

ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2024

Welcome (Owens)

- Meeting began at 12:00pm ET / 9:00am PT via Zoom

1. Attendees (Owens)

- Kim Tracy (chair, by phone)
- Vicki Almstrum
- Troy Astarte
- Carol Hutchin
- Dave Kasik
- Sachin Maheshwari
- Andrew Meade McGee
- Barbara Boucher Owens
- Dag Spicer (late arrival)
- John Tucker
- Jeffrey Yost (late arrival by phone)

Not in attendance

- David Brock
- Jonathan Grudin
- Mara Mills
- Chuck House (guest)

2. Minutes status (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- Minutes for September 20, 2024: Not yet ready for the vote.
- July approved and ready to post, August needs more votes.

3. Initial plans as chair (Tracy)

- Kim has been scheduling calls with Yannis Ioannidis, Pat Ryan, and Vicki Hanson (ACM's president, COO, and CEO respectively) to discuss the committee activities and goals. Kim's observations from the meetings with Yannis and Pat are added in the appropriate parts of these minutes.
- One take-away is that Pat is less aware of the Committee's activities than we had understood. We discussed several ideas, such as distributing an executive summary after each meeting or sharing more at the SGB meetings. We agreed we should ask her guidance on how better to keep her updated.
- Andrew suggested that activities during the 2027 anniversary could help raise the Committee's profile. Another suggestion was to feature past Fellowship winners in

CACM, which could in turn drive traffic to *Heritage Insights*. He also suggested we consider raising our profile through the use of branded items

4. Brief update on Key Awards/VHoF, ACM EC meeting to vote (Tracy)

- The vote on funding of the VHoF proposal was delayed until November. The proposal must still address issues such as operational expenses and future maintenance.

5. Committee membership and recruitment (Tracy)

- We welcomed Dave Kasik to the committee. He shared his brief Introduction: Retired from Boeing, has worked extensively with computer graphics; Has been involved with ACM since 1971; is an ACM Fellow; Very involved with SIGGRAPH, has worked with Mary Whitton; Dave is also active within IEEE. Dave has two papers forthcoming in a special issue of *Annals of the History of Computing* for which he is also Guest Editor.
- We have not yet finalized the proposal for HC member and advisory role responsibilities. We will strive to take this up at the next meeting.
- We discussed subcommittee assignments
 - Troy is willing to take on something new. Budget is probably key for their involvement. Kim wants to become more involved in the budget work.
 - Jeff volunteered to chair the Fellowship subcommittee. Troy is interested in being on this subcommittee.
 - Kim will continue to do the web site administration and administrative work (listserv, Google Drive permissions) for now.

6. SIGCSE 2025 Workshop/Tutorial (Tucker, Tracy, Almstrum)

- The tutorial proposed by Kim and Vicki has been accepted for the SIGCSE Technical Symposium 2025, to be held from February 26 - March 01, 2025, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- While the tutorial is not an official HC product, it is supported by the committee and helps raise the HC profile). Supporting activities such as this one allows the HC to lend our reputation to independent actions.
- We discussed HC “branding” and how to ensure that support from the HC is clear. The Committee does have a new logo that is ready for use in this context and others.

7. Charter discussion and desired types of work for committee (Tracy)

- Current HC charter: *The History Committee fosters collection, preservation, and interpretation of the history of the ACM and its role in the development of computing. To this end, the committee provides guidance within the Association and carries out activities independently and in collaboration with other groups.*
- Kim shared notes from his meetings with Yannis and Pat Ryan
 - Overall message: the work to document the SIG history is appreciated.
 - Yannis would like to expand the HC charter to be broader and include the history of computing outside of ACM. He brought up the idea of acknowledging milestones, much like IEEE’s plaques for engineering milestones (many of which are computing related). Dag shared this link:

<https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPRRcRwJ6MihVIF6K9Q79jPaa7bWUKfthI914z2PcJ69J8mxD48ycuHuacTzIGvuA?key=ZTV2X21PU2FXdE5IVl83MmpiUGdETWswYU5iUnV3>

- Yannis described efforts to build a museum in China and that ACM may be invited to help. This is an example of opportunities that would be appropriate if the charter were expanded.
- Pat wants us to ensure the HC continues to document ACM history as well as issues such as the growth and change in SIGs and publications over time.
- Pat pointed to the 75th Anniversary video (a link is now posted on our website under “ACM History”). The script for that video is now on our Google drive.
- For fellowships, we must ensure we receive reports for the work completed under the grants.
- Pat mentioned that redoing the ACM main site’s history page is another task the HC should guide. (NOTE: This has been on the HC pending tasks list for some time.)
- ACM HQ can help with updates to our web site or other administrative tasks.
- There was a discussion of various ways we could expand our work if this remit expansion is action.
 - Andrew recommends partnering with student-led groups or local chapters. We could have a competition to recognise under-represented history of computing sites for 2025.
 - Dave’s recommendation is to think of the “customers”. Who is interested in what we produce? Our efforts look different if targeted at the general public, or at ACM members. He offers to review the charter and recommends regular review.
 - Dag notes that the CHM is regularly approached by ACM units and those in other organisations looking to make partnerships.
 - Troy suggests we make this expansion gradual by focusing on history items related to, but not coming directly from, a SIG.

8. Planning for 2025 F2F meeting

- It is not clear that we have the budget for a UK trip.
- We would need to have a solid purpose for being located in the UK (e.g. to connect with the British Computer Society).

9. Brief updates on committee work

a. Turing Project (Brock, McGee)

- No further updates this meeting.

b. Fellowship (Tracy)

- No further updates this meeting.

c. Finances (Astarte)

- Troy needs to catch up with David to get a sense of the budget and financial situation. After this, they should send the current budget status to Kim.

d. Secretariat

- No further updates this meeting.

e. Heritage Project (Almstrum, Grudin)

- No further updates this meeting.

f. Global (Owens, Hutchins, Maheshwari)

- No further updates this meeting.

g. Outreach, Marketing (Hutchins, Owens)

- No further updates this meeting.

h. DEIA (Mills, Owens)

- No further updates this meeting.

i. Computing curriculum (Tucker, Tracy, Almstrum)

- John observed that it would be useful to understand more about how the curriculum affects the practice of the ACM and its members. Further, it would be good to know how people are recruited to work on the curriculum effort, and to get someone with an understanding of the value of history to participate.
- Vicki has initiated contact with Amruth Kumar, part of the curriculum development group, who has suggested some ways forward.
- The tutorial being run by Tracy and Almstrum at SIGCSE in March can serve as a test to gauge interest from the community.

j. Other

- Nothing to add.

10. Additional issues

- No further updates this meeting.

11. Next meetings

- On Zoom Friday, November 15, 2024, at 12:00 noon ET.
- Kim will be in Egypt that day and needs someone else to chair the meeting.
- Changes to Daylight Savings / Summertime
 - DST ends November 3, 2024, in the USA
 - Summertime ends October 27, 2024 in the UK
 - This does not affect the relative timing of the next meeting.

12. Conclusion 13:00 pm ET