

ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, February 16, 2024

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 (late arrival)
- Jonathan Grudin
- Carol Hutchins
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Andrew Meade McGee
- John Tucker
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)

Not in attendance

- ac Loup
- Kim Tracy

2. Minutes status (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- Direct email to committee members for votes on the November and December minutes brought about approval. Both have been posted on the HC website.
- January 16, 2024 minutes: Became available on 2/13, approved by the Secretariat. Awaiting votes by other committee members to approve.
- We propose to adapt the approval process by having the Secretariat send an attached copy of the minutes to those who have yet to vote so they can reply with their vote. We predict this will expedite the approval process.

3. Planning for Face-to-Face meeting

- The meeting will be held all day February 28 at ACM HQ in New York City.
- A Zoom meeting will be active all day so those who are unable to be there in person can drop in and out.
- David suggested several key topics and ACM invitees for the meeting. The key issues he raised included long-term storage of and access to interview videos and transcripts; long-term development, maintenance, and preservation of history web pages, e.g. Turing Award; and the History Committee Budget, FY25 and Beyond

- Chuck requested meetings to discuss the continuing needs of the ACM Key Awards Project.
- Vicki requested that she and Jonathan be able to meet with Digital Library staff to continue work toward setting up the Heritage Insights series.
- Vicki also requested time to discuss the WordPress theme and struggles she and Kim have had with menus and other details of the three HC websites.
- Barbara created a spreadsheet to help with planning topics and meetings. She will share a draft agenda in the near future.

4. ACM Volunteer Pages project (follow-up to Hanson's visit)

- We deferred this topic to the F2F meeting.

5. Committee membership and recruitment (Owens)

- Vicki shared the brainstorming ideas she had coaxed from generative AI (ChatGPT and Gemini) for the advisory position description.
- Carol pointed out that the goal is to have people available who can provide advice in specific areas of expertise when the need arises.
- We discussed how the advisory role differs from the role of being a committee member. John s
- During the discussion, John Tucker offered the broader suggestion that we should seriously consider involving some leaders from industry as we move forward with this.
- ACTION ITEM: Vicki will propose a description that takes the brainstorming and comments into consideration. We may want to describe committee membership

6. Brief updates on committee work

a. ACM Key Awards Video Series (House)

- Chuck will schedule a meeting with Pat Ryan in advance of the F2F meeting to discuss funding. He wants to use development fund money to create snippets from the transcripts and, for new awardees, make this a part of the ongoing HC budget for new awardees. (No surprises).
- Chuck shared the slide and video prototype with his vision for the "Virtual Hall of Fame," where the user "walks through" a museum-like environment to view (video & audio) content explaining accomplishments of the many ACM awardees over the years. He directed us to astrovirtual.com for additional ideas. The site would include many exciting features and could nicely support Vicki Hanson's suggestions for how the Turing award winner website could be overhauled.

b. Fellowship (Tracy)

- Kim reported in an email on 2/15/2024 that 10 submissions had come in, with an expectation of more the day of the meeting (2/16) based on how many were submitted at the last minute in 2023. Kim is placing the applications in the 2024/Proposal Submissions on the Google Drive in the directory.

- Kim has received more questions from prospective candidates than in prior years, particularly about the “endorsement letter,” which Kim explained serves as more of a recommendation.
- Kim will convene the fellowship subcommittee in early March to evaluate the proposals. He shared that he has not yet reviewed the proposals for either completeness (like having all the required parts) or quality.

c. Budget and Finance (Brock, Astarte)

- David reminded us that we are coming up against the time to submit the budget to ACM HQ. He notes that James Schembari had promised to send the template for finances by mid-February, but that these had not been received yet. David expects we will have more information on finances before the Face to Face meeting on February 28.

d. Turing Awardee History Project (Brock)

- See update — Butler collected, Thompson interview coming up.
- David reported that the Butler Lampson footage has been edited and we await the transcript, which will then be sent to the interviewee. All is set for interviewing Ken Thompson in March.
- Franny Corry is stepping out of her role once she completes the oral history interviews to which she has committed (Lampson, Thompson, Allman). We must find someone to train for her role and eventually replace her.

e. Secretariat

- Vicki set up an orientation meeting with Andrew, which Jonathan joined.
- Andrew had not been receiving emails, so worked with Barb and Kim to correct this situation.
- During the first part of the session, Vicki led a walk-through of the organization and key features of the HC Operations drive. The time revealed some areas for improvement but plenty that works well as it is.

f. Heritage Project (Almstrum, Loup, Grudin, Meade)

- The second part of the session with Vicki, Andrew, and Jonathan introduced Andrew to current work with the Heritage project, specifically the Heritage Insights follow-up to the Sept/Oct 2022 seminar, as well as future possibilities for the Heritage work.

g. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)

- No discussion of this area during today’s meeting.

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

- No discussion of this area during today’s meeting.

i. DEIA follow-up

- No discussion of this area during today's meeting.

j. Computing curriculum

- Brett Becker will be invited to join us at either the March or April meeting to discuss the new computing curriculum, where history fits, and future collaboration with / support of the HC.

k. Other?

- ACM Press books idea (from Chuck) — Deferred.
- Andrew mentioned in chat that he has ideas he would like to discuss with ACM HQ and the HC about developing a collaborative activity around AI and the anniversary of the Dartmouth Conference in 2026. David already knows a little about this and Andrew planned to write to Jeff about the event next week. Andrew explained that this is a big idea that might appeal to an advisory board.

7. Pending issues

- Digital preservation strategy – No discussion of this area during today's meeting.
- History of ACM webpages – No discussion of this area during today's meeting.
- Timeline – No discussion of this area during today's meeting.

8. Next meetings

- In person Wednesday, February 28 in New York at ACM headquarters
- On Zoom Friday, March 16, 12:00 noon EDT
- Troy reminds us that the March 15 meeting falls between the dates when the USA begins Daylight Saving and the UK switches to Summer time. For UK people, the March meeting begins at 16:00 rather than 17:00; members should carefully check what time the meeting will be for them.

9. Conclusion 1:00 pm EDT