SIG Governing Board Meeting
Monday, September 20, 2010

James Allan, SIGIR Chair
Vijay Atluri, SIGSAC Vice Chair
Erik Altman, SIGMICRO Chair
Florence Appel, SIGCAS Chair
Doug Burger, SIGARCH Chair
Peter Brusilovsky, SIGWEB Board of Directors
Donna Cappo, Director, SIG Services
Alain Chesnais, ACM President
Lance Fortnow, SIGACT Chair
Irene Frawley, ACM SIG Services
Yolanda Gil, SIGART Chair
Adrienne Griscti, ACM SIG Services
Drew Hamilton, SIGSIM Chair
Vickie Hanson, SGB Chair
Bob Haring-Smith, SIGUCCS Chair
Yannis Ioannidis, SIGMOD Chair
Ginger Ignatoff, ACM SIG Services
Jeremy Johnson, SIGSAM Chair
Joseph Konstan, SGB EC
Ann Lane, ACM SIG Services
Gang Luo
Patrick Madden, SIGDA Chair
Renee McCauley, SIGCSE Chair
Brad Mehlenbacher, SIGDOC Chair
April Mosqus, ACM SIG Services
Maritza Nichols, ACM SIG Services
Scott Owen, SIGGRAPH President
Barbara Owens, SGB EC
David Pennock, SIGecom Chair
Martin Pinnsonault, TaxPort, US Corp.
Rob Pierce, SIGDOC Vice Chair
Darren Ramdin, ACM Finance
David Rosenblum, SIGSOFT Chair
Pat Ryan, ACM COO
Stephanie Sabal, ACM SIG Services
Hanan Samet, SIGSPATIAL Chair
Henning Schulzrinne, SIGCOMM Vice Chair
Andrew Sears, SIGACCESS Chair
Sung Shin, SIGAPP Chair
Alok Srivastava, SIGAda Vice Chair for Meetings & Conferences
Janice Sipior, SIGMIS Chair
Molly Stevens, Google
Mark Stockman, SIGITE Chair

Doug Terry, SIGOPS Chair
Gerrit Van der Veer, SIGCHI President
Roy Want, SIGMOBILE Chair
John White, ACM CEO
Darrell Whitley, SIGEVO Chair
Carey Williamson, SIGMETRICS Chair
Alexander Wolf, SGB Past Chair
Marilyn Wolf, SIGBED Chair
Qiang Yang, SIGART Vice Chair
Aidong Zhang

1.0 Welcome, Introductions (Alain Chesnais)
Alain Chesnais gave an introduction and review of his long history with ACM starting off as a chapter member in France, then as a SIG Chair and now as President, highlighting his belief that healthy chapters develop strong conferences an SIGs. This is the first time we have had three former SIG leaders on the ACM EC. He also gave a social networking update. He has set up a Presidential task force on developing ACM's social networking which will focus on: creating a relevant presence, establishing ACM as a premier society, build up new services like Tech Packs and promote information about computing in general. The main goal is to leverage what is relevant to members. Alain Chesnais asks that leaders look at their ECs and members to find participants to volunteer for the task force.

Questions:
M. Wolf: how should SIGs use social media to be useful and not annoying?
Alain Chesnais: we will make sure it is moderated and filtered; structured so primary content is trickled up. We have the advantage of having vetted our members. Our groups will focus on preventing ACM's social network from becoming a spam trap.

Alain Chesnais asked SGB participants to help him form the Presidential Task for on Social Networking and to take a look at the presentation found on this link: http://www.slideshare.net/padday/the-real-life-social-network-v2

Update from John White:
CEO John White greeted the group with appreciation for the association's 34 SIGs and gave his perspective on the current state of ACM. This year membership has grown as has the sophistication and reach of the library; the number of sponsored and non-sponsored events outside of the US is robust; we continue to impact the national conversation on CS education. Chapters are growing; new communications are being developed – all headed by a small group of volunteers. ACM's Membership represents the largest membership of any Computer Society around the world. It is at an all time high at 97,774 members worldwide. The overall level of satisfaction with professional members increased in 2010. Additional figures – taken from presentation:

11,000 new "Local Members"
50 periodicals in computing and computer science (80 with SIG newsletters)
DL is at 3,500 institutions worldwide
34 Special Interest Groups with 170 conferences, symposia, workshops annually
520 student chapters worldwide; 140 professional chapters
Our operations is driven by a council of 16 members; all of our volunteers represent over 100 communities (including each SIG's governing Executive Committee)

Operating priorities for the next 5 years:
Conference revenue down; we will focus on an increase in 2011. Fund balances are strong, just under 15 million which is healthy. General fund balance went down a bit but remains strong. The DL distribution to SIGS was $2390K. We expect FY11 revenue streams to be solid. We will continue to invest in international development in Europe, China, India and S. America.

Member Satisfaction Survey:
We used sample sizes of 1000 to assess member satisfaction and measure perceived relevance with the DL, SIGs and conferences and found that satisfaction has improved with the research community; overall satisfaction of CACM has improved showing that the investment has paid off; overall DL satisfaction is 72%.

SIG Initiatives in Education:
The Education Board has been reconfigured and has become smaller, a council was created to involve SIGs. We re-launched curriculum standards in computer science (CS 2013). We will follow the recommendation from the SC people that parallel programming is important. The Ed Board will continue to do more outside of the US. The Education Policy Committee is concentrating on the Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) Coalition with the focus of developing the technology curriculum by working with a new K-12 CS advocacy group called "Computing in the Core." We have also developed a companion link on our site which details specific curriculum requirements with interactive reports. See: "Running on Empty: The Failure to Teach K-12 Computer Science in the Digital Age." We continue our commitment to women in computing with the development of ACM-W and through that hope to bring CS education to young women with our K-12 alliance with other organizations like WGBH. This month, ACM and WGBH with launch Dot.Diva which has a carefully constructed messaging architecture, web platform and collaterals. Its goal is to shift the image of computing for college-bound HS girls. Concerning Computer Science Education week, we hope to give it a greater emphasis this year. We are seeking NSF funding. Debra Richardson will be the general Chair.

Initiatives - Internationally:
We are focusing on being more relevant and visible in Europe, India and China by establishing regional councils, setting agendas specific to regions and having

the EC's outline their goals. ACM will take a strategic look at creating a council in South America. We will sign an agreement with CCF (China Computer Federation) which has 15-20K members and begin to collaborate on joint-memberships and new publications aimed at finding the best research in China. There is a lot going on and we are just getting started. In Europe, we are getting ready for ICT 2010 in Brussels. Other initiatives involve expanding the DSP. We are working on ways to leverage ACM activity in Europe to grow membership. In India our goals are to get more members, be more relevant, and leverage what we have to select venues. We are also working to develop the Distinguished Speaker program there as well by restructuring the links between speakers and chapters and hosting events at Universities or Corporations. We will also seek additional funding for development in India in general.

<u>Gerrit van der Veer: Presentation on how to develop a new SIG - Introduction to BioInformatics</u>
Some of our members may wonder how a new SIG may come to be. The first step is to present the following to the SGB EC: a description of why the SIG is needed; who the members might be; its goals; what type of publications, conferences and workshops might it have; how would it be relevant to other SIGS or communities. The SGB EC will review the information and consider the possibility that there is an overlap with other SIGs. If needed, they will ask for more details. If the SGB EC endorses the SIG, the SGB will give it a review, along with any feedback from overlapping SIGs. If needed they will ask for more details. The SGB EC will continue to review and possibly make the recommendation that the SGB vote on the addition of the SIG.

This was the process that took place for two newly proposed SIGs, Bioinformatics and Health Informatics.

The SGB proposes development and creates documentation. If everything works, the SIG moves ahead. The SGB provides an effective date and submits a petition of 20 ACM members to serve on the board. The SIG begins with transitional status with appointed officers. The SGB will review activities until the SIG is ready to hold their first election. The new SIG receives $10K seed money.

Presentation on new proposed SIG: BioInformatics and Computational Biology by Aidong Zhang
This field has become very active in the last 10 years. There is an existing community which is always looking for related workshops, publications, forums and conferences. IEEE supports an active conference in this field. This year, ACM's fist conference in the field was well attended and had a surplus. It had twice as many paper submissions as expected and was attended by successful Computer Scientists and Biologists who expressed support and overwhelming interest in involvement. From this, we were able to assemble an organizing committee with professionals from Asia, Europe and America.   We formed a group which we hope to become a SIG and developed the following mission: to

bridge Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics, Biology and Biomedicine and to provide outreach to Educators. The SGB selected officers who will sit on the Board until a formal election will be held in July 2011. In the meantime, the following advisory board will be involved in planning and decision making.
Chair: Aidong Zhang
Vice Chair: Gultikin Ozsoyoglu
Secretary: Armin R. Mikler
Treasurer: Joe Zhang
Executive Committee: Susan Bridges, Sun Kim, Vipin Kumar, Yi Pan, Cathy Wu, Dong Xu, Mohammed Zaki
Advisory Board: Peter Brusilovsky, Peter McCarthey, Sylvia Spengler, Peter Good, Susan Gregurick, Mathew Kane.

Questions from SGB:
Henning Schulzrine: There is also a fair amount of activity in this field, have you looked at ways to collaborate with IEEE?
Aidong Zhang: Not yet, but the feedback we have received on the subject is encouraging.
Lance Fortnow: How do you pan to work with Biologists?
Aidong Zhang: We expect an interdisciplinary group to emerge – we will guide them to work together.
Peter Brusilovsky: How do you plan to build bridges with IEEE and AMIA?
Aidong Zhang: We will collaborate on journal publications and conferences. We also want to collaborate with other SIGS and other groups but it may be easier to do this with other groups, like Biologists.

<u>Presentation on new proposed SIG, SIGHIT by Gang Luo:</u>
The field of computing is ever broadening and Information Science and Medicine are working together to fill a niche. Our group would has world-wide representation with 180 people, 30 of which are from outside of the US. Our first symposium received 246 paper submissions. We have secured sponsorship and have developed a budget with the help of ACM.

John White: I know that you have board members who are also members of AMIA, could you tell us what being a member of AMIA is like?
Gang Luo: AMIA is a working group
Erik Altman: How will you work with AMIA?
Gang Luo: Our symposium brings us together. Our organizers are based all over the world – we meet by phone. Our African organizers are supportive of our development – they are an asset.

The presenters, Aidong Zhang and Gang Luo, leave for the following vote.

The SGB discussed the merits of both proposals.

<u>Voting on the Granting of SIG status to SIGBioinformatics and SIGHIT</u>

Recommendations and Motions from the SGB EC:

The SGB EC recommends that the SGB grant SIG status to SIGBioinformatics - The Special Interest Group on Bioinformatics, Computational Biology and Biomedicine effective January 1, 2011, contingent upon submission of a petition of 20 ACM members and the SGB EC's approval of the following materials:

1. A set of bylaws
2. A budget
3. A statement of member benefits

Motion passed

The SGB EC recommends that the SGB grant SIG status to HealthInformatics - The Special Interest Group on Health Informatics effective January 1, 2011, contingent upon submission of a petition of 20 ACM members and the SGB EC's approval of the following materials:

4. A set of bylaws
5. A budget
6. A statement of member benefits

Motion passed

Viability Reviews:
SIGARCH, Doug Burger
Financial goals: Grow fund balance slowly through continued high industry contributions, National Science Foundation grants and IEEE matching funds and maintaining SC fellowships. Continue to support students and outreach by increasing student travel grants to all 33% conferences including child care and companion expenses. We supported CRA-W/CDC Architecture Workshop and will continue to support CRA-W scholarship recipients.
Our membership benefits include supporting copious amounts of conferences and awards and offering student outreach via access and diversification. We offer our publications as a resource including the newsletter in addition to conferences. We have stabilized membership with an increase of 45 from 2009 (to 1389) and hope to overcome the decline from the high in 2006 (1427.) Another benefit is that our membership fees have been flat for many years with e-membership reducing costs. 270 members registered under the electronic option.
SIGARCH Goal #1: Intellectual Excellence: building an intellectual community and recognizing excellence within that community. Our publications like SIGARCH Computer Architecture News, "Publications Plus" program with SC, ICS, SPAA proceedings, new membership option with reduced dues and no print mailings, SIGARCH announcement email twice a month. We will work to enhance student travel grants to include companion travel and child care

support. Our outreach includes SC fellowships and give CRA-W support for diversification. Our awards include the Eckert-Mauchly, Maurice Wilkes, ISCA Influential Paper, Distinguished Service Award (2008), Ken Kennedy (2009) and ASPLOS Best Paper (2009). Planned awards include Doctoral Dissertation award, ASPLOS influential paper award. ISCA co-sponsored by SIGARCH proudly hosted the ACM A.M. Turing Lecture.

SIGARCH Goal #2: Successful Meetings: our goal is to have a rich portfolio of successful, influential, healthy conferences. Specific goals include 50-100% sponsorship for ISCA, ASPLOS, SCXY, ICS, SPAA, HPDC, GRID; 10-49% sponsorship for PACT, NOCS, ANCS, SENSYS, ICAC; in-cooperation with 6 conferences; this year we moved ASPLOS to annual conference, and we will create an new award called "ASPLOS Most Influential Paper Award"; we will continue to have many overlapping architectural conferences with SIGARCH, SIGMICRO, IEEE TCCA and other conferences as sponsors.

SIGARCH Goal #3: Policy Transparency; we are primarily a research-supporting organization with formalized and documented policies on award committee procedures, ASPLOS Steering Committee composition. We modified our bylaws in 2009 to be gender neutral and added the Information Director position. We are expanding our website to enhance transparency of all procedures, committee composition and rules so that our community can understand how everything works from reading the website.

Recommendation from the SGB EC: The SGB EC congratulates SIGARCH on their program performance and finds it viable to continue its status for the next 4 years.

Unanimous approval of recommendation by SGB

Action: Frawley to update viability schedule

SIGCOMM, Henning Schulzrinne
Finances: the fund-balance is $1148k – exceeding the required $316k. It is up $591k from 2006. Profits are used for SIG activities such as awards, geo-diversity grants, travel grants and publications. We have tried to put more money back into the community through publications and travel grants. 17 of our 18 conferences have been profitable since January 2007.

SIG Member Benefits: Members receive a copy of "Computer Communication Review" five times a year, including print proceedings of the annual SIGCOMM conference. Also, monthly email announcements of SIGCOMM-related conferences and other relevant announcements. We also offer discounted subscription and registration rate and access to all SIGCOMM sponsored/co-sponsored conference proceedings in the Digital Library.

SIGCOMM Goals: Create a portfolio of high-impact conferences and publications for the networking community. Outreach to the global community of computer networking researchers, educators and practitioners. Increase the linkage between academic researchers and industrial practitioners in our field. We will

work to further gain recognition of achievements in computer networking.

Question by Erik Altman: Why is your membership down?
Henning Schulzrinne: We have since modified member benefits and expect it to increase.

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

Unanimous approval of recommendation by SGB

Action: Frawley to update viability schedule

SIGBED, Marilyn Wolf
Financial goals and successes: We are in sound financial condition and continue to support major conferences in the field. Our goals are to increase membership worldwide to 500k programmers, invest in the community and support students to build long-term community.
Membership/Volunteer Development: Membership is strong; currently at 503. We reduced student dues to $6 from 2010. Our 2 year retention is 79.99%. We are focused on volunteer development through SIG elections and conferences. We may want to concentrate on ways to serve advanced professionals and grow the membership but for now they are still a large group. Goals include developing our strong workshop and tutorial culture and conferences. CPS week is a welcome development. We are working on creating a dissertation award to raise our profile. Our stronger links to advanced industry illustrates a discernable career path. Our focus on diversity was evident in our nomination of someone for the Athena Award and participation in the Diversity workshop at ESWeek '10.

Recommendation from the SGB EC: The SGB EC congratulates SIGBED on their program performance and finds it viable to continue its status for the next 4 years.

Unanimous approval of recommendation by SGB

Action: Frawley to update viability schedule

Presentation – Distinguished Speaker Program – Molly Stevens
Distinguished Speaker Program (DSP) works to present renowned leaders in academia, industry and government, speaking about the topics that matter most in the computing and IT world today. ACM conducts the booking process, pays a part of the travel expenses and offers international booking for events around the world.

Topics of interest include 245 lectures available from 90 different speakers with topics covering Software Engineering, High Performance Computing, Human Computer Interaction, Artificial Intelligence, Gaming, Mobile Computing and dozens more. Popular lectures include: Electronic Voting in the 21st Century, Careers in Computing – How to Prepare and What to Expect, Software Engineering Best Practices. In 2010 we gave 37 lectures; 67% in the US and 135 outside of the US in cities such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Taiwan, China and Moscow, to name a few.

The host organizations were composed of 85% chapters, 5% conferences, 5% Universities not affiliated with a Chapter and 5% professional groups not affiliated with a Chapter. Costs range from $165.00 to $2,400.00 with the average being $700.00. The audience size ranged from 25-800 attendees; the medium being 175 attendees. The total audience served for the fiscal year 2010 was 6,242. The DSP asks for your help. Please use our speakers. The program is open to ACM local Chapters, Universities, Events and Conferences and Corporations. We also encourage you to nominate speakers. A criterion includes excellent topical background and presentation skills. Please make your nominations at http://www.dsp.acm.org/nominate_form.cfm   Thank you on behalf of the Distinguished Speakers Program Committee: Gabby Silberman, Annie Archibald, Barrett Bryant, Bill Curtis-Davidson, Robert Jones, David Kasik, Laura Parker, Molly Stevens, Michael Jenkin, Prerana Vyas, and Rodolfo Castello.

Presentation – Publications Report – Joseph A. Konstan, SGB Pubs Advisor
CCS Update: Computing Classification System. We have a clear need for updating although extremely labor-intensive. We are working with a Publications Board approved vendor and Editor in Chief, Zvi Kedem and we are seeking help form the SIGs in confirming/revising a list of areas to address. If you have specific interests, please contact Bernie Rous, Director of Publications.

Collaboration with China Computer Federation (CCF): this is an ACM-wide collaboration, not only Pubs. The Pubs aspect includes a journal for papers derived/translated from top Chinese-language conferences, which will make previously unavailable information from the Chinese Computer Science community, available to ACM members.

Transactions, Turn-around: Average time from first submission to decision: 5.5 months. The Pubs Board is working on cases significantly above average with a processing time, post-acceptance, of about 6 weeks. We are looking at the implications for the relationship between conference and journal publication.

Viability Reviews:
SIGITE, Mark Stockman

Financial goals: We are a small SIG with a small budget. Our approach is to be fiscally conservative and fulfill our goal to obtain a healthy balance to support marketing and outreach efforts involving IT faculty, graduate student participation and the development of a database of IT undergraduate/graduate programs.

Member benefits: Provide a forum to exchange ideas and engage in activities that advances the knowledge of its members the curriculum and teaching on information technology curriculum; the development and transfer of concepts and application in technology and pedagogy. Publications: "Research in IT" (bi-annual newsletter), "News Bulletin" (monthly). Also we are strong supporters of student members.

Goals - Maintain Successful Conference: We have a strong core of participants, enthusiastic host volunteers. This year the host was Central Michigan University and the 2011 host will be United States Military Academy. We have steady participation and have fostered the meeting of IT chairs. We are focused on encouraging IT research and reinstated the Best Paper award. We gave 2 student scholarships this year. One of which was outside of the US. We have also partnered with ACM-W. Additional goals include indentifying and defining IT research and promote what we discover. We are also, making strides in defining IT curriculum. We have completed a 2 year draft and are continuing our ongoing 4 year curriculum conversation.

Recommendation from the SGB EC: The SGB EC congratulates SIGITE on their program performance and finds it viable to continue its status for the next 4 years.

Unanimous approval of recommendation by SGB

Action: Frawley to update viability schedule

SIGMETRICS, Carey Williamson
Financial goals: SIGMetrics focuses on "Measurement and Evaluation." We promote research in computer systems performance evaluation, including the theoretical development on new performance analysis techniques, as well as the practical use of known methods and tools in diverse application areas.

Financial Status: We have a healthy fund balance ($460K) which represents a steady growth over the past 20 years ($15K yearly). Our conferences have resulted in small surpluses each year. We are expanding our conference partnerships. Our membership is at 500 members but slowly declining. Our dues are at $10 yearly and have unchanged for many years. Digital Library revenues are solid (1 Million downloads). Interest income on nest-egg is helpful as we contemplate new spending initiatives.

Membership Benefits: Outreach to the Performance Evaluation community; use of our website; annual conference and workshops; Quarterly print newsletter; mailing list for SIG members; SIG awards program.

Goal 1 - Visibility: Enhance the external visibility of our SIG: Update SIGMetrics Website; we updated the SIGMETRICS website; expanded conference partnerships; continued our awards and recognition program.

Goal 2 - Community: Strengthen sense of community for performance evaluation researchers. Updated website; provided annual report to members; initiated the SIGMETRICS history initiative; created a "general performance" mailing list; partnered with conferences in Europe and Asia; SIGMETRICS 2012 will be held in London, UK.

GOAL 3 – Membership Value: Maintain and grow membership base. The SIG mailing list was cleaned up and surveyed; workshop paper abstracts are in PER; continued providing student support through travel grants and membership; a new journal was proposed –"Transactions on Modeling and Performance Evaluation"; commemorative CD for 49th birthday; we are recruiting the next SIG leaders.

Recommendation from the SGB EC: The SGB EC congratulates SIGMETRICS on their program performance and finds it viable to continue its status for the next 4 years.

Unanimous approval of recommendation by SGB

Action: Frawley to update viability schedule

VAT Discussion - Martin Pinsonnault, TaxPort, USA Corp.
Martin Pinsonnault reviewed the complexities of VAT compliance. He advised SIGs to consult with ACM with any VAT related questions that may arise and reviewed the possible solutions for several different types of challenges. ACM's Financial Services will work with conference organizers the moment the conference sites are selected to plan appropriately.

SGB EC Administrative Report, Vickie Hanson
The SGB has been reviewing new emerging fields in computing and is continuing to make it an ongoing objective. John White reported on how SIGs are helping to build membership in Europe, Asia and India. There was a concern that visa problems have been contributing to lower conference attendance. Barbara Boucher Owens will be contacting chairs to collect information on issues with visas. International efforts – we may look at the best practices of SIGs in other countries.

Alain Chesnais: reminds everyone to send him names of members who would like to be part of the social networking task force.

Best Practices:

Andrew Sears: Let's talk about good and bad experiences with internationalization.

Scott Owen: The SGB EC recently discussed how there is a different attitude toward volunteering in Asia. Volunteers are not valued because they are thought of as expendable to their corporations. However, academic prestige is important and it is common to have a prestigious person heading a conference but only as a figure head.

Gerrit van der Veer: Outside of the US, in the last couple of years, VAT has been an issue. We must compare cost between North American and European conferences. The European conferences bring in the same number of attendees but we make more money. Spreading the conference locations increases membership as well.

Yannis Ioannidis: We have gone to Europe, going outside of North America, and have found we get a different crowd. Despite difficulties, it is worth it.

Hanan Samet: Your members have to be able to afford it.

Roy Want: In Poland we had excellent local chairs. In Beijing, we had the largest conference ever. In Rome, we lost money.

James Allan: We have heard concern from our community that 2/3 of the time we are outside of our home turf exploring regional conferences.

Doug Burger: SIGARCH had financial success with our conference in China. Our European conference was very well received.

Jeremy Johnson: SIGSAM has been held overseas and we have found it to work best when the host has strong organization.

Doug Terry: We decided to test the waters and have conferences in India and China.

Patrick Madden: DATE almost always hosted in Japan. When we moved to South East Asian countries, we lost some of our 25% Japanese followers. Moving created some drama.

Bob Haring-Smith: SIGUCCS only goes as far as Canada.

Drew Hamilton: We haven't had much conference activity. We would like to co-locate with other SIGS.

Andrew Sears: We haven't had many international conferences but have decided to go back to the UK in 2011.

Scott Owens: We have had visa issues as well. In 2005 SIGGRAPH US had 1,000 from Japan, 300 from Korea, 80-90 from Singapore and 100 from India or China. For the 3rd SIGGRAPH Asia conference, we hope to make sure other Asians can get into that Asian country easily – there may be cross country visa issues.

Vickie Hanson closed the meeting. The next meeting will be Monday, March 7th in New York, NY.