

Minutes of the October 30th, 2006 SGB Meeting

Participants:

Erik Altman, SIGMICRO Chair
Rajeev Alur, SIGBED Chair
Florence Appel, SIGCAS Chair
Ronald Boisvert, ACM Publications Board Co-Chair
Robert Brown, SIGAPL Past Chair
James Callan, SIGIR Chair
Donna Cappel, ACM Director, SIG Services
Ashley Cozzi, Admin. Asst. SIG Services
Jack Davidson, SIGPLAN Chair/SGB EC
Vicki Hanson, Chair SIGACCESS / SGB EC
Joan Feigenbaum, SIGecom Vice-Chair
Stuart Feldman, ACM President
Lance Fortnow, SIGACT Vice-Chair
Maria Gini, SIGART Chair
Erik Goodman, SIGEVO Chair
Albert Greenberg, SIGMETRICS Chair
William Griswold, SIGSOFT Chair
Robert Grossman, SIGKDD
Julie Jacko, SIGCHI President
Dave Johnson, SIGMOBILE Chair
Norman Jouppi, SIGARCH Chair / SGB EC
Werner Krandick, SIGSAM Vice-Chair
Joseph Konstan, SGB Chair

Edith Lawson, SGB-EC Small SIG Advisor
Leila Lyons, SIGUCCS Chair
Keith Marzullo, SIGOPS Chair/SGB EC
John McCormick, SIGAda Chair
Brad Mehlenbacher, SIGDOC Chair
Ethan Munson, SIGWEB Chair
Scott Owen, SIGGRAPH President/SGB EC
Jens Palsberg, SIGBED Secretary/Treasurer
Raghu Ramakrishnan, SIGMOD Chair
Darren Ramdin, ACM Assoc Director, Finance
Han Reichgelt, SIGITE Chair
Pat Ryan, ACM Chief Operating Officer
Pierangela Samarati, SIGSAC Vice-Chair
Sung Shin, SIGAPP Vice-Chair
Janice Sipior, SIGMIS Chair
Simon Taylor, SIGSIM Chair
Emil Volcheck, SIGSAM Chair
Henry Walker, SIGCSE Chair
Robert Walker, SGB Past Chair, SGB Rep to Council
John White, ACM CEO
Tilman Wolf, SIGCOMM Treasurer
Alexander Wolf, ACM Council Representative

1.0 Welcome

1.1 Welcome, Introductions and Voting Review (N. Jouppi, J. Konstan)

The meeting opened at 9:00 am with Jouppi and Konstan welcoming the participants. Jouppi reviewed the weighted voting practices followed at SGB meetings. Konstan introduced all participants and reviewed the agenda.

1.2 Welcome and Comments from the ACM President (S. Feldman)

President Feldman welcomed the group and provided background on his SIG activities. He then began a discussion on ACM's global role. Feldman participated in an ACM task force kick-off meeting in Beijing, China. He explained that those in the field there do not know ACM and strongly encouraged SIG leaders to hold conferences and programs in China and India to increase awareness of ACM. It is important for ACM to pull in the resources of those countries for the international standing of our organization. He encouraged the SGB leadership to think about what measures should be taken to help make this happen.

Feldman then discussed the revamping of CACM and expects completion of that in January 2008. The new CACM needs to be considered necessary reading for researchers and individuals involved in advanced technology and computer science. CACM will include the most interesting articles and papers from all conferences which will be rewritten for individuals who are not in technical specialties. CACM is also expected to include news about what is going on in the field in other countries. Feldman indicated that he is seeking leaders in different fields who are willing to write these items.

Feldman then discussed the importance of the World Wide Web (WWW) Conference. He explained that ACM and the SIGs need to become more involved as sponsors/co-sponsors. Currently the WWW Conference is owned by W3C and run by a steering committee. It is a large event with 6 parallel tracks and over 1,000 attendees. Feldman strongly encouraged the SIG leaders to get involved. This would stabilize the conference and establish an excellent event for ACM.

Action: Konstan

- To charter a task force, co-chaired by:
 - SIGWEB Chair Ethan Munson
 - SGB Conference Advisor Jack Davidson
- Membership open to SIGs with significant content overlap with the WWW conference's technical program
- The mission of the task force is to assemble a coalition of interested SIGs to co-sponsor the World Wide Web conference, draft a charter and operating rules for the coalition, and work with ACM HQ with the goal of taking on sponsorship of the conference series.
- Task force to report to SGB in Spring 2006

2.0 Report from the CEO (J. White) [Slides](#)

White discussed the member satisfaction survey which is done each June. The survey asks members about their satisfaction with ACM and its programs. Overall, satisfaction is high with the most satisfying activity being SIG Conferences. ACM professional membership satisfaction is increasing but the relevance to their careers is at a standstill. ACM is looking to increase this. Student members are satisfied with conferences but find the DL to be the most satisfying resource from ACM. 31% of ACM members are members of SIGs. The overall satisfaction is high but is highest within the academic community.

White discussed ACM initiatives for the upcoming year. Two years ago ACM helped launch CSTA and has continued to support and work with CSTA in many dimensions. Another initiative is working with NCWIT whose goal is to increase the number of women in computing by bringing together organizations which seek to increase women's awareness and interest in math, science and computing. ACM is also examining the health of the field including the general decline in computer science enrollment in universities and continuing to debunk the myths about employment opportunities.

White outlined the intent to name an Education Policy Committee. The committee's goal is to reach across the education and science community to individuals that care about shaping policy in Washington. The right people are needed to lead this new committee on the policy side of education and speak on behalf of ACM.

The China Task Force is a group of individuals helping ACM decide how to do more in China. They suggest having more technical meetings in China and more professionals from China placed on technical boards at ACM. It is important for ACM to reach into China and urge professionals to get involved.

3.0 SIG Program Reviews

3.1 SIGARCH: Slides Viability

Since 2002, SIGARCH has seen an increase in its fund balance from \$1.5 million to \$2 million. SIGARCH conferences, which include the large SC conference, have been doing well technically and financially. The SIG has a relatively stable membership with an 80% retention rate for 2006, which is the highest retention for any of ACM's SIGs. The membership has decreased by less than 100 members from 2002. The main goal for SIGARCH leadership over the next 2 years is volunteer development. They recognize the need for experienced leadership but want to begin to bring in leaders to move up the ranks. SIGARCH is planning on moving ASPLOS to an annual conference and working on collocating architecture conferences when there is more than one a month. They are having some difficulty in getting conferences sponsored by more than one SIG and or IEEE to work together in the hopes of collocating. SIGARCH publishes 4 regular issues of Computer Architecture News which include special issues of the ISCA and ASPLOS proceedings. They release e-mail news twice each month and also publish proceedings for SC, ICS, and SPAA.

Motion: The SGB congratulates SIGARCH on its program performance and finds it viable to continue its status for the next 4 years.
Motion recommended by the SGB EC
Unanimous

3.2 SIGBED: Slides Viability

SIGBED has seen a steady growth in their fund balance over the last 3 years although it is still below ACM requirements. They have colocated meetings and are hoping to meet the required fund balance through their growing membership and steady growth of conference surplus. Membership has increased from 289 to 504 since 2004. One of their greatest challenges is member benefits since their conferences are cosponsored with other SIGs. Why should people join SIGBED if they are members of other SIGs and already getting conference discounts and access to the DL? They are trying to attract practicing members from the industry as well as international members by holding Embedded Systems week in Korea this year and Austria in 2007. SIGBED releases an electronic review quarterly.

Motion: The SGB congratulates SIGBED on its wonderful start and finds it viable to continue its status for the next 3 years.

Motion recommended by the SGB EC

Unanimous

3.3 SIGITE: Slides Viability

Since permanent status was granted in 2003, the SIGITE fund balance has increased from \$21,000 to \$57,000. Its membership has also increased from 319 to 425. Close to 20% of members play an active role and volunteer for various SIG activities. Approximately 35% of members attend a conference. The drop in attendance for the last conference can be explained by the change in paper submission deadlines and this has been changed back. Conferences have an overall acceptance rate of 70% for papers and posters together. They are keeping the rate consistent although attendance numbers have decreased. SIGITE publishes a newsletter twice a year and a monthly bulletin which discusses information about what the SIG is doing and what they might need from members. Its current initiatives include the maintenance of the 4 year IT Model Curriculum and the development of a 2 year model which can be used by community colleges to transfer into 4 year colleges. SIGITE is seeking to increase membership as well as increase the role of women involved in IT.

Motion: The SGB congratulates SIGITE on its wonderful start and finds it viable to continue its status for the next 4 years.

Motion recommended by the SGB EC

Unanimous

3.4 SIGecom: Slides Viability

SIGecom membership has decreased from 643 to 453 since 2002. Its fund balance has increased to a little over \$21,000 from being in the negative last year by \$7,600. This is a result of the success of EC06 which had a surplus of over \$60,000. This money is not yet reflected in the fund balance. They also attribute this year's success to the frugality and great budgeting by General Chairs as well as an increase in corporate fundraising and conference attendance. SIGecom releases an electronic newsletter quarterly as well and has an electronic distribution list for community announcements and discussions. They would like to expand on activities now that their fund balance is no longer in the negative.

The SGB EC asked if the financial success of EC'06 was expected to be repeated. If the conference is moderately successful, can they keep the SIG afloat? They have lost 200 members in the last 4 years. This area should be attracting more interest and they would like to see more strategic planning about increasing membership.

Motion: The SGB is pleased with the success of EC'06 and is pleased with SIGecom's adjustment of membership benefits to reduce annual financial commitment. At the same time, the SGB is concerned with the SIG's declining membership. The SGB strongly urges SIGecom to strategically consider the breadth of its mission, including its conferences. SIGecom will continue its permanent status for the next two years, and must provide an update to the Small SIG advisor before the Fall 2007 SGB meeting to cover the results of EC'07 and the results of its planning efforts.

Motion recommended by the SGB EC

Unanimous

4.0 Publications Board Report (Boisvert): [Slides](#)

Ron discussed the need to increase communication between the SIGs and the Pubs Board. The Pubs Board vision is to position ACM as the preferred publisher for computer science. They intend to be aggressive in the development of the ACM digital library/guide, continue to develop new publications and improve the experience for authors and readers.

Boisvert discussed ISI journal ranking. CACM has 8,222 citations which is the 3rd highest overall. ACM publications hold top rankings in Software Engineering, Theory and Methodology, Information Systems and HW and Architecture. ISI is now indexing proceedings and ACM submitted 85 proceedings in 2005 and expects to submit all proceedings produced in 2006. 7 have been accepted in the last 6 months and 8 more are expected to be accepted shortly. The proceedings already accepted include ICSE, DAC, ecom, Tapia and IPSN. ISI has been slow to accept and unfortunately we are unsure of the criteria used to determine if proceedings will be accepted. In the hopes of securing details on acceptance of proceedings, Boisvert asked if any of the SIG leaders were involved in ISI rankings. None indicated they were.

Boisvert discussed the new journals strategy. The Publications Board is aggressively seeking content that is more focused and narrow in scope. They are aware that these publications will overlap with broader publications that are currently in the DL. Since 1994, the Pubs Board has become very serious about aggressively developing new publications and wants to sustain this growth. The Pubs Board is looking to be proactive; ACM has a responsibility to start low cost journals for communities even if these new journals challenge current publications from other sources. We need to go out and find people who want to brainstorm new ideas for future journals. The Pubs Board is being selective and has turned down journal ideas that have been submitted. A new journal could be developed that would include the papers that are not accepted to the newly revamped CACM. The SGB was asked to send more ideas and proposals.

Boisvert reported that ACM is now digitizing all proceedings front and back matter for inclusion in the DL and listing acceptance rates for proceedings series. The SGB indicated there were some issues with the DL. Workshop information is sometimes reflected as conference information and some submission/acceptance data is inaccurate.

The SIG leaders asked for a procedure or mechanism to be put into place that will allow them to suggest changes to the data as appropriate.

Boisvert asked the SGB for help determining what metadata should be captured for conferences and displayed.

Action: Boisvert/Mandelbaum to provide a mechanism to accept corrections to DL data.

Plagiarism has increasingly become an issue. It is important that it is addressed both before papers are submitted to conferences and before they are entered into the DL. Initiatives need to be taken by ACM and conference organizers to prevent plagiarism.

The SGB leaders suggested that ACM create a link to the policy on plagiarism in the TMRF. Should there be a committee to research that submitted papers are not plagiarized? ACM is working with CrossRef to develop an industry- wide prevention tool. The SGB suggested that the Publications Board develop information packets to distribute to conference leaders particularly program chairs regarding plagiarism. Boisvert agreed that they need to get materials to the SIGs.

Action: Cappo to link to policy for plagiarism from TMRF.

Action: Boisvert/Mandelbaum to provide information packets for program and conference chairs regarding plagiarism policy which includes the process of how issues are to be handled.

Boisvert reviewed the Editor-in-Chief selection and renewal policy. The existing policy allows for a 3 year term with the possibility for 1 reappointment. The Pubs Board encourages SIGs to form search committees, identify leaders and present recommendations to the board. There are also open advertisements allowing self nomination and nomination by others as options.

5.0 IFIP Discussion

ACM is a member of IFIP (International Federation of Information Processing) which was chartered by the United Nations. Every nation with a National Computer Society can have a member sent to IFIP to represent their country. At one time AFIP represented the USA with ACM as a member. Following the dissolution of AFIP, both ACM/IEEE fought to be recognized as international societies and not as U.S. Representatives. Both were allowed membership. They represent two of the seven major computing societies at IFIP.

IFIP holds technical committee meetings. Konstan took a survey of the SIG leaders on the value of IFIP for their SIG. Only one SIG found that there was substantial value.

Stuart Feldman stated that many SIGs do a better job covering the issue talked about at these committee meetings. However, IFIP is the only U.N. chartered, internationally

recognized forum for this. ACM needs to decide what it wants IFIP to do and then help it move in that direction.

Motion:

- Whereas SIGs have experienced uneven value from appointing and supporting ACM representatives to IFIP technical committees, and
- Whereas the mapping between ACM SIGs and IFIP TCs is difficult in many cases,
- The SGB recommends to ACM Council that SIGs be given the option, but not the mandate, for appointing and supporting ACM representatives to IFIP TCs, and directs the SGB EC to appoint a task force to update the mapping of SIGs to IFIP TCs and to work with ACM leadership on policies and procedures for implementing this recommendation.

Konstan, R. Walker

Unanimous

Action: Konstan to inform ACM EC that the SIGs have requested the option rather than mandate for appointing and supporting ACM representatives to IFIP TCs.

Action: Konstan to appoint an SGB EC task force to update the mapping of SIGS to IFIP TCs and work with ACM leadership on policies and procedures for implementation.

6.0 Governance Update

6.1 Council Update (Joseph Konstan)

Konstan reported that the SGB EC is working with SIGAPL. They were given concrete milestones which they achieved to date. Lawson is working with them on new set of milestones as well as helping them to outline their future direction.

Konstan reminded the leadership that the SIG elections were coming up and all were expected to have their slates available shortly. Draft SIG budgets are expected to be distributed after the first of the year.

Konstan stressed the importance of awards and how SIGs should go out and find those individuals worthy of recognition. Awards bring attention to the field and your community. Some SIGs are very active in distributing awards but Konstan encourages those who aren't to start looking into this.

7.0 Best Practices/ Q&A Session

Volcheck provided an update on USACM activities. USACM supports voter verified audit trails and voter verified paper ballots. To protect the accuracy and impartiality of the electoral process, ACM made the following recommendations:

- All voting systems -- particularly computer-based electronic voting systems -- embody careful engineering, strong safeguards, and rigorous testing in both their design and operation; and,
- Voting systems should also enable each voter to inspect a physical (e.g., paper) record to verify that his or her vote has been accurately cast and to serve as an independent check on the result produced and stored by the system. Making those records permanent (i.e., not based solely in computer memory) provides a means by which an accurate recount may be conducted.

Ensuring the reliability, security, and verifiability of public elections is fundamental to a stable democracy. Convenience and speed of vote counting are no substitute for accuracy of results and trust in the process by the electorate.

In September 2006, USACM Members Barbara Simons and Ed Felten provided expert testimony to Congress on the state of e-voting machines and made recommendations on how to improve them. USACM advocates best practices for security and accuracy in Voter Registration Databases (VRD).

Volcheck reported that USACM wrote policy briefs and letters to Congress supporting no mandates for proprietary DRM technology and protection of consumer rights. In a [letter](#) to the U.S. Senate concerning S. 1621, the Consumers, Schools, and Libraries Digital Rights Management Awareness Act, USACM welcomed provisions of the Act that block government imposed DRM regulations, provide public transparency concerning the commercial use of DRM, and that require a review of DRM restrictions on research, education and communication activities.

USACM EC member Annie Anton (NCSU) was appointed to DHS Advisory Committee on Data Privacy. ACM SIGCHI policy group is expected to issue a statement in support of 508 accessibility. Volcheck encouraged SGB leaders to volunteer their expertise. There are several volunteers from SIGCHI and SIGCAS already involved. For more information, SGB leaders were asked to visit <http://www.acm.org/usacm>.

Mary Fernandez of SIGMOD suggested that Mentornet be added as a student member benefit. Mentornet has 17,000 students since 1997 and is at a cost of \$1 per student. SIGMOD, SIGCOMM, SIGKDD, and SIGPLAN all indicated support of this. A large number of schools already participate in this. ACM needs to participate and broaden coverage to non- U.S. students. ACM Membership Services looked at this but question the cost and what students need from the mentors.

Emil Volcheck of SIGSAM discussed a financial issue with both a storage overcharge of \$1,000 in the last few years and the publications cost per page. He is looking for a better breakdown of costs and charges. It is a challenge to understand the DL income. A few SIG's found this to be an issue.

Scott Owen of SIGGRAPH next discussed the new use of a Website Interface with the company SOMA. He pointed out that this is a better source for videos and PowerPoint

presentations than the Digital Library. Owen stressed the ease of this as SOMA designs the website interface and the SIGs put in the information. SIGGRAPH considers this a great member benefit. The cost of this may be too much for the smaller SIGs. Scott Owen offered to provide more information if contacted directly.

Alex Wolf observed that ACM is not visible enough at the international conferences that it sponsors/co-sponsors. The general chairs have no incentive in making ACM visible. What can ACM do to raise its visibility? Branding is a major investment and a style guide is being put together that might help push ACM's name at these conferences. Lillian Israel could possibly come and discuss this. Another issue came up with in cooperation conferences listing sponsorship on their conferences as opposed to in cooperation status.

Flo Appel from SIGCAS raised a question about newsletters and how they're being published, formatted and distributed. Most SIGs are still using print in some form. They believe this is giving a tangible membership benefit. SIGCAS went electronic but is finding membership is not satisfied and they are trying to get a handle on this.

Keith Marzullo from SIGOPS discussed getting ACM involved in China and its major universities. How can we get professionals and students in China to play a larger role in ACM and the SIGs? We should reach out to include Chinese in program committees. How do you get papers submitted and accepted for these conferences? Two major universities went from 2 papers being accepted to 60 papers being accepted. Light reviewers of these papers review 25 papers while heavy reviewers are looking at around 35.

Motion: Mentoring relationships between students and professionals have been proven to increase the retention of students in the educational pipeline, from the high school level through graduate school, and to improve overall satisfaction with and success in their academic careers.

Given the importance of developing ACM's student members into professionals, and the proven value of mentoring, the SGB strongly urges ACM to offer a mentoring program for all ACM student members including SIG-affiliated members, and to encourage ACM professional members to become mentors. SGB urges the ACM to explore the use of Mentornet, an award-winning e-mentoring program, to provide this service to the ACM community.

Unanimous

Action: Konstan/Cappo to inform MSB Chair of the SGB motion urging the MSB to explore the use of Mentornet as a service to the ACM community.

Action: Coatta/Israel to provide SGB with decision from MSB on Mentornet partnership.

Action: Cappo to work with appropriate staff to provide ACM visibility guidelines to SGB leadership and conference organizers.

Action: Cappo to work with appropriate staff to provide ACM logo style guidelines for sponsored conferences, cooperating conferences, chapter events and SIGs.

Action: Konstan/Cappo to schedule September leadership workshop to allow time for SIG specific finance sessions.

7.1 Future Meetings Agenda Planning

Future SGB meetings: A discussion was put forth to the SGB about the pattern preference for SGB meetings. Most preferred the Monday schedule. Since the agenda at these meetings tends to be tight, Konstan asked if it would be useful to periodically have a longer meeting. Most SGB leaders indicated a preference for one day meetings.

8.0 Discussion on Emerging Technology and New SIGs (Konstan)

Konstan discussed emerging technology and the possible creation of new SIGs. We are currently reactive and the SGB was asked whether ACM and SIGs need to become proactive about finding new communities and encouraging them to create SIGs. There are currently no SIGs on bio and medical informatics, system management and scripting. The SGB indicated mixed feelings about this issue but appeared to like the concept of being more proactive.

SIG Program Reviews Continued

3.5 SIGCOMM: Slides Viability

SIGCOMM membership is down from 2455 in 2002 to 1802. This is an 18% drop in membership. Its fund balance is up over \$300,000 since 2002. This is in part due to a surplus by 20 out of 24 conferences sponsored or co-sponsored during the past 4 years. Part of the surplus has been put toward international workshops and grants for faculty in regions that would not be able to afford attending a conference. SIGCOMM publishes a quarterly newsletter and the SIGCOMM proceedings.

Motion: The SGB congratulates SIGCOMM on its program performance and finds it viable to continue its status for the next 4 years.

Motion recommended by the SGB EC
Unanimous

3.6 SIGMETRICS: Slides Viability

SIGMETRICS' fund balance has increased since 2002 from \$323,000 to \$356,000. Membership has decreased by about 50 but has a 70% retention rate. They are currently discussing initiatives to increase membership. SIGMETRICS is also seeking to broaden its areas of interest and increase both the number of papers accepted and areas of papers accepted. The SIG's newsletter publishes four issues a year that are typically devoted to specific topics. One issue every year is devoted to MAMA. They also publish

proceedings for SIGMETRICS and have a bulletin board where job opportunities and conference advertisements can be posted.

Motion: The SGB congratulates SIGMETRICS on its cross-SIG activities and finds it viable to continue its status for the next 4 years but is concerned about their lack of participation in SGB meetings. Participation in SGB meetings will be monitored during that time and if the SGB EC determines that there is a lack of participation, a program review will be scheduled earlier than the fall of 2010.

Motion recommended by the SGB EC

Unanimous

3.7 SIGPLAN: Slides Viability

SIGPLAN has seen an increase in its fund balance of almost \$150,000. Most of its conferences are making small profits due to rising attendance. They are keeping a very close eye on OOPSLA and believe that its attendance has stabilized. The DL income has also increased by \$34,000. SIGPLAN is considering an increase in print dues since what they are charging is significantly lower than the actual cost. They are looking into pushing electronic versions but are worried about the effect it might have on membership. There has been a continued decline in membership, dropping from 3,500 in 2003 to 2,500 in 2006. They are encouraging conference attendees to join ACM and SIGPLAN as well as looking to increase the value of their membership.

Motion: The SGB congratulates SIGPLAN on its program performance and finds it viable to continue its status for the next 4 years.

Motion recommended by the SGB EC

Unanimous

Action: Frawley to update viability schedule for SIGARCH, SIGBED, SIGITE, SIGecom, SIGCOMM, SIGMETRICS and SIGPLAN.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.