The meeting was called to order at 11:03 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 slides corresponding to this section were presented.

2. Overview

The slides corresponding to this section were presented.

Katie Balben was online for introduction by Perumalla as the new ACM Point-of-Contact for SIGSIM and offered her assistance to the members.

Perumalla noted that the maintained Fiscal Year 2024 increase in required ACM (HQ) support “shouldn’t affect [SIGSIM] too much” as he felt that the increase in Fiscal Year 2023 had not.

Late Professor Ray Paul was memorialized, including through several offered anecdotes. Simon Taylor reflected that Paul “spotted talent and worked on it”. Taylor also shared that Paul kept a teddy bear in his office and invited visitors to throw it out the nearest window. One of Paul’s created acronyms was SINSFIT: Simulation is no substitute for intelligent thinking. He also wanted to be known as WinterSim’s “Dsicombobulator”.

Taylor requested that Paul’s name be added to SIGSIM’s Distinguished Contributions Award. Peramulla said this would be considered.

3. Awards

The slides corresponding to this section were presented.

Bernie Zeigler was lauded for his distinguished contributions to the simulation community. A member jested that DEVS were misformed and should have instead been a 27-tuple; Zeigler jovially suggested the member implement the approach as one of the hundreds of available extensions.

Jim Nutaro shared some of the highlights of Zeigler’s contributions as well as some personal recollections. He extolled Zeigler’s “diverse interests” and “endless curiosity”. Zeigler thanked all for the
kind words and award and requested that the accompanying honorarium be redirected to other SIGSIM awards. A member suggested the creation of a working group to discuss increasing the number of awards; Simon Taylor and Maraget Loper volunteered to join said group if it is created.

4. Initiatives

The slides corresponding to this section were presented.

The importance of the Simulation Archive to “preserve the history of the field” was highlighted. It was noted that the corresponding board meets regularly. A member questioned “what exactly do we need to do?” in reference to where funds for the Archive could best be used next. It was offered that while librarians are excellent at finding things [in physical archives], PhD students – especially ones that are unable to visit in person – generally are not. Hence, there is pressing interest in increasing accessibility online to be able to more easily find materials, including founding and seminal papers and notes. This also led to discussion about how best to make software artifacts more available/accessible, perhaps by establishing virtual machines as well as old compilers.

It was noted that the current interviews in the Archive are primarily American males; the membership was asked to consider ways to broaden this unintentional slant by considering who should be interviewed next. Specifically, three questions were directly posed for the membership to consider: which physical materials should be prioritized for digitization? Which software artifacts should be prioritized for digitization? And, who should be interviewed as part of the next group?

A request was made to keep the Archive in mind for materials donation as colleagues retire. Bob Sargent thanked all for the continued contributions to and enthusiasm for the Archive. A member mentioned that the Smithsonian solicited and received volunteer help for digitizing some portions of their collection; perhaps the Archive could as well. Simon Taylor specifically requested for the Archive any textbooks that came with disks/discs, especially from the 70s and 80s.

It was noted that the Simulation Exploration Experience Simulation Smackdown would like to add a liaison with SIGSIM.

5. Journals

The slides corresponding to this section were presented.

Attention was drawn to an anticipated Call for Editor for TOMACS, likely in March of this year.

The Journal of Simulation noted that they saw a dip in submissions in 2022 as it moved to 6 issues per year. They also managed to clear some publishing backlog, from around 2 years down to around one year and four months.
6. Conferences

The slides corresponding to this section were presented.

Gabriele D'Angelo noted the very nice community within the DS-RT conference, especially this year.

WSC is expecting to be fully in-person but might accommodate some remote presentations for travel that is prohibitive due to costs or other reasons, such as from Africa or Ukraine.

7. Finances

The slides corresponding to this section were presented.

8. Closing

The slides corresponding to this section were presented.

Future meeting dates and general agendas were highlighted and attendance was encouraged. All were thanked for their time.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Minutes taken by Kara Olson
January 27, 2023

29 members were present for at least part of the meeting