

## ACM Education Board

Conference Call, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2007

### **Participants:**

Andrew McGettrick, Chair

Boots Cassel

Gordon Davies

Dan Garcia

John Impagliazzo

Jane Prey

Eric Roberts

Heikki Topi

### **ACM Representatives:**

Alan Apt, Education Manager

Lillian Israel, Director of Membership

### **Apologies:**

Mark Guzdial

Kevin Scott

Please note that the Motions passed on this call and Action Items appear both in the notes and at the end.

#### 1. **Apologies and Introductory Comments:**

The Education Board passed the following motion thanking Eric for his work as Education Board Chair:

**Motion:** The Education Board wishes to express its deep appreciation and sincere thanks of Eric Roberts's hard and diligent work as Education Board Chair. His energies, insights, wisdom and inspiration have been of enormous benefit to us all; the Board looks forward to [and encourages] his continued valuable contributions as Education Board Past-Chair.

#### 2. **Minutes of previous meeting / conference call:**

The last meeting of the Board took place at Estes Park on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and the minutes of that meeting have been circulated. The Ed Board approved these notes.

#### 3. **Other Education Board Business:**

- Dan Garcia has taken over as Chair of Task Force 3 (Technology & Tools) and is planning a conference call.
- Ed Board must not lose sight of the success of the Grady Booch conference call and related happenings.
- Ed Board had an NCWIT visitor, Lecia Barker at the last meeting; the Board discussed the possibility of collaborating with NCWIT on their career resources.

- The IT Report is still in abeyance; **Action Item**: Andrew had recently contacted Eydie Lawson and Han Reichgelt regarding the IT Report but no response had yet been obtained.
- **Action Item**: Andrew needs to complete FY'07 Education Board Annual Report, with help from Alan and Lil, ASAP.
- In terms of CPATH Boots commented that most of the awards have been announced for CPATH, the information is available on the NSF website.
- Heikki-Suggested that we should obtain brief reports from the Task Force leaders to provide information on what has been achieved. This could then be circulated to Council members. We need a deadline for Task Force reports.
- Dan Garcia suggested that Council members then be asked for 2-3 bullet points on what should be done at the Council level. What should be added, dropped, what should have happened that did not.
- Andrew will set a deadline for Task Force reports.

**Action Item**:

Alan should follow-up with Lecia Barker, NCWIT, and Booch with direction from Andrew.

**4. Two Year College Issues:**

Beth Hawthorne has taken over from Bob Campbell as Chair of the Two Year College Committee. The Ed Board passed the following motion:

**Motion:** The Education Board wishes to express its sincere thanks to Bob Campbell for his diligent and hard work as Chair of the Two-Year College Committee.

At ITiCSE, Beth passed on a number of requests [to the Ed Board] from the TYC group: The TYC group feels a bit isolated and would like to identify other international groups with similar interests; she'd like feedback from others, e.g., Ed Council (she will be attending the Ed Council meeting this September instead of Bob), about this. The TYC is looking for other groups to affiliate with - they feel they need a broader perspective as a result of various discussions regarding globalization. [Andrew reminded the Board that TY Colleges account for 50% of all students.] A few Board members commented that they should not spread themselves too thin as the committee is currently very productive.

**Action Items**:

- 1) Andrew will invite Beth to the upcoming Ed Council Meeting;
- 2) Andrew to contact Beth about having a representative on the Ed Council Curriculum Task Force; he will discuss this with IEEE-CS;
- 3) Andrew to let Beth know she will have to contact SIGCSE directly about having a TYC track.

**Action Item**: Lil to contact Beth about having ACM host the TYC website.

5. **Discussion Paper – Priorities for Next Year:**

**Action Item:** Andrew to review the Discussion Paper for on-going consideration by Ed Board and Council of the two groups' 2007 and 2008 priorities.

Continuing to address the enrolment crisis head-on is a critical issue/goal for us. Andrew stated. In terms of the White Paper, Eric will blog out a few new ideas that appear to strike a cord with many people. A lot of good ideas emerged at the Google faculty summit; there seems to some consensus on what is happening and what must be done, e.g. Andy Bernat agreed.

**Masters Degree Curricula:**

Andrew stated that there is a lot of activity in Europe and elsewhere on Masters Degrees; ACM should get involved. Boots indicated that there are many important initiatives already afoot in the U.S. The Masters is the highest-level degree at several institutions. Students use the programs for refreshing skills or changing careers; these programs tend to be very career oriented. Many schools terminate at masters level and there are no standards and guidelines. It would be helpful, Andrew stated, to develop learning and program outcomes. This is an opportunity to work in an area that is a bit topsy-turvy and could use some guidelines.

Other organizations are embarking on masters degree/courses efforts and ACM should be represented in this work. Gordon pointed out that there is a very wide variation in Europe, and it would probably be helpful to even highlight the differences and similarities because there is very little consistency.

Heikki said there is an AIS initiative for masters degrees, and discussion is currently taking place at the AIS conference.

Andrew said that Vic Basili and others at the Computer Society have started a masters level effort in Software Engineering. They asked if the ACM was interested in being involved and we had responded both quickly and positively. **Action Item:** Boots will investigate the masters level area for having an ACM initiative.

**Ed Board/NSF Summit Meeting:**

Andrew talked to Harriet Taylor of the NSF about putting together a summit with the ACM Ed Board to discuss the enrollment crisis, and she agreed that it could be useful. Jane asked whether we should also join with CRA. It was mentioned that CRA has not actually done much regarding the crisis.

**Action Item:** Andrew will communicate with Harriet (and possibly Andy at CRA) regarding the Ed Board/NSF summit meeting.

Eric said the Google summit was a good forum, and the Google folks had some ok comments. Filling the growing number of jobs is a *critical issue* for industry.

Jane indicated that Rick Rashid had been willing to host a summit about the crisis but it didn't happen.

There are lots of topics/issues, and each can lead in a different direction, Boots mentioned. The Ed Board should play a *leadership role* [and service to the computing community] in bringing together interested parties, e.g. Microsoft, CRA, NSF, other companies, etc.

For this meeting to be successful and productive, Heikki maintained that there needs to be a clear set of goals and definable actions.

**Action Items:**

- 1) Heikki will draft an initial “goal statement” and distribute to the Board for consideration.

Heikki also stated that we need funding to use a variety of channels to get this information out. His Task Force has been doing good work on the careers website, but it is a narrowly defined method of communication. The Task Force’s work is too narrow, and we need to reach broader audiences who have other channels and means. If we don’t get the word out, we’ll just keep talking to each other.

John stated that we need broad participation with industry. They have to buy-in to our goals and be able to implement them. Having this meeting is great, but we need industry.

Jane indicated that we need a *Roadmap* before getting any media involved in what we’re doing.

**Sally Fincher’s Yearbook Proposal:**

Andrew suggested that the Board consider Sally’s Fincher’s Yearbook proposal as a visibility issue for the Ed Board. The Board shouldn’t dismiss it entirely, but it appears to conflict with the SIGCSE Bulletin.

Andrew said Sally’s yearbook idea could help the Ed Board with visibility. John mentioned that an annual (or semi-annual, quarterly, monthly) newsletter for the computing community could be written, and Ed Council members could contribute to it. Perhaps a monthly Newsletter would create momentum within the Council, and Council members should be encouraged to contribute to allow dissemination of important information in a suitable form. We could limit contributions to 200 words. Just posting it on the Internet will not be effective. It should be a professionally produced publication.

Andrew asked whether it conflicts with ACM policy. But the response was that a newsletter would not. The Ed Council will be asked to discuss the kinds of material that should be mentioned in the newsletter.

**Action Items**

- 1) Task Force Chairs need to email Andrew a summary (~ 200-300 words) of their Task Force’s progress for inclusion in an education activities newsletter by Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 This would then be quickly circulated to Ed Council members as, in effect, an initial Newsletter.

2) All Ed Council members need to email Andrew about the educational activities that they represent by Thursday, September 6th.

3) Lil and Alan to prepare a baseline document, for the upcoming Ed Council Meeting, about what educational activities are currently going on within ACM subunits.

4) Andrew to consider having Ed Council members prepare “position statements” [for the meeting] on topics arising from the return from Council members. He should ask Council members who could take charge of these various areas/activities surrounding the crisis.

It’s important to make the Ed Council meeting as useful as possible and productive as possible - make it a meeting where discussions are finished off rather than just started, Andrew commented.

John stated that the Council is US centric and the Board should look to populate the Council with folks from other countries. We need more international participation in the future. Andrew agreed that lack of international representation is a problem.

Andrew reiterated that we **MUST** start to make inroads on some aspects of the crisis. ACM must be part of this critical discussion! The idea may be to take some topics (not too large) where we can really accomplish something. For the next Ed Board conference call, Andrew indicated that we should decide who should lead groups on topics about the crisis.

Heikki mentioned that his Task Force on the Enrollment Crisis has conference calls every 2-3 weeks. Without the call, he said, nothing happens. We need a well defined structure and deadline, Heikki stated; some topics that are less CS centric would help.

#### **Ed Council Matters:**

When communicating to the Council about activities surrounding the crisis, these Task Force activities would then remind the Ed Council members what has been done already with regards to the crisis.

In terms of the Newsletter, we should make sure – unless we get the information from the baseline document to be supplied by Lil and Alan - to engage the SIGs by having them provide us with descriptions of their educational activities as input for the newsletter. John said that the SIGs are not well represented on the Council. Eric indicated that we have tried to contact them in the past but did not always get the right people to contact.

Andrew said that one of the observations about the Council is that the Task Forces had massive agendas, and there might be merit in looking at some smaller tasks to concentrate on. We need deliverables.

#### **6. Feedback on the various Curriculum activities (IS, IT and CS):**

Heikki reported that two things have happened regarding the review of IS. There was both a committee and a panel meeting at the AIS conference. The

panel has developed a Wiki for communication on the new/revised IS curriculum. Information about this would be passed to the Ed Board.

Andrew mentioned that he has written to Eydie and to Han regarding the IT volume and has suggested meeting at the upcoming Council meeting. As of yet, he has not received a response.

In terms of the CS review, Andrew is in touch with Computer Society folks and is hoping for a conference call next week to get their agreement about issues regarding the way ahead. There is an ongoing dialogue about industrial membership and TYC membership. We are discussing how to get the Computer Society involved.

**7. Report on International Activities:**

Gordon reported on the Thessaloniki conference: it's looking quite popular, around 40 of 70 papers were accepted. This conference is a great opportunity to build a community. Next year, the same conference will take place in Venice.

Gordon believed that the ACM should take a leadership position in Europe with regard to international recognition of accreditation activities, but this wasn't accepted. Perhaps at some point in the future that could change. There are several academic and professional computing organizations in Europe that are getting together to discuss initiatives and conferences, such as Informatics Europe who were due to meet in Berlin, etc., and there had been a recent CEPIS initiative to set up an education group; this was being investigated.

**8. Reviews of Education Council Task Force Activities:**

Heikki's group, Task Force 1, the Enrollment Crisis and Image, meets regularly via phone. The careers website has been significantly improved. A proposal is in the works for a major redesign. We are looking for industry support to have a broader reach.

Dan's group, Task Force 3, Technology and Tools, recently sent in his Report [see attachment].

John's group, Task Force 4, Accreditation and Certification, is being shelved for now.

**Action Item:**

Andrew needs to ask Council members for 2-3 bullet points on what they think should be done at the upcoming Council meeting - what should be added, dropped, what should have happened that did not happen.

**9. Timetable for upcoming Ed Board conference call/meeting:**

Andrew asked if one of the following dates could work for a Board call - -

Tuesday, September the 4<sup>th</sup>

Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>

The call would be to discuss the Ed Council meeting, to work on the agenda.

We might have another face-to-face meeting of the Board in December and this might take the form of the Ed Board/NSF summit meeting. Heikki will take the lead on this in terms of a goal statement. The Council should then have an additional face-to-face meeting sometime in the Spring.

### **Ed Board Conference Call Motions Action Items:**

#### **Motions:**

- The Education Board wishes to express its deep appreciation and sincere thanks of Eric Roberts's hard and diligent work as Education Board Chair. His energies, insights, wisdom and inspiration have been of enormous benefit to us all; the Board looks forward to [and encourages] his continued valuable contributions as Education Board Past-Chair.
- The Education Board wishes to express its sincere thanks to Bob Campbell for his diligent and hard work as Chair of the Two-Year College Committee.

#### **Action Items:**

- Andrew needs to contact Eydie Lawson regarding the IT Report.
- Andrew needs to complete FY'07 Education Board Annual Report, with help from Alan and Lil, ASAP.
- Alan should follow-up with Lecia Barker, NCWIT, and Booch with direction from Andrew.
- Andrew will invite Beth Hawthorne (TYC) to the upcoming Ed Council Meeting.
- Andrew to contact Beth about having a representative on the Ed Council Curriculum Task Force; he will discuss this with IEEE-CS.
- Andrew to let Beth know she will have to contact SIGCSE directly about having a TYC track.
- Lil to contact Beth about having ACM host the TYC website.
- Andrew to review the Discussion Paper regarding the Board's and Council's '07 and '08 priorities.
- Boots will investigate the masters level area for having an ACM initiative.
- Andrew will communicate with Andy at CRA regarding the Ed Board/NSF summit meeting.
- Boots, Jane, and John will help define the goals and recommend who should be at the Ed Board/NSF summit meeting and who should help with the media;
- Heikki will draft an initial "goal statement" and distribute to the Board for the summit meeting.

- Task Force Chairs need to email Andrew a summary (~ 200-300 words) of their Task Force's progress for inclusion in an education activities newsletter by Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.
- All Ed Council members need to email Andrew about the educational activities that they represent by Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Andrew will prepare a draft newsletter for consideration at upcoming the Ed Council meeting.
- Lil and Alan to prepare a baseline document, for the upcoming Ed Council Meeting, about what educational activities are currently going on within ACM subunits.
- Andrew to consider having Ed Council members prepare "position statements" [for the meeting] on topics such as the nature of programming, the role of programming, as well as other topics relevant to the Crisis. He should ask Council members who could take charge of these various areas/activities surrounding the crisis.
- Andrew needs to ask Council members for 2-3 bullet points on what they think should be done at the upcoming Council meeting - what should be added, dropped, what should have happened that did not happen.