

# ACM SIGSIM Business Meeting at the 2008 Winter Simulation Conference (WSC)

December 9, 2008

## AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Presentation of the *ACM SIGSIM Distinguished Contributions Award 2008* by Richard Nance (Chair), David Nicol, George Riley, and Stewart Robinson
3. Status Report on the *Simulation Archive* (partially funded by ACM SIGSIM) by Robert Sargent
4. Status Report on TOMACS by James Wilson
5. Report on the Winter Simulation Conference by Ernest Page, ACM SIGSIM Representative for the WSC
6. ACM SIGSIM Financial Report by Margaret Loper, ACM SIGSIM Secretary/Treasurer
7. Status of the SIGSIM website
8. How to expand the ACM SIGSIM Member Benefits? Discussions moderated by Osman Balci, ACM SIGSIM Chair

## DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS

Ray Paul was the recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Contributions Award. He gave a short presentation reflecting on his history in M&S.

## SIMULATION ARCHIVE

An endowment of \$15,000 was reached this year; SIGSIM donated \$1,500. They continue adding materials to the archive, this year brought contributions from Pritsker, Nance, and Sargent. A board was established to manage the archive, which communicate via quarterly calls. See <http://www.sigsim.org/tracing-the-past-sigsims-historical-activities> for more details.

## TOMACS UPDATE

1. A summary of the editorial activity for 2008 includes:

Submitted papers	50
Accepted papers	21
Rejected papers	33
Withdrawn papers	0
Papers in review	15
Papers in revision	14
Overall acceptance rate for 2008	38.9%
Avg. first turnaround time (days)	86
Avg. time to final decision (days)	78

2. Status of recent issues:

- Special issue on INFORMS-SIM 2007 Workshop has 2 accepted papers; the coeditors are Steve Chick and Enver Yücesan.
- Special issue on Rare Event Simulation has deadline of December 15, 2008 for submission of papers. Coeditors are Gerardo Rubino and Bruno Tuffin.
- January 2009 issue (vol. 19, no. 1) will appear on time.
- All issues for 2009 (vol. 19) have been sent to ACM; thus the backlog is now a year.
- Beginning with vol. 19, no. 4, *TOMACS* will publish 5 papers per issue.
- January 2010 issue (vol. 20, no. 1) currently has 1 accepted paper.

3. The first impact for *TOMACS* will be computed in the spring of 2009, and *TOMACS* will make its formal appearance in the *Journal Citation Reports* in summer 2009.

4. Pres White (University of VA) joined the Editorial Board as Book Review Editor on January 1, 2008.

5. Kalyan Perumalla (Oak Ridge National Labs and Georgia Tech) joined the Editorial Board as an Associate Editor on July 1, 2008.

6. Rajive Bagrodia (UCLA) left the Editorial Board on July 1, 2008.

7. Jim Wilson's second (and final) term as Editor-in-Chief of *TOMACS* will end on January 21, 2010.

## WSC REPORT

By the terms of the Joint Sponsorship Agreement (JSA) executed between INFORMS, ACM, SCS and IIE in September 2008, the conference books will be closed on or before March 15 2009 (unlike in prior years where we have not closed the conference until the summer meeting of the conference board in June).

The preliminary conference report was given by the 2008 committee to the board on Sunday 7 December 2008. The conference was very well-received by the attendees. The recent economic environment may have had a slight impact on conference attendance, but the final attendance was approx. 652, and the conference will show a slight surplus this year.

Also, according to the terms of our new JSA, the WSC board will no longer be maintaining working capital sufficient to cover significant conference losses should they be incurred (a process the board began after 9/11/01). Going forward, the board will return to the practice of maintaining seed monies from the four sponsor societies in an amount minimally required to provide cash flow for the current conference. ACM's share of the current retained working capital is approx. \$40K. When the books are closed on WSC08, a check for this amount (less seed money for 2009) will be returned to ACM (on or about 15 March 2009).

Also, according to the new JSA, potential liabilities for WSC must be reported. The primary liabilities for WSC are potential penalties due to signed future hotel contracts. For a conference this size (600+ attendees, with 14+ parallel tracks), a significant lead time is required to identify future conference sites, and reserve hotel space. Currently, our contracting window is 4.5 years out. WSC conference management services are currently provided by INFORMS (we review our conference management service contract every three years; the current contract with INFORMS is through 1/1/2010). The WSC board asks INFORMS to provide an estimate of WSC liabilities twice a year (in June and Dec).

The board approved the execution of a contract with the Intercontinental Berlin for WSC 2012.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The slides from the financial management report can be found in Attachment A.

## **SIGSIM WEBSITE**

We need more volunteers to fill positions for SIGSIM, for example a liaison with the simulation archive. Website has been improved, but still needs more work (see <http://www.sigsim.org/>).

## **SERVICES**

Osman Balci presented an idea of creating an M&S Knowledge Repository for the purpose of providing high quality service to SIGSIM members to increase membership. A proposal is forthcoming.

Another idea presented include resurrecting the web seminar website from 1997; there were interesting interviews and presentation captured that may be of interest to the community. We could build on that idea by paying stipends to invited luminaries in order to capture an interview about their work and contributions to the body of M&S knowledge. This part of the website would be password protected for members.

The last idea presented was to capture the history of SIGSIM. This would include all past leadership, newsletters, and contributions that have been made. Ernie Page has collected some information on past leadership.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- Margaret Loper to find out membership trends across all ACM SIGs.
- Margaret Loper to find out what ACM does with our money; do we earn interest? Also, can we put \$100k in an endowment to generate interest income? If so, what mechanism can we use?
- Dick Nance will provide a description of the Distinguished Contributions Award to the ACM website.

**Attachment A**

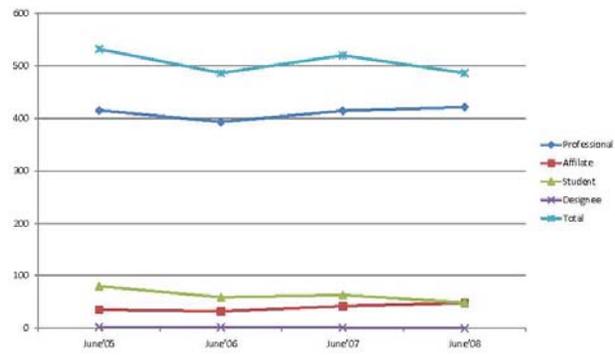
**SIGSIM Financial Report**

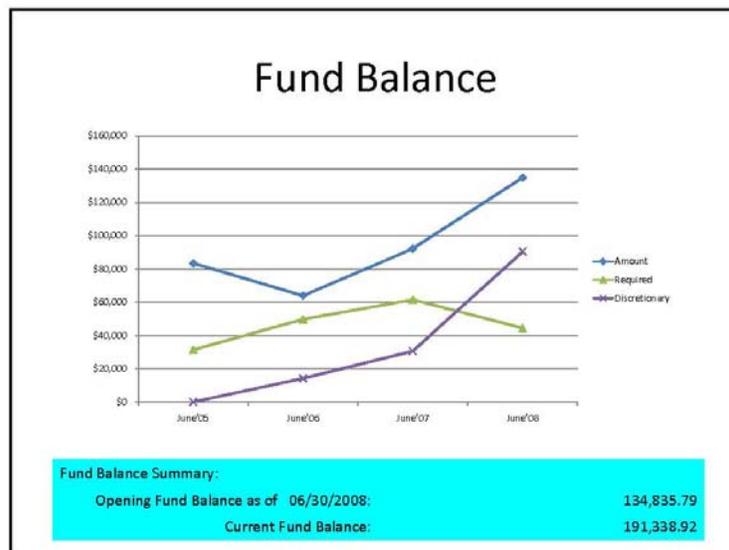
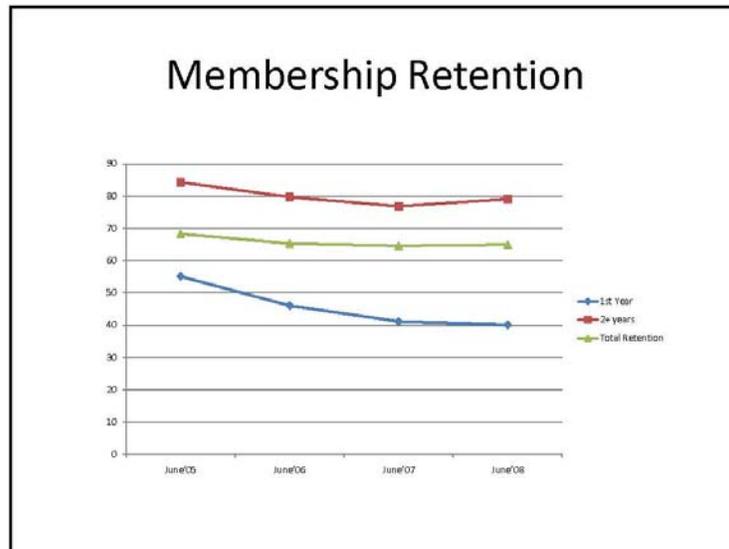
**Margaret L. Loper, SIGSIM Treasurer**

# SIGSIM Financials

WSC Meeting  
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## Membership





## Notes on FMR

- SIGs receive revenue from downloads of articles from sponsored conferences
- SIGs are required to have a certain reserve, specifically 50% of operating expenses and 35 or 40% of conference expenses
- There is no limit on the amount of money a SIG can keep in their fund balance

## Current FY Benefits

- Doctoral Symposium (at WSC)
- SIGSIM Best Student Paper Award for Simulation in the Computing Sciences (at WSC)
- Distinguished Service Award
- Proceedings (mailed to each SIGSIM member)
  - Proceedings from the Annual Winter Simulation Conference
  - Proceedings from the Annual Parallel and Distributed Workshop
- ACM Digital Library Content Access
  - (on-line access for duration of active SIGSIM membership)

## Current FY Benefits cont'd

- SIGSIM members are granted full access to SIGSIM-sponsored portions of the ACM digital library, including full-text to all or portions of the following:
  - ACM SIGSIM Newsletter
  - Simulation and Modeling Proceeding Series
    - SpringSim: Annual Simulation Symposium
    - MSWiM: International Workshop on Modeling Analysis and Simulation of Wireless and Mobile Systems
    - PADS: Workshop on Parallel and Distributed Simulation
    - SCN: Simulation of Computer Networks
    - SIGMETRICS: Joint International Conference on Measurement Modeling of Computer Systems
    - WSC: Winter Simulation Conference
    - IPS-MOME 2006
    - BIONETICS 2006
    - Summer Computer Simulation Conference
    - QShine 2007
- Discounted conference attendance fees at all of the above