

Minutes of the ACM SIGSIM Membership Update Briefing

Virtual meeting *via* Zoom

May 28, 2024, 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. EDT

The meeting was called to order at noon and conducted by Andreas Tolk, Chair. Anastasia Anagnostou, Vice Chair, and Kara Olson, Secretary/Treasurer, were also present.

The agenda was presented:

- Minutes of the December Membership Meeting 2023
- ACM Distinguished Contribution Award 2024
- Travel grants: POC Masoud Fakhimi - masoud.fakhimi@surrey.ac.uk
- SIGSIM Website: Webmaster Jian Tao - jtao@tamu.edu
- Support of the Simulation Archive at NCSU
- Support of the NASA Simulation Exploration Experience (SEE)
- Possible support of JOS outreach activity to Africa
- Call to submit conferences information to the webmaster
- New open access policy for ACM
- Updates from PADS, WSC, and MSWiM
- Updates from ANNSIM
- Termination of financial support of DS-RT
- Additional points:
 - Additional awards: lifetime achievement, rising star, Bernie Zeigler (One time)

Tolk noted that SIGSIM elections had recently closed with results not yet announced. The new term starts July 1. Tolk welcomed all incoming officers, whoever they may be.

Any unnoted corrections or additions were solicited regarding the distributed December 2023 minutes.

Nominations were solicited for the Distinguished Contributions Award. Tolk noted there were several members deserving of the award and encouraged all to think about nominations.

Tolk shared that he was able to recruit for all open positions announced at the December 2023 meeting and thanked all for their assistance. Information about the new points of contact was given.

It was noted that all PADS student travel grants were able to be awarded; all Winter Simulation Conference student travel grants also look likely to be able to be awarded. Tolk expressed encouragement that student travel is returning.

Regarding progress and updates of the SIGSIM web site, Tolk discussed his vision that it be a knowledge portal and “living knowledge management tool for SIGSIM members”, including being a place where SIGSIM-specific guidelines can be easily found - for example, where a new Conference Chair can find guidelines for the role, or how a SIGSIM award nomination is considered. The site was further discussed later in the meeting.

Ernie Page discussed the current state of the Simulation Archive, mentioning that Dennis Pegden’s term ends in June and soliciting nominations for a successor. Page hopes for someone from the INFORMS/Operations Research community as members from the SIGSIM community are already well-represented.

The Archive curators are currently digitizing Bob Sargent’s materials and the materials of Tuncer Ören are en route or in hand.

Page is gathering names of suggested parallel simulation pioneers, as that community is not well represented in the Archive. Page encouraged recommendations for any additional interviews as well as other recommendations regarding the archive in general - what others would like to see, how might the Archive be more useful, how might it be more accessible.

Simon Taylor discussed the most recent NASA Simulation Exploration Experience (SEE). SEE will become a core activity at the Winter Simulation Conference starting in 2025; an announcement will be made this Fall to welcome new teams for a January intake. In December 2023, a one-time financial donation was requested and subsequently approved to help support SEE. It has been requested that support continue; this was left open for the incoming officers to consider. Taylor welcomed additional participants of any age.

Motivation and aims for the Journal of Simulation (JOS) outreach to Africa were discussed. While initial planning of the initiative has started, the election results will guide further planning. The current outreach members include Anastasia Anagnostou, Simon Taylor, and Nav Mustafee.

Mentioning the SIGSIM web site, Tolk discussed having all SIGSIM-associated conferences and their proceedings being accessible via the site, again noting the intention that the site be a definitive SIGSIM portal.

IEEE will no longer support conferences with fewer than 50 attendees, which includes the International Symposium on Distributed Simulation and Real Time Applications (DS-RT). SIGSIM has long been a collaborator and shared leadership with IEEE with respect to DS-RT. In response, SIGSIM encouraged DS-RT to collaborate with the SIGSIM International Conference on Principles of Advanced Discrete Simulation (PADS). DS-RT does not have interest in doing so at this time; consequently, SIGSIM is no longer financially supporting or collaborating with DS-RT, now an independent conference.

In June 2025, PADS will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. In a nod to the local area's work on genetic algorithms, research concerning adaptive systems will likely be encouraged; a list of such topics is forthcoming.

Simon Taylor discussed progress regarding additional SIGSIM awards, with Tolk reminding that most of the other ACM Special Interest Groups have more awards than SIGSIM. Taylor and fellow committee member Margaret Loper feel that a lifetime achievement award and rising star award - which could have different names - would be well-received as a start.

Tolk mentioned that there is still a one-time donation from Bernie Zeigler available for an award which would be appropriate for the awards committee to consider. He also strongly encouraged others to assist, as the current committee members already have several volunteer commitments.

Tolk noted main action items from today's meeting involved the web site: any materials or other input for the webmaster could be shared with Tolk or Webmaster Jian Tao.

The floor was opened for additional discussion and any other business. A member had concern about possible duplication of awards: for example, the INFORMS Simulation Society (ISIM) already has a lifetime achievement award. Committee Member Taylor remarked that SIGSIM likely didn't mind if they had a similar award, contending that ISIM tends to reflect the management science community whereas SIGSIM tends more to involve the computer science community though the overlap of awards would be fine regardless. Further explaining, the member expressed concern that having so many awards or having such similar awards might cause them to become "meaningless". Tolk guided that any awards should be meaningful, indicating that any new awards could be occasional as well as noting that SIGSIM awards are always merit-based: if there are no appropriate nominees submitted for any given award, then the award need not be presented at that time. The concern was noted.

Tolk thanked all for his time as Chair, reminding that the new slate of officers will be announced shortly. Tolk and Vice Chair Anastasia Anagnostou chose to run for reelection; Treasurer/Secretary Kara Olson declined. Olson was thanked for her service and returned those thanks.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

*Minutes taken by Kara Olson
May 28, 2024* ■

15 members were present for at least part of the meeting