

# ACM History Committee Meeting Minutes, June 20, 2025

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## 1. Welcome (Tracy)

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

## 2. Attendees (Tracy)

- Kim Tracy (chair)
- Vicki Almstrum
- Troy Astarte
- Jonathan Grudin
- Dave Kasik
- Barbara Boucher Owens (spotty connection)
- Dag Spicer
- John Tucker
- Jeffrey Yost

*Not in attendance*

- Meenakshi D'Souza
- Mara Mills
- Andrew Meade McGee

## 3. Minutes status (Secretariat / Almstrum, Astarte)

- Minutes for February 21, March 21, April 18, and May 16, 2025 have been completed and are available for review and voting.
- Minutes for the F2F meeting on June 13 are still in progress.

## 4. Annual report initiation (Tracy)

- We discussed the process for developing the annual report.
- We will share the link for the appendix that contains contact information so everyone can double-check that their information is correct. Vicki reminded everyone that this appendix is a separate document from the report and will not be posted on the HC website.

## 5. Committee membership and recruitment (Tracy)

- We will check with Meenakshi D'Souza, our newest HC member, about whether we should vary the times so some are more convenient for her in India.
- Kim will send invitations for renewal to members whose term is ends in July. Troy notes that not everyone was on the call today so the email should ask whether the member wants to renew.

## 6. F2F meeting report (Tracy)

- Kim notes that for the various projects we need to ensure people are assigned to lead each. Based on discussions from the F2F meeting, we can prioritize three projects:
  - A **process for adding videos of interviews conducted by the HC into the DL**, as well as ideas extracting value from the interviews. We are concerned both with preservation and access. Troy and Kim indicated that they will work in this group, with Barbara in an advisory role. Perhaps Tom H. can advise on this based on his experience with the Turing project. Dag notes that at CHM they differentiate between putting in the “digital repository” (an act of preservation) and “hosting” (an act of access). Kim adds that the ask here is both.
  - **ACM Heritage**, with the existing team of Vicki, Dave, and Jonathan, with Barb as an advisor. This project currently has two prongs: SIG survey / activation + Heritage Insights. These two prongs need to reach equilibrium before the Heritage work can expand into other areas.
  - **CS History and disability connections** workshop/symposium (Mara +?). Need to have someone else involved with this. Jeff volunteered to assist.
- ACTION ITEM: develop plans for each of the above by the July meeting with deliverables and an approximate schedule
- We discussed ideas for where to hold the next F2F meeting.
  - Connections with ACM conferences (anniversaries, history-focused, other)
  - Periodic meetings in New York City, with the ability to further develop our connections with ACM personnel and support. Perhaps such a meeting could be scheduled in conjunction with the NYU event.
- We reflected on the activities that took place after the Zoom portion of the meeting had ended. One idea was for CHM to create a drone video tour of the CHM “warehouse” (climate controlled off-site storage location).
- We discussed CHM connections that resulted from our meeting at CHM.
  - We need to consider whether any follow-up is needed with Marc or others at CHM.
  - Dag mentioned that Marc heard Andrew’s pitch for CHM to become an affiliate of the Smithsonian. Marc is already looking at ideas for how the CHM can work with ACM more closely. A key goal is to make the history of computing interesting and relevant to the general public.

## 7. Brief updates on committee work

### a. Turing Project (McGee, Spicer)

- Dag has been talking to Tom H. He expects to have a progress report at the next meeting.

### b. Fellowship (Yost)

- Nothing new to report.

### c. Finances (Astarte)

- Troy and Kim will review the finance status. Troy confirmed that signatory on ACM HC funds is Pat, but that Kim should approve any expenses.
- Expense reports have been coming in to Kim for approval. Some members had not yet submitted their expense report for the F2F meeting as of this meeting.
- Troy has checked the status of the fellowship funds for this year. Four of the five awardees have drawn their allocated funds, one has not.
- We agreed that Tom H. should be encouraged to complete additional work for this fiscal year.

### d. Secretariat (Almstrum, Astarte)

- Nothing to report other than the need to update the membership list on the website.

### e. Heritage Project (Almstrum, Grudin, Kasik, McGee)

- Vicki continues to collaborate with Craig Rodkin about the initial issue of *Heritage Insights* and is encouraged by the progress.
- Dave and Jonathan have completed a Google form, which is ready for distribution to SIGCSE chairs. Neha Kumar, the SIG Governing Board Chair, has agreed to distribute this to SGB members.

### f. Global (Owens)

- We discussed moving global concerns into another subcommittee, as the tasks of the global subcommittee are not clear. We do know about activities in some regions, but it is not clear how we address this. In addition, we are really operating as an international team.

### g. DEIA (Mills, Owens)

- Nothing specific to report.
- Here again we discussed whether this should be removed as a subcommittee, as each subcommittee should have a clear mission and a series of objectives as projects come and go.
- Troy suggests having a longer discussion about this before we make the decision(s) to fold in the subcommittees we have been considering.

### h. Computing curriculum (Tucker, Almstrum, Tracy)

- Vicki suggested holding a computing education-oriented workshop about history, as well as creating a website with computing history resource ideas.
- This is something for the Curriculum Committee folks to discuss.

### i. Other

- Barb reported that SIGCSE is currently working to dividing its members into two types of committees: *green committees* last forever, while the existence of *ad hoc committees* is limited to a particular task.

- ACTION ITEM: Add a mission statement for each of our subcommittees. Green (permanent) committees, ad hoc (particular task) subcommittees..

## 8. Additional issues

- Turing paper article that Dag distributed:
  - <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cew0lzgxd0xo> .
- Dag referred to “the history of X in 100 objects” (book by MacGregor, <https://www.amazon.com/History-World-Objects-Neil-MacGregor/dp/1846145112> ).
  - This began as a radio show (15 minutes per item, so total of 150 minutes), which later became a book. This was done by the British Museum, which only used its own objects (see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00nrtd2>).
  - A spin-out has been to explore the history of many other entities in terms of objects.
  - John suggests a variant as a history of computing from the museum’s own collection.
  - John asked Dag his reaction regarding auctions of historical items. It happens rarely that the CHM purchases items, 99.9% are donated. How does the CHM acquire artefacts when some now attract a high price, such as the Turing papers? Dag says their artefacts are usually donated, only on occasion do they purchase items.
- Is the history of computing becoming a bigger brand?
  - The social study of computing, particularly through media studies and STS, is really taking off. Often these aspects include history. This is something of which we might try to take advantage. There is a question about how we get the newer breed of scholars interested in the ACM specifically.
  - Vicki reminded us of the Preservation Initiative proposal that Bernadette Longo had started; the document is located in the \_Archive folder in the HC Operations drive.
  - Jeff observes that the FAcCT (Fairness and Accountability) conference (<https://facctconference.org/>) is experiencing growing interest from humanities/SS scholars. Many of the papers are about AI, of course. The HC could try to hook into this somehow. Could we suggest to our fellowship winners they present things at e.g. SIGCIS?
  - Troy suggested inviting fellowship winners to submit to SIGCIS (the SHOT-led conference). Vicki pointed out that this could be complementary to our *Heritage Insights* series. Barb mentioned “in collaboration with”.
  - Troy notes that we have things to offer the scholarly community: money, publication venue, and access to the stories and materials about the ACM. We offer money through fellowships; could there be other ways to offer money? Our publication venue is under development. Access to stories and materials is done in some respects through the guidance we give to fellows but we could perhaps do more? Vicki has in the past worked on getting materials for compulsory education level-teachers online, getting them interested in history.

## 9. Next meeting

- July 18, 2025, 12 noon Eastern time

## 10. Conclusion 13:01