is ready to move from development funding to being a part of the annual budget for the HC.
- Vicki H. mentioned the Heidelberg Laureate Forum again as inspiration (heidelberg-laureate-forum.org/)
- Vicki A. reminded us of a discussion suggesting ways to tie together information about a particular person across the various museums and repositories.
- Vicki H. departed at the end of Chuck’s report on the Key Awards project.

4. Minutes status (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- November 21, 2023 minutes: Only had four votes to approve by the end of the meeting, so they remain unapproved until the January meeting.
- Kim has added the minutes from August, September, and October 2023 to the HC website.
- Vicki shared that she will update the Meetings / Minutes folder for 2024.
We discussed informal v. formal naming in the minutes. Troy raised this question after observing that section headings in the minutes use family names, while the running text uses given names. Because the full names of participants are listed at the top of each document, we decided no change is needed.

We also considered whether to ask guests to review the minutes before finalizing.

5. Committee membership and recruitment (Owens)

Vicki had updated the spreadsheet with subcommittee assignments, as well as the overall committee membership. She added the new curriculum subcommittee chaired by John.

We looked at the membership log, which includes historical information about past members. The full membership list contains the email addresses of everyone who has been on the committee; Troy asked whether this could be a privacy problem in the context of GDPR. They suggested emailing everyone on the list for permission to keep their email addresses on file (which would also indicate whether any of the addresses bounce).

At this point, we must still formalize our description of the advisor role and the list of advisors.

6. Brief updates on committee work

a. Secretariat
   - No further discussion. Troy and Vicki plan to continue their audit work on the HC Ops drive as time allows.

b. Fellowship (Tracy, Whitton)
   - Kim reported in the chat that the fellowship call went out and he has already received two submissions. The deadline is February 15. Kim will send out a reminder in mid-January.

c. Budget and Finance (Brock, Astarte)
   - Budget is around the corner, so this is going to be a key task in the coming weeks.
   - The budget must be expanded to include Chuck’s additional requests for the ACM Key Awards work. Troy will follow up with David Brock.

d. Turing Awardee History Project (Brock)
   - The project was mentioned in Chuck’s presentation, but David was not present so there were no specific updates.

e. ACM Key Awards Video Series (House)
   - Report given earlier.
f. Heritage Project (Almstrum, Loup, Grudin)
   - Vicki A. and Jonathan provided a report regarding progress in setting up Heritage Insights and doing follow-up with the seminar presenters.
   - Vicki suggested that Andrew’s support could be useful in this subcommittee and he replied that he is happy to be contacted on this.

g. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)
   - Deferred.

h. Outreach, Marketing, Web presence (Hutchins, Tracy)
   - Carol talked about how micro-blogging is evolving in bits and spurts. As far as she knows, ACM is still using X (the service formerly known as Twitter).

i. DEIA follow-up
   - Deferred.

j. Computing curriculum
   - Deferred.

k. Other?
   - HC planning for face-to-face meeting — Several members had not responded. As of now, the best choice appears to be the end of February.
   - ACM Press books idea (from Chuck) — Deferred.

7. Pending issues
   - Digital preservation strategy – Still pending.
   - History of ACM web pages – need a strategy, may be a topic for F2F
   - Timeline – Still pending.

8. Additional business
   - Vicki will create a survey for workable meeting times in 2024. Troy’s schedule on Tuesdays this term will conflict with the HC meeting time after January.
   - We closed with everyone sharing their hopes for the HC committee during 2024.

9. Next meeting Tuesday, January 16, 12:00 noon EST via Zoom

10. Conclusion 1:00 pm EDT