

ACM Education Board

Minutes of Conference Call

- Date:** 5th December 2007
- Present:** Andrew McGettrick, Mark Guzdial, Eric Roberts, Boots Cassel, Gordon Davies, Garcia, Larry Snyder, Lillian Israel
- Apologies:** John Impagliazzo, Jane Prey, Heikki Topi, Dan Garcia

1. Recapping

It has been some time since the last call, and apologies for that were offered. However, much has been happening via various curriculum reviews and through other activities, e.g. international events.

The main purpose of this call is to prepare for the events in Washington next week. So rather than go through everything in detail, the focus should be on: is there anything we need to do in advance of next week so that we can make that meeting both useful and meaningful?

Motion: The Education Board officially congratulates Eric Roberts on being awarded an ACM Fellowship ... richly deserved and long overdue!

Also to note that Alan Apt has now left ACM (as of 21st November). I sent Alan thanks on behalf of us all. Of course there are issues about replacing Alan and let us just say that Andrew and Mark are due to carry out some interviewing duties in relation to that later this week.

Three documents are relevant:

- Report from Seattle had been circulated for accuracy
- Report from Industrial Panel
- Lillian's much valued review of ACM educational activities

The first two of these was due to appear in Newsletter format and the third was being developed.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The last formal meeting was 12th September although the Education Council meeting took place on at the very end of September. A great deal has happened since then, and many activities have either happened or have been overtaken by events. However, matters that ought to be addressed include the following.

IS review

An issue has arisen over the lack of any presence from AITP on the curriculum committee. This has come from the President of AITP and has involved the President of ACM. AITP has been involved significantly in IS curriculum processes in the past, of course, via Herb Longenecker. Also I believe that AITP

does represent a significant constituency and a major practitioner perspective and so perhaps adds an important dimension. This matter would be discussed further in Washington.

Heikki posted a brief update of the IS curriculum review for the board: the IS Curriculum Task Force will be presenting a status report on Sunday, December 9 in a joint ICIS / AIS SIG-ED session in Montreal. Please see <http://blogsandwikis.bentley.edu/iscurriculum> for the current status of the project wiki.

IT Report

There have been considerable developments here. All sorts of assurances had been received in Seattle that this activity was on course for completion by the end of the calendar year. To cut a long story short, we have had to step in and make adjustments to the ongoing arrangements. Rich Le Blanc is now playing an important role for the Board in terms of managing the way ahead.

Recently Rich sent a note of a conference call:

Notes from IT Volume Steering Committee conference call on 11/30

The primary purpose of the call was to discuss the revisions to Chapter 3 prepared by Barry and J and the comments on that draft by Rich.

Prior to the call, Barry sent a message with the May 2007 draft of the Volume attached, since some of the comments on the draft seemed to be referencing a previous version. We should now all be working from a consistent draft.

It was agreed that the draft definitely reflects our intentions for a new version of Chapter 3, but still needs further work. Rich will incorporate the diagram about the scope of IT and perhaps more text from the Overview Report as part of revisions to the first two sections. Greg will revise section 3.3 on IT Research. He will also add a few sentences to section 3.4 and look at moving the material in that section to section 1.5, since the latter section is about the purpose of the document.

Barry and J will work on modifying the learning outcomes of for IT Fundamentals and Networking so that they are descriptive of the expectations of a typical IT program. These new versions are to serve as examples when we ask members of the curriculum committee to prepare modifications in the learning outcomes for the other areas.

We are on schedule relative to plans to send a request for to the curriculum committee by the middle of December, asking for learning outcome revisions by mid-January.

Next call is scheduled for 11 AM EST on Friday, December 7.

Distinguished Educator Initiative

This concept had been raised in discussion at a full meeting of the ACM Council; as might be imagined, the idea arose out of CPATH discussion. The ideas were picked up by the ACM Awards Committee and are presently being considered (without any input to date from the Education Board other than the at the time of the initial discussion). This is then similar to Distinguished Engineer, Distinguished Scientist, etc. Developments awaited.

3. Arrangements for Washington, D.C. Meeting

The plans for Washington involve a meeting with NSF folk, as represented by Harriet Taylor and by Joe Urban (who spoke at the Ed Council meeting in Seattle). The detailed arrangements are

Thursday 13th December: 10.00 – 12.00: Pre-meeting of the Education Board

Thursday 13th December: 12.00 – 14.00: (variable) lunch with NSF folk

Thursday 13th December: 14.00 – 16.00 meeting between Ed Board and NSF

Friday 14th December: 09.00 – 17.00 meeting of Ed Board

Saturday 15th December: 09.00 – 15.00 (approx) meeting of CS review group

Saturday 15th December: 15.00 - 24.00, meeting of Masters group

4. Meeting with NSF – 13th December 2007

Arrangements for this have been finalized. The aim has changed a little largely due to NSF giving more thought to the shape and nature of the proposed meeting. So arrangements now look like:

- Pre-meeting on morning of 13th December involving Ed Board (and other attendees only). Basically this is to think through quietly and in some detail what we may wish for.
- Joseph Urban and Harriet Taylor; also Chris Stephenson, **Bobby Schnabel**, and Cameron Wilson will be present
- Draft agenda to include: introductions; purpose and aim of this meeting (basically this is about setting up a small group who might prepare the ground for a larger meeting of Societies in the Spring and is probably about program, agenda, etc.); parameters of the Spring meeting - who might attend that meeting; location of meeting – perhaps co-locating with other event; discussion on funding issues; remit to small committee; feedback, times, funding, other constraints? Any other business.

It was felt that a one-pager should be prepared in advance of this meeting to outline possible initiatives that might help with the current situation. Some brainstorming on this took place. Andrew to prepare a draft for circulation and development over the next few days and prior to the Washington meeting.

5. Brainstorming Issues for Ed Board/NSF Meeting:

- NSF needs to put more money behind K-12 computing education.
- Focus on support for K-12 classrooms; the broadening influence on students is achieved by teachers
- More research is needed on computing education at all levels – what's best practices for teaching students computer science, programming, etc.
- What should we be teaching K-12 students about computing?
- Integration of undergraduate research, getting undergrads involved in research.
- Role of computing for non-specialists.
- Keeping connections with all aspects of the computing community.
- Keeping distinctions, computer science is computer science.
- Image of computing.
- NSF is sponsoring the National Science Digital Library initiative but computing is missing.

6. Education Board meeting in Washington – 14th December 2007

Topics to be covered to include

- Follow up from Education Council meeting
- New working group, international issues, strategy
- SIGCSE / SIGITE business
- Task force updates
- Information Systems review update
- CS Review update
- Larry's update of review mechanisms
- Masters initiative
- Initiatives
- International activities update
- Consequences of NSF meeting
- Next Council meeting and planning of this

A proper agenda is in preparation. Boots rightly observed that one possible location for the next Education Council meeting had been Boston; there was the possibility of Heikki arranging another industry panel (with a different flavour) and he ought to be given ample notice of the timing of this. It was expected that this would all be resolved in Washington next week.

7. Any other business

Next meeting: 14th December 2007 in Washington as discussed

8. Action Items:

- Andrew to prepare a draft one-pager on the recommended goals for the Ed Board/NSF Meeting; begin discussing these goals in email prior to next week's meeting.