Minutes of the ACM SIGSIM Membership Meeting

Virtual meeting via Zoom

January 29, 2021, 11:05 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. EST

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. and conducted by Kalyan Perumalla, Chair. Andreas Tolk, Vice Chair, and Kara Olson, Secretary/Treasurer, were also present.

1. Welcome

The meeting agenda and welcome slides are attached.

After the current officers introduced themselves, Perumalla shared his vision for the current term and beyond, also mentioning forthcoming member meeting dates.

2. Awards

The informational slides presented in this section are attached.

The SIGSIM Distinguished Contributions Award was presented to Ernie Page. Lin Uhrmacher presented a good-natured roast of Page, as well as mentioning some of the glowing comments that were submitted in support of his nomination; Page presented an equally good-natured rebuttal, encompassing thanks to those who he's worked with throughout the years. Both presentations were in line with Page's well-known humor and were well-received.

It was mentioned that the PhD Colloquium Best Paper was awarded to Thomas Voß of Leuphana University, first announced at the 2020 Winter Simulation Conference.

David Bell discussed the current state of the SIGSIM Student Travel Awards, which will resume once travel conditions allow. Travel awards will also now be available for the MSWiM conference. Bell encouraged anyone interested in joining the committee to let him know.

Perumalla presented for consideration some possible new awards and welcomed feedback.

3. Organizational Items: Financial Update, Simulation Archive Update, Membership Sustenance and Expansion

The slides presented in this section are attached.

SIGSIM continues to be in good financial standing. Expenditures have been notably less due to the pandemic, as have conference revenues. Andreas Tolk pointed out that while the WSC 2020 hotel

contract was able to be reworked to avoid penalty (discussed later in these minutes), this is not yet known for the 2021 contract.

Simon Taylor presented the Simulation Archive update. Taylor thanked among others the founders of the Archive – Bob Sargent, Jim Wilson, and Dick Nance – as well as INFORMS for its donations and SIGSIM for its continuous support of the archive since 2012. How the funding is used was discussed, which includes storage, staff, scanning, and transcription, among other archiving tasks. Bob Sargent motioned that SIGSIM continue its contribution to the endowment, suggesting an increased amount of $7500 per year. The motion was seconded. Inquiry was made as to possibly making the contribution a recurring event by default, with a report presented at the Business Meeting, similar to the SIGSIM-supported conferences; a counter was suggested that it be made a recurring event, but with a specific window (for example, for only a certain number of years). The discussed recommendations will be forwarded to the appropriate committee.

Kalyan Perumalla briefly mentioned Membership Sustenance and Expansion.

4. Subcommittees: Technical Subcommittees, Enthusiast Subcommittees

The slides presented in this section are attached.

Kalyan Perumalla shared that Communications of the ACM is interested in receiving nominations of technical advancements from each of its SIGs and solicited suggestions of such highlights. He will gather the recommendations and synthesize and forward them as appropriate.

Perumalla discussed the possibilities of several subcommittees and encouraged feedback and indication of interest from the membership.

5. Community Presence

The slide presented in this section are attached.

Kalyan Perumalla indicated that the SIGSIM Newsletter, currently an occasional publication, is hoped to become a more regular occurrence. He also discussed SIGSIM having physical representation at conferences, such as a table or booth.

6. Conference Reports

The slides presented in this section are attached.

Philippe Giabbanelli discussed the PADS conference. Having considered feedback from PADS 2020 and other conferences that have had a fully- or mostly-online program, additional focus is being directed toward ways to better foster conference discussions rather than "just" watching presentations. It was

also pointed out that a venue has not been chosen for PADS 2022 and all were encouraged to consider venues as appropriate.

The presenter for MSWiM was unable to attend the Business Meeting at the last moment. Perumalla indicated the need for tighter interaction with MSWiM.

Charles Macal discussed the Winter Simulation Conference. INFORMS was able to negotiate with the 2020 conference hotel to cancel its contract without financial penalty, with stipulations for some future conferences to be held at Marriott properties. It is unclear yet how the pandemic will affect the 2021 conference, including its contracts and even how it will be held: in person, virtually, or a hybrid model.

Carlos Calafate discussed the DS-RT conference. SIGSIM has increased its financial support from 10% to 20% starting with the 2021 conference. The conference tends to draw primarily from within Europe as it is often held in Europe; the DS-RT committee would like to attract more submissions and attendees from outside of Europe as well.

Gabriel Wainer and David Gerber discussed SimAUD, the Symposium on Simulation for Architecture and Urban Design. SimAUD has been affiliated with SIGSIM in the past but has not been recently, and the conference committee would like to renew that affiliation. The presenters shared that generally there are 90-150 paper submissions with a 30-50% acceptance rate. For the 2020 conference, there were 69 paper presentations, 200 registrants, and over 7000 separate views. The symposium is expected to be online again this year (April) due to current conditions, though there was initial hope for a hybrid approach.

When asked what made SimAUD unique, it was offered that it is a multi-disciplinary symposium bringing together both researchers and practitioners; the symposium introduces review rigors of the science and engineering disciplines that historically may not have been a part of this community, elevating the community and its work. In addition, it fills a gap between design-based conferences and engineering-based conferences, one that would otherwise be vacant. The present membership seemed receptive to renewing the affiliation, and recommendations will be forwarded as appropriate.

7. Conference Leadership Confluence

The slide presented in this section is attached.

Kalyan Perumalla led discussion about experiences with virtual meetings, including different available software for online conferences; costs; security; and training. Links to some of ACM's current guidance were shared, including "SIG Conference Planning Guide", https://www.acm.org/special-interest-groups/volunteer-resources/conference-planning ; and "Virtual Conferences", https://www.acm.org/virtual-conferences (both available as of the writing of these minutes). It was mentioned that thankfully neither WSC nor PADS had any cyber-interference this past year, nor presumably did MSWiM or DS-RT.

Perumalla put forward that ACM is considering requiring all affiliated conferences to have double-blind reviews and was asked to gauge how the SIG would feel about such a requirement. The present membership had no objections to such a requirement.

Due to time constraints, Perumalla quickly mentioned that it was recommended that Business Meetings were held as part of conferences as able.

8. Adjourn

The slide presented in this section is attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by Kara Olson
January 29, 2021

between 18 and 26 members were in attendance at any given time;
21 members and 10 additional participants were registered