

Minutes of the ACM SIGSIM Annual Meeting
Conducted during the Winter Simulation Conference,
Phoenix, AZ, 13 December 2011

List of Attendees:

Margaret Loper (Vice Chair)	Paul Fishwick
Andreas Tolk (Secretary-Treasurer)	Simon Taylor
Osman Balci	Markus Klug
Robert Sargent	Joseph Barjis
Ali Taffazoli	Richard Fujimoto
Nurcin Celik	Stephen P. Wilcox
Kalyan Perumalla	David Nicol
Adeline Uhrmacher	Alexander Verbraeck
Ed Williams	Michael North
Stefan Rybacki	Steve Roberts

Record of Presentations and Discussions

The Meeting was opened by the Vice Chair Margaret Loper at 5:30 pm

Margaret Loper welcomed the members

- Chair Drew Hamilton could not participate due to university duties
- Margaret Loper presented the agenda that was accepted as presented (slide attached)

Ali Tafazzoli presented the PhD Colloquium summary:

- Committee members: Ali Tafazzoli (Chair), Nurcin Celik, Margaret Loper, Andreas Tolk
- 27 posters by PhD candidates were presented
- 14 papers were presented in two parallel tracks
- The ACM SIGSIM Best Ph.D. Student Paper award went to Juan Pablo Saenz Corredor (University of Miami) for his paper "Utility Resource Planning using Modular Simulation and Optimization"
- Mr. Corredor received the check and gave a short presentation of his work
- The members thanked Margaret Loper for her service on the committee

Steve Roberts presented the laureate for Jim Wilson, who received the ACM SIGSIM Distinguished Contributions Award:

- The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding contributions in one of several categories, such as technical contributions, publications, service to the M&S community, etc.
- Jim Wilson qualified in each of these categories
- Jim Wilson accepted the award with particular thanks to the joint editorial board of TOMACS. He urged everyone to continue supporting TOMACS not only by submitting outstanding papers, but also by maintaining a fair share of resources of ACM in support of this journal, that he sees as the crown of ACM SIGSIM

Robert Sargent gave a Status Report on the Simulation Archive (slide attached)

- The archive can be accessed at www.tinyurl.com/simulation-archive
- Advisory Committee members are Richard Nance (Chair), Robert Sargent, and Jim Wilson
- The contributions of Harry Markowitz were mentioned in particular, as he received a Nobel prize for his contributions in Economics
- An NSF Grant on “A Retrospective Oral History of Computer Simulation” with Jim Wilson as principal investigator supports the activity
- All WSC proceedings since 1996 are under archive
- Videos of Titans’ Talk will be part of the archive as well
- Simon Taylor recommended to financially support the Simulation Archive, but the discussion was postponed until the budget could be discussed

A Status report of TOMACS could not be presented as the chief editor was not present and no other present member was prepared for this item.

David Nicol presented the Report on the Winter Simulation Conference 2011 as the ACM SIGSIM Representative for the WSC.

- WSC 2011 was extremely well attended: more than 700 participants were registered
- WSC 2011 was therefore well beyond the break even point, so that ACM SIGSIM as a sponsoring organization can expect a good revenue

Andreas Tolk presented a Report on the SIGSIM/INFORMS-CS Ph.D. Colloquium and Poster Session

- Adelinde (Lin) Uhrmacher agreed to be the Keynote Speaker for the Ph.D. Colloquium
- Incoming member for the committee will be Joseph Barjis, TU Delft
- The higher student registration rates (more than three times as high as for 2011) may create a challenge for students to register

Andreas Tolk presented an Update on the SIGSIM Finances (Budget attached)

- SIGSIM is good financial standing

- We have currently 512 members
- The current fund balance as of the end of October is app. \$325,500
- The current discretionary as of the end of October is \$216,800
- We received \$44,649 from the Digital Library

Richard Fujimoto presented a proposal to morph PADS into the Proposed SIGSIM Conference (slides attached)

- The PADS Steering Committee recently proposed to explore “morphing” PADS into the new ACM SIGSIM conference rather than create a new conference, which was unanimously supported by the PADS SC
- Richard Fujimoto presented a small review of the history and focus of PADS, showed the advantages for ACM SIGSIM as well as PADS, and proposed a small committee of SIGSIM and PADS representatives to develop a proposal for the upcoming process
- The following discussion showed that
 - Some members are concerned that PADS with broader topics may become a competition to WSC, but only few shared this fear.
 - PADS is co-sponsored by ACM, IEEE, and SCS. The implications of PADS morphing into a SIGSIM conference have to be evaluated, specifically whether SIGSIM would have 100% ownership or would share ownership with IEEE and SCS but with majority ownership.
 - Other PADS supporting groups successfully created M&S conferences with focus on their special interests, such as ISIM with focus on Operations Research. SIGSIM should be able to do something similar with focus on computation.
 - All attendees agreed that the democratic principle must be followed. A committee shall do the groundwork and propose recommendations to ACM. Committee members may be appointed by the SIGSIM chair. This committee must become active soon, due to tight time constraints.
 - The approach to build a small committee with two PADS members, two SIGSIM members, and one person with strong ties to both groups was supported by all attendees.
 - It was recommended to ask Irene Frawley to join this committee as an advising member to insure that ACM SIG policies are observed.

Proposals:

- Simon Taylor proposed and it was seconded from the floor to make a \$5,000 endowment to the Simulation Archive.
This proposal was approved unanimously by the attendees.
- Simon Taylor proposed and it was seconded from the floor to dissolve the committee that was established after WSC 2010 and set a new committee in charge to evaluate the proposed solution to morph PADS into the envisioned SIGSIM conference. This new committee shall have the two recommended PADS SC members Jason Liu and Simon Taylor, the recommended SIGSIM representative on PADS SC George Riley, and two SIGSIM members to be appointed by

Drew Hamilton as the chair not later than the end of 2011. Irene Frawley will be asked to support this committee as an advising member.

This proposal was approved unanimously by the attendees.

Other business points, recommendations and discussions

- It was recommended that the committee to be established to deal with the ACM SIGSIM conference ideas shall report first results not later than March 1, 2012.
- It was recommended to set up additional activities:
 - A committee or task force shall work out recommendations on creating more value for ACM SIGSIM members. A committee shall work out proposals on how to use the budget (addressing how much reserve is needed, how the budget shall be used for journals, conferences, awards, other activities).
 - A “WSC scholarship for PhD students” Committee shall propose a process for supporting student scholarships to attend WSC in Berlin next year. It was discussed that support of student travel shall not be limited to supporting US students to travel to Berlin, Germany. Instead, in general PhD students shall be supported to travel to WSC.

These recommendations were made by Mike Overstreet and seconded by Simon Taylor. It was approved unanimously by the attendees.

All recommendations will be captured in the minutes and handed to the ACM SIGSIM Board of Directors for further discussions and follow on activities within the bylaws of ACM.

- Several members expressed that they enjoyed the recent email exchange that was very stimulating. It showed the need for information exchange like this to keep the ideas and actions within ACM SIGSIM alive.
- Jim Wilson will be appointed to the 2012 SIGSIM Distinguished Contribution Award committee.
- A new SIGSIM Information Officer is needed to replace Simon Taylor.

The Meeting was closed by the Vice Chair Margaret Loper at 6:35 pm

December 22, 2011, AT