

## **ACM SIGGRAPH Executive Committee Minutes (PRIVATE)**

**Tuesday, 14 January 2025**

2 - 3 PM PT/ 5 - 6 PM ET

### **Attendees:**

Darin Grant, Executive Committee Acting Chair  
Brad Lawrence, Executive Committee Treasurer  
David Spoelstra, Executive Committee Treasurer - Elect  
Elizabeth Baron, Executive Committee Director  
Tomasz Bednarz, SIGGRAPH Asia CAG Chair  
Marcia Daudelin, Conference Administration  
Dena DeBry, Nomination Committee Chair  
Hugues Hoppe, Executive Committee Director  
Shimin Hu, Executive Committee Director  
June Kim, Executive Committee Director  
Scott Owen, Governance Advisory Board (GAB) Chair  
Mikki Rose, Conference Advisory Group, (CAG) Chair  
Katherine Ruff, Executive Committee Project Manager  
Alla Sheffer, Executive Committee Director  
Courtney Starrett, Executive Committee Director

| <b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b>  | <b><u>PRESENTER</u></b> |
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| <b>The EC approved the 17 December minutes.</b>  | Darin Grant             |
| <p>The EC was introduced to the new EC Project Manager Katherine Ruff. Katherine can be reached at the project manager email address.</p> <p><b>Chair Updates</b></p> <p>Darin Grant reviewed an early draft agenda for the February virtual meeting, taking place 7-8 February, 4-7 pm Eastern. Standing Chairs will be invited for the meeting on Friday, 7 February. EC Only will meet on Saturday, 8 February. In asking the EC to review the agenda, Darin noted that it was still an early draft that needed to be flushed out. He asked the EC to define the goals they want to achieve in each of the two, 3-hour sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friday's goal: The EC agreed that the goal for Friday's meeting is to develop a group vision for what we are going to do when SIGGRAPH can no longer rely on ACM DL revenue. The Standing Chairs to start thinking about how FY26 (and possibly FY27) would be different given uncertainties of that missed revenue. Addressing that topic is timely and urgent.</li> <li>Saturday's options for meeting goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Based on the feedback from the Standing Chairs on Friday, the EC will discuss decisions to be made about current Standing Committees and those that were put on hold in shaping a balanced budget for FY 27 moving forward. (excluding the conference).</li> <li>b. Saturday's meeting is also an opportunity to cross reference the SIGGRAPH Asia and SIGGRAPH conference business models to collect lessons from each. Because of the differences in models and timing, Tomasz Bednarz didn't know if a comparison was possible. Rather, they could show a summary of how the current SIGGRAPH Asia operating model works to bring awareness to how things are done differently in the US and Canada. A deeper discussion will take more than that time allowed in one meeting. The summary to be provided will include the current model from a revenue stream and how things work with SIGGRAPH Asia (what we know and what we don't know about the processes). There was some discussion about the tracking of SIGGRAPH Asia future conferences. Hugues Hoppe asked about the possibility of a comparison on the major revenue (ie- registration) and expense (ie- audio visual) categories of the two conferences. Tomasz wasn't sure how much was available. The balance sheets provided for SIGGRAPH Asia are very high level. While a few EC members shared an interest in a comparison between the two conferences, they were advised that we aren't comparing "apples to apples". The group was cautioned in setting expectations for such a side by side comparison of the two different business models.</li> </ul> </li> <li>General feedback for Saturday was that the Standing Committees discussion should be the priority for the discussion over the SIGGRAPH Asia/SIGGRAPH comparison.</li> </ul> | Darin Grant             |
| <p><b>Virtual Vote</b></p> <p>For the purpose of capturing in the minutes, Darin review the recent virtual vote for the SIGGRAPH Asia 2026 Conference Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Motion:</b> Tomasz Bednarz made a motion to appoint Professor Frank Guan as SIGGRAPH Asia 2026 Conference Chair.</li> <li>Seconded by David Spoelstra.</li> <li>Passed by virtual vote on 5 January</li> </ul>  | Darin Grant             |
| <p><b>Liaison Updates</b></p> <p>David Spoelstra shared an update that the Computer Animation Festival Advisory Board (CAFAB) would like to move to a submission system called FilmFreeway and charge a</p>  | David Spoelstra         |

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| <p>submission fee. FilmFreeway is a tool used by many other film festivals but there are hurdles to clear before such a move to FilmFreeway. Mikki Rose reported that a submission fee proposal was provided to the CAG for consideration. A decision was made not to move forward with such a change for SIGGRAPH 2025 but there will be future exploration for such a move. The EC to be kept updated on those recommendations.</p>   |                   |
| <p><b>Governance Advisory Board</b><br/> Governance Advisory Board Chair Scott Owen brought forth three items for the EC to discuss <u>here</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In July 2024 at SIGGRAPH 2024, the EC voted to allow the Nominations Committee to seek a Treasurer-elect with Director C slate. The idea is that the Treasurer will serve a two year term, rather than a one year term. So there would be a Treasurer elect for one year, then they serve a two-year term as Treasurer. The Nominations Committee would need to find two candidates for Treasurer. The winner would be Treasurer-elect 9/2025 to 9/2026 then T for 9/2026 - 9/2028. The NC would not need Treasurer candidates for 2027 but would for 2028, etc.. The term lengths are not specified in the Bylaws so we can do this by a Policy change. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Current: Section III: Officers- As stated in Article 5 of the ACM SIGGRAPH bylaws, the EC shall select, from among its directors, a Chair, Chair-elect, Treasurer, and Treasurer-elect. The Chair and Treasurer serve a one-year term.</li> <li>b. Proposed: Section III: Officers- As stated in Article 5 of the ACM SIGGRAPH bylaws, the EC shall select, from among its directors a Chair and a Chair-elect. . The Chair serves a one-year term. The Treasurer serves a three-year term, the first year as Treasurer-elect and the following two years as Treasurer.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Motion-</b> Darin Grant made a motion that the Treasurer serves a three-year term, the first year as Treasurer-elect and the following two years as Treasurer.</li> <li>● Seconded by Mona Kasra.</li> <li>● Motion Passed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Award winners membership status. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Current: All award winners must be members of ACM SIGGRAPH.</li> <li>b. Proposed: All award winners must be members of ACM SIGGRAPH. If the awardees are not a current member, then they will be given a one-year membership.</li> <li>c. Rationale: Our financial policy states that only ACM SIGGRAPH members can receive reimbursement for Travel, Room, and Board (TRB) expenses and we just approved a policy that SIGGRAPH and SIGGRAPH Asia Program Chairs must be ACM SIGGRAPH members. However, experience has shown that Art and Practitioner candidates are less likely to be ACM SIGGRAPH members. Also, people may have been members for many years but let their membership lapse because of retirement or other considerations. Thus, the recommendation that if an award winner is not currently a member then they be given a one-year membership.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Motion-</b> Mona motioned All award winners must be ACM SIGGRAPH members. If they aren't members, they'll receive a one year membership.</li> <li>● Seconded by Alla Sheffer</li> <li>● Motion Passed (11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain)</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. The Past- Chair should be on the Finance Committee.</li> </ol> | <p>Scott Owen</p> |

- a. Current: The Finance Committee will be composed of the Chair, Chair-elect, Treasurer, Treasurer-elect, and the CAG Chair or their representative. The CAG Chair shall be involved in the development of the total ACM SIGGRAPH budget. The EC may also opt to add a Director to the Finance Committee to better distribute the workload. The Finance Committee assists the Treasurer in preparing the annual budget for presentation to the EC for approval. It is also an advisory body to the EC that reviews New Project proposals according to the guidelines below. It does not have any final authority on budget or expenditure approvals except for the special cases in Section 4.5 Unbudgeted Expenses.
- b. Proposed: The Finance Committee will be composed of the Chair, Chair-elect, Past-Chair, Treasurer, Treasurer-elect, and the CAG Chair or their representative. If the Past-Chair is still a voting member of the Executive Committee, then they will be a voting member of the Finance Committee, otherwise they will be an ex-officio non-voting member. If the Finance Committee cannot come to a resolution on an issue, i.e., there is a tie vote, then the EC shall decide the issue. The CAG Chair shall be involved in the development of the total ACM SIGGRAPH budget. The EC may also opt to add a Director to the Finance Committee to better distribute the workload. The Finance Committee assists the Treasurer in preparing the annual budget for presentation to the EC for approval. It is also an advisory body to the EC that reviews New Project proposals according to the guidelines below. It does not have any final authority on budget or expenditure approvals except for the special cases in Section 4.5 Unbudgeted Expenses.
- c. Rationale: The past chair plays a significant role in the current fiscal year's budget development and approval process. Excluding them from the Finance Committee creates loopholes, lacks effective organization or continuity, and results in valuable information and context being lost. Decisions may be changed without proper context, compromising continuity and potentially causing confusion. This also formalizes a responsibility for the Past-Chair. Note that this means that when the Finance Committee has its full complement then there will be six members, possibly leading to tie votes. However, if 255 is approved by the EC then every other year there will not be a Treasurer-elect so in those years there will be five members of the Finance Committee

- **Motion-** David Spoelstra made a motion to approve the proposed change listed above. The Finance Committee will be composed of the Chair, Chair-elect, Past-Chair, Treasurer, Treasurer-elect, and the CAG Chair or their representative. If the Past-Chair is still a voting member of the Executive Committee, then they will be a voting member of the Finance Committee, otherwise they will be an ex-officio non-voting member.
- Seconded by Alla Sheffer.
- Motion Passed. (8 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain)

### **SIGGRAPH Major Sponsorship of Conference Programs**

Prior to the EC meeting on 14 January, the EC conducted two virtual straw polls to refine the decisions around the conference securing 'major' sponsorships (more than \$50k) for programs. The goal of the EC conversation in this meeting was to provide guidance on the final motion to vote.

In the straw polls, the EC shared feedback on how to proceed with those program-level sponsorship deemed 'major'.

1. Select the option that most closely aligns with any program-level sponsorship deemed a 'major' sponsorship

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| <p>a. Option 1: We proceed on a case-by-case basis using the following procedure: The conference chair, Program Chair &amp; representative of relevant advisory board (if applicable) are consulted. If they approve, a written rationale for the decision to allow this sponsorship is sent to the CAG for records.</p> <p>b. Option 2: Major sponsors can only be accepted if there is more than one sponsor for a juried program.</p> <p>c. Option 3: We proceed on a case-by-case basis using the following procedure: The conference chair, Program Chair &amp; representative of relevant advisory board (if applicable) are consulted. No written rationale is required. If the governing body needs to react publicly to any situation they will write a rationale and work with the CAG to publicize it.</p> <p>2. Recurring sponsorships: Regardless of the decision above, each sponsorship is for a single year. Select the option below that you think should be followed in terms of a company being able to secure the major sponsorship for multiple years.</p> <p>a. Option 1: limit of one year in which a company can purchase that particular major sponsorship.</p> <p>b. Option 2: limit of two consecutive years (to match the limit on how many consecutive years a single individual can be on the jury)</p> <p>c. Option 3: no limit on the number of years a company can purchase that particular major sponsorship</p> <p>3. Jury influence: Select all that apply.</p> <p>a. Option 1: The jury will not be informed of who the sponsors are until AFTER the content selection process is complete.</p> <p>b. Option 2: In cases of programs where the jury or audience votes for an award during the show rather than in advance, the CAG will create a mitigation approach that is appropriate for that situation. Examples include allowing the company to have an entry but making it ineligible for winning an award, or removing the audience choice award in a year where there is only one major sponsor.</p> <p>c. Option 3: We will trust our juries and selection committees to follow our published guidelines for ethical, fair selection that we have always held and not dictate requirements at all in this area.</p> <p>d. Option 4: We will have our juries and selection committees sign a pledge to follow our published guidelines for ethical, fair selection.</p> <p>e. Option 5: If sponsorship is finalized prior to jury, we will not allow sponsor companies to submit to the program.</p> <p>f. Option 6: If sponsorship is finalized prior to jury, we will not allow sponsor companies to serve on the program jury/selection committee.</p> <p>The EC shared additional feedback beyond what was captured in the straw polls. No final vote was made during the meeting. Darin Grant to present a motion after the meeting for virtual voting by the EC. The final results of the vote will be shared and documented in the 28 January EC meeting minutes.</p> |                    |
| <p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b></p>  | <p>Darin Grant</p> |