

SIAM Activity Group on Imaging Science:

Minutes of Business Meeting

Tuesday April 13, 2010

Somewhat less than 20 people attended the meeting. Liliana presented the state of the imaging group.

Two items were mentioned: the need to appoint a liaison to SIAM news, and the location of the 2012 meeting.

SIAM news

SIAM news would like a story discussing one or two items or themes from material presented at the meeting. It is probably better to do something like this (perhaps written by multiple authors with the help of SIAM news staff) than to try to do an overview of the entire meeting. There was little or no discussion on this topic.

2012 meeting

There was quite a bit of discussion on this topic. Liliana presented the four options we've been discussing: Houston, Kansas City, Portland and Seattle. The following summarizes the main points of the discussion.

- In general people seemed satisfied with the Chicago meeting and venue, it was mentioned that it was nice to have everyone in the same place and all the rooms nearby.

- Adel Faridani pointed out that the decision of the next venue should (and will) be guided by the SIAM staff who are very professional and know how to organize this logistical stuff.
- For Houston there were questions about closeness of hotels; neither Bill Symes nor Liliana Borcea (two attendees from Rice) seemed concerned this would be a problem.
- There was little enthusiasm for Kansas City.
- There was more enthusiasm for Portland or Seattle, although it was mentioned that we will all have just been at ICIAM in Vancouver in the summer of 2011.
- Adel Faridani noted that Chicago was decided on because people want to come to a big city and because the airport is a major hub from Europe, making it easier for European members to attend.
- Attracting members from Europe can be a problem if there aren't direct flights, also the difference in jet lag between West and East Coast locations is a factor; these issues may reduce European participation if the meeting is on the west coast.
- SIAM will give us a breakdown of where people come to the meeting from etc (Jim Crowley agreed to this).
- The question was raised as to whether or not we need a convention center? Will it be too big?
- A disadvantage at hotels seems to be that the wireless doesn't work.
- Adel Faridani mentioned that while for a convention center you don't have to have a block of rooms at the hotel you have to pay for the convention center, thus increasing the registration fee.
- The point was made that at a university it might be hard to have enough parallel rooms close together, ICIAM in Zurich was quite spread out—this was also a problem at the San Diego SIAM meeting.
- Many have suggested that they would like to be in DC to have the program managers from various programs attend more easily, it was thought that this had been too expensive in the past.

- A concern was voiced that the meeting is in the semester; the suggestion was made that it may be better to have it after the semester is over; this makes more competition with other meetings, however.

Other Business

The following points were made near the end of the meeting.

- There was a concern that there are too many parallel sessions.
- Many people gave more than one talk, do we want to enforce that people should only speak once?
- 3 blocks per day is making the too many parallel session problem better; in the past we had 2 blocks.
- It was observed that most rooms seem to have reasonable attendance, despite the large number of parallel sessions.
- It was speculated that there is already a rule that there shouldn't be more than one talk per person, but it is not enforced.
- The point was made that people who attend want to give a talk, which makes it hard to keep down the number of parallel sessions, without making the meeting longer, which makes it harder for people to attend the duration.
- The survey after the 2008 meeting asked people what to do about too many parallel sessions, perhaps SIAM has this data; it was suggested that we look there for suggestions and to get an idea if this is a problem in general.
- The number of Minisymposia seem to be increasing while contributed papers are declining (someone's impression, does SIAM have data?). SIAM (Linda Theil) has looked into this and found that the numbers are actually quite consistent over time.
- Adel Faridani made the point that Minisymposia are used to de-centralize the organization, thus reducing the load on the organizing committee.