

Minutes of the ACM SIGSIM Membership Meeting

Virtual meeting via Zoom

July 30, 2021, 10:08 a.m. - 12:14 p.m. EDT

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. and conducted by Kalyan Perumalla, Chair. Kara Olson, Secretary/Treasurer, was also present.

1. Welcome & Introduction

The meeting agenda and slides presented in this section are attached.

After welcoming all and discussing the agenda, Perumalla recapitulated his vision for the organization. The objectives for the current meeting were presented. Future meeting plans were mentioned.

2. Recent Past – Recap & Review

The slides presented in this section are attached.

General statistics about PADS '21 were presented. Appreciation to the chairs and co-chairs was expressed.

General statistics about SimAUD '21 were presented. The efforts of the conference were acknowledged. The conference is aiming for a stronger relationship with SIGSIM, including looking to increase SIGSIM representation and participation.

ANNSIM '21, to be held in July, was acknowledged.

A reminder was given to all conference leadership encouraging at-conference business meetings, separate from/in addition to SIGSIM members/business meetings. Perumalla discussed purposes and positive benefits of such meetings. It was questioned who would be the appropriate liaison for such events. Additional discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of such meetings with respect to notably smaller conferences, leading to clarification and distinction between business meetings and conference meetings: the intention of a conference meeting is more about people “talking together in one forum”, making connections, allowing and encouraging “points to come out”, “what’s important in the conference”. Some PADS '21 responses were used in example.

Service updates were discussed, leading to inquiry about the most appropriate forum for presentation of SIGSIM awards, as the SIGSIM business meeting has been separated from the Winter Simulation Conference (WSC). It was noted that although SIGSIM has declared the PADS conference as its signature conference, it does not have the larger and broader audience that WinterSim does. It was discussed that perhaps other or additional awards may be more appropriate for PADS.

A question was asked about the Distinguished Contributions Award in relation to scientific versus service contributions. A committee member provided that there is indeed a service component to the award though the award criteria are broadly structured.

3. Current – In the Works

The slides presented in this section are attached.

The general statistics about WSC '21 were presented. Margret Loper detailed that there is still a lot of uncertainty due to the pandemic, with hotels no longer forgiving contracts but giving leniency. The conference is currently considering an in-person component Monday through Wednesday (December 13-15) and a virtual component Wednesday through Friday (December 15-17). The conference has a good set of contributed and invited papers but it is unclear when authors will be able to commit to presenting in-person or virtually, given ever-changing travel restrictions and the ever-changing pandemic. Loper indicated they might not have a firm idea about how the program will look until possibly early October. The conference is additionally hoping to engage multiple [sub]continents that usually are unable to attend, including Africa and Eastern Europe.

The conference is anticipating a loss this year. Conference leadership strongly encouraged attendees to stay in the conference hotel if possible as to help with room-night commitments and help mitigate possible loss. Nav Mustafee discussed the unexpected loss of some of the biggest long-time sponsors. After inquiry, he clarified that the losses were not a result of commitment and withdrawal, but of declined commitment. This was especially surprising since the change in commitment had not been realized even as recently as June. Leadership has been soliciting other sponsors including academic institutions. All were encouraged to offer suggestions.

General overview and statistics about DS-RT '21 were presented.

General overview and statistics about MSWiM '21 were presented.

The Replication and Reproducibility Committee was highlighted in hopes of increasing awareness with respect to the next conference iterations, as there has been a decline in participation in the initiative. It was noted that a corresponding ACM Emerging Interest Group has been formed.

The Space Simulations Committee draft was also highlighted. The future committee hopes to tap into new talent, including simulation students.

Perumalla solicited that any other interests in forming committees or sub-interest groups be brought to the attention of SIGSIM. In addition, he requested suggestions for additional ways to disseminate information to increase SIGSIM awareness and interest. A member suggested an email list similar to the Internet History email list, where people occasionally pose questions and pioneers reply as interested. Dick Nance suggested possible coordination with the Simulation Archive at NC State.

In response to mention of the Archive, Margaret Loper urged reaching out to Richard Fujimoto for his archive while available.

4. Future – On the Horizon

The slides presented in this section are attached.

Attention was drawn to PADS '22 and details of its leadership and venue.

The effects of the pandemic on revenues were further discussed.

5. Wrap Up

The slides presented in this section are attached.

Solicitation was made for future conference hosts and venues.

Attention was drawn to decline in memberships, including that of SIGSIM.

The floor was opened. Two members indicated they would like SIGSIM conferences to be held at Net Zero [Energy] buildings. Lin Uhrmacher mentioned she had tried for six or seven years to arrange Net Zero buildings for WinterSim. Possible at-conference solicitation for carbon offsets was mentioned.

An inquiry was made relating to arranging for proceedings of papers from smaller SIGSIM-sponsored conferences (MSWiM, SimAUD for examples) to appear in the ACM Digital Library. It was discussed that a technical liaison or liaisons would be needed.

6. Adjourn

The slide presented in this section is attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Minutes taken by Kara Olson

July 30, 2021

22 members were present for at least part of the meeting