

ACM History Committee Meeting

Minutes, April 19, 2024

Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 12:00pm EDT / 9:00am PDT via Zoom

1. Attendees (Owens)

- Barbara Boucher Owens (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum (5 minutes late)
- Troy Astarte
- David Brock
- Carol Hutchins
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Andrew Meade McGee
- Kim Tracy
- John Tucker
- Jeffrey Yost
- Chuck House (guest)

Not in attendance

- ac Loup
- Jonathan Grudin

2. Minutes status (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- February 16, 2024 and March 15, 2024 minutes recently completed, are ready for everyone to view and approve /comment.
- February 28, 2024 minutes still in process.
- Kim has turned on Zoom's AI feature to provide a meeting summary. We will keep the file in the appropriate meeting folder as additional information. NOTE: This feature works only if turned on in advance of the meeting. We do not believe it can be applied retroactively.
- David mentioned the OpenAI tool Whisper that does transcription. There are other commercial apps, e.g MacWhisper, for transcribing audio and video files.

3. Committee membership and recruitment (Owens)

- Advisory position description still pending (action item Vicki).
- Jeff proposed to invite Mara Mills as a committee member and David seconded. The committee members who were present gave unanimous approval.
- Dr. Mills is a leading scholar in history of technology & science intersection with disability; her profile page: <https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/people/mara-mills>

4. Turing Award Consolidation Proposal and update (Brock)

- David presented a proposal for the Turing Awardee project moving ahead, partially due to the departure of Franny Corry from the consulting role.
- The idea is to outsource the organization and management of the project to an external Director, with the ACM HC continuing to provide strategic direction and oversight. The proposed director is Tom Haigh, who has much experience with this project.
- This would eliminate the potential conflict of interest for David, whose current management of the project may conflict with his affiliation with the Computer History Museum, a frequent contractor of the project.
- The duties of the director would consolidate managing the Turing Award web pages with the interview management, including overhauling the research area categorisation and tagging, organizing ACM storage, and documenting the workflow.
- The director would be paid a fixed stipend for the role and additional fees for interview labor and travel expenses.
- Committee voted to support the plan. David will meet with Pat Ryan to inform her and work with her to develop the details of the formal agreement. Unanimous approval.
- Agreed we will call this the “Turing Project” moving forward.

5. Brief updates on committee work

a. ACM Key Awards Video Series (House)

- Chuck reports he has been focusing on the plan for the Virtual Hall of Fame. He will create something similar to the presentation that David has just done. He will develop that to share at the May meeting.

b. Fellowship (Tracy)

- Discussion of the proposals that have merit, but not for the fellowship.
- Idea from Andrew: develop guidelines for “affiliated” activities.
- John expounds on the idea of associated projects, which are not directly about the history of ACM, yet may benefit the committee’s mission and then use the logo to show the HC is a supporting entity.
 - Vicki raises CEOHP as an example of a related project.
- The ACM HC could provide workshops and resources to support efforts along these lines.
 - When we are reviewing fellowship proposals, we could choose a second outcome to provide support to proposals that we feel have good quality but are not directly related to ACM history.
 - John has experience with the British Computer Society (BCS), which has seen success with supporting projects for which BCS is not directly responsible, neither financially or organizationally.

c. Budget and Finance (Brock, Astarte)

- Deferred.

d. Secretariat

- Deferred.

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

- Deferred.

f. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins)

- Deferred.

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

- Deferred.

h. DEIA

- Deferred.

i. Computing curriculum

- Deferred.

j. Other?

- Deferred.

6. Pending issues

- No discussion of pending issues at this meeting.

7. Next meetings

- On Zoom Friday, May 17, 2024, at 12:00 noon EDT

8. Conclusion 1:00 pm EDT