

ACM History Committee Meeting

Minutes, June 21, 2024

Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 12:06pm EDT / 9:00am PDT via Zoom

1. Attendees (Owens)

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

Not in attendance

- Jonathan Grudin
- ac Loup
- Mara Mills

2. Minutes status (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- February 16, 2024 — 8 votes to approve – ready to post
- February 28, 2024 — not yet available
- March 15, 2024 minutes — 9 votes to approve – ready to post
- April 19, 2024 minutes — nearly ready for voting
- May 17, 2024 minutes — not yet ready for voting
- The goal is for the minutes to be fully caught up by the July meeting

3. Committee membership and recruitment (Owens)

- Vicki will add the starting dates for members in the membership folder. Kim has listed the month each member joined the HC on the website.
- Advisory position description still pending (action item Vicki).
- Barb mentioned the ongoing task of recruitment and planning for the future. No movement so far on recruitment letters.

4. Brief updates on committee work

a. Turing Project

- David reported that Tom Haigh is assuming the responsibilities that Franny Corry had covered, in addition to the ongoing work with the snippets and website oversight.
- Pat Ryan and Barb, as HC chair, have approved the increase in payment for snippet production from \$1000 to \$1250 (per snippet).

b. ACM Key Awards Video Series (House)

- Chuck learned from Pat that a detailed proposal should go to the ACM Executive Committee by mid-June, so he has created this and has shared it for HC approval.
- Chuck shared an updated overview and demo of the Virtual Hall of Fame (VHOF) and the accompanying Visual User Interface (VUE) work. The VUE has been substantially improved and for better integration with the ACM Digital Library, thanks to the efforts of Wayne & team. The new VUE has more powerful sorting and filtering for the various ACM awards, which can be displayed as part of a website and allows people to more easily find info on particular winners. The VUE is based on PowerBI.
- Chuck now has created a development fund proposal lasting at least two years, including suggestions for sponsors for each award (possibly including naming rights and expanding beyond simply being an ACM project). The proposal provides a full outline for the next steps, including the plan to defer work on the VHOF until at least spring 2025.
- After the demo, we discussed accessibility and performance concerns. Barb queried about overall accessibility issues as well as adapting the interface to include languages other than English. Troy discussed the performance of PowerBI based on their own experience with this tool for teaching statistics.
- Carol suggested the idea of virtual docents to help guide visitors through the collection.
- Several observations from Kim
 - This is exactly the kind of project that he had been hoping the HC would do to deliver value for ACM and the computing community from the HC's work.
 - How can we quantify the value to ACM of a project such as this one? Chuck talked about the ability to provide courses and to charge for them. Chuck says this is more of a visual library, similar to the idea of a document library.
 - Some organizations might want a VHOF specific to their organization (Stanford, for example) where they put up a kiosk-like display that auto-plays content for their awardees. Perhaps this is a feature for a later release?
- Is there a plan for how to approach companies/individuals to fund this?
- The placement, advertising, visibility, and availability of the VHOF will matter to actualize many views. How do we envision this being rolled out to get more views/value of this content?

c. Fellowship (Tracy)

- Nothing to report. On hold until the next round begins in the fall.

d. Budget and Finance (Brock, Astarte)

- Nothing to report.

e. Secretariat

- Annual review process is getting started; Vicki will do a follow-up with action items. We do not yet know the due date.
- Mara and Vicki had a good onboarding meeting.

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

- Vicki notes there is progress preparing the first issue of *Heritage Insights* with the material from the Fall 2022 Heritage seminar. Progress has been slowed by technical problems.
- Vicki has contacted Craig Rodkin about organizing a face-to-face meeting in the coming months.
- Carol asked whether the cover design and color for the *Heritage Insights* logo materials have been settled. This is still in progress.

g. Global (Maheshwari, Hutchins, Owens)

- Sachin had nothing to report.
- Barb plans to do networking at the ACM banquet in San Francisco, including meeting with global leaders as much as possible. Chuck and Barb will coordinate these efforts.

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

- Carol discussed the on-going transition from Twitter into X. One of the first of the new post-Twitter social networking sites, post.news, has folded.

i. DEIA

- During the on-boarding meeting with Vicki, Mara committed to bring a proposal related to DEIA to the committee in the early Fall 2024.

j. Computing curriculum

- Kim is developing a tutorial proposal for the SIGCSE Technical Symposium 2025. His goal is to help participants learn how to develop and incorporate teaching components related to the history of computing. The proposal is due July 14. Vicki and John both volunteered to help.
- We discussed the option of proposing an ITiCSE workshop on this topic, which could be a longer-term view as well as more global. The ITiCSE is generally at the beginning of the year (about January).

k. Other?

- Barb and Chuck will both be at the ACM Banquet in San Francisco

5. Pending issues

- No discussion of pending issues at this meeting.

6. Next meetings

- On Zoom Friday, July 19, 2024, at 12:00 noon EDT

7. Conclusion 12:49 pm EDT