

SIAG DS Business Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2019

DS19 @ Snowbird, UT

SIAG officers present: Andrew Bernoff (Chair), Ira Schwartz (Vice Chair), Mason Porter (Program Director), Anna Ghazaryan (Secretary). Notes were taken by AG.

BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was chaired by Andy Bernoff. Andy started by describing SIAG DS. He introduced the current officers and the advisory board members.

He pointed out that SIAG DS is the 3rd largest SIAM activity and described the group membership demographics. A significant feature of the current demographic data is that there is a large number of student members which Andy interpreted as a sign of the health of the group and its growth potential.

Andy continued by presenting the SIAM fellows with SIAG DS affiliations for 2018 and 2019.

The next part of the meeting was about the SIAM DS 19 meeting. Andy asked the attendees of the business meeting to thank the chairs of the DS19 meeting, Mason Porter and Elaine Spiller. He then introduced the organizing committee and SIAM Staff onsite and asked the audience to show their appreciation by giving a round of applause. Andy described what each of the SIAM Staff onsite representatives does for the meeting and expressed the SIAG DS's appreciation of their efforts. The 2019 DS meeting was the one of the largest conferences that SIAM held in recent years, with about 1000 registered participants.

Andy then thanked the committees for SIAM DS 19 prizes and encouraged attendees to submit nominations. Andy recapped the awards to Margaret Beck (J.D. Crawford Prize) and Philip Holmes (Jurgen Moser Lecture Prize).

Andy stressed the importance of providing support for junior scientists. He described the Icebreaker Session organized by Alexandria Volkening and Heather Brooks and the Mentoring Lunch organized by Korana Burke. The focus of the mentoring session was to support a diverse and inclusive academic environment. There is a clear need in such events: 400 people wanted to attend the Mentoring Lunch but only 120 people were selected (due to space and budget limitations). Andy pointed out that the budget for these activities was not built into the conference budget, therefore funds were lacking. A GoFundMe page was created to raise funds. Andy put a slide with the names of people who donated towards these events and thanked them for their support. In the future, he hopes the funding for these events will be built in into the budget of the conference.

Andy mentioned that there is a need for more funding to support the travel of participants. There were 133 applications for Student Travel awards, but only 57 awards were made. A similar situation is with the Early Career Awards: only 8 applicants were supported out of 55. Lisa Fauci

(President of SIAM) who was in attendance responded by stating that travel awards to students and early career participants are a priority for SIAM.

Next Andy described how the location of DS21 was chosen. Out of 245 responders to the survey which he sent earlier 34% supported Portland versus 23% supporting Snowbird. Andy described Portland as an attractive location for a large conference.

During the next segment of the meeting, Evelyn Sander, Editor-in-Chief of SIADS, presented statistical data related to SIADS submissions, in particular, the growth trend of the number of submissions, the ratio of accepted to declined papers similar to other SIAM journals, and comparatively lower submission to acceptance times. Evelyn presented the Editorial Board of SIADS. She finished her presentation by inviting the attendees to submit their work for publication in SIADS.

Next Andy introduced the DSWeb crew and mentioned growing presence of DS on social media: Twitter and Facebook.

The DSWeb portal administrator, James Haines, gave detailed information about DSWeb. He described DSWeb as a unique activity specific to SIAG DS. Other SIAM activity groups may or may not have a newsletter, but no other SIAG produces a magazine. James pointed out that, recently, SIAM created an episode of SIAM video series Math in Our Life devoted to Dynamical Systems which was featured in the April 2019 issue of DSWeb. James presented statistics of the usage trends by month from 2016-2019; there is clear growth in usage of the site. The statistics by geographic location has the following explanation: the software section of the magazine is used for educational purposes in some countries as it is a free resource of educational materials. James also provided data about usage by device type: personal computer usage dropped, while mobile usage increased due to recent changes that made the site mobile friendly.

Andy continued the meeting. He talked about future meetings that SIAM is supporting: ICIAM 2019 and the annual SIAM meeting in 2020 which will be held in Toronto jointly with Canadian Applied and Industrial Mathematical Society. He then listed the topics of Gene Golub SIAM Summer Schools in 2019 and 2010 and encouraged submissions of Letters of Intent by Jan 31st, 2020.

Andy made a SIAM recruitment pitch and talked about the benefits of SIAM membership. He then concluded his presentation by asking for comments, questions, and discussions.

DISCUSSION

This part of the meeting started with a praise of the work of the leadership of the SIAG.

The questions asked and answers are briefly summarized below:

Q. Will the budget for SIAM DS 2021 meeting be the same?

A. This information is not available yet.

Q. Hinke Osinga asked about how the rule of “one talk per person” applies when a talk would be otherwise canceled because of the absence of a speaker. She said that the level of detail needed to claim extraordinary circumstances is not clearly determined.

A. Lisa Fauci stated that no details should not be necessary in these cases and, if available, a substitute speaker could give a second talk to prevent the talk from being cancelled. She offered to pursue this issue and hopefully settle it once and for all.

Q. When will the decision about the location of DS 2023 be made?

A. This will be decided within two years before the conference.

Q. Alan Champneys asked for a debate about whether we should come back in four years to Snowbird. He mentioned that he personally prefers the meeting to be held in Snowbird.

A. Andy suggested to survey the community before making any decisions.

The last question prompted a discussion. The following points were raised: choosing a home for this meeting or rotating the locations; taking into account that a large number of attendees of the meeting have a strong preference for Snowbird; using the number of registered speakers in the Portland meeting as an indication of popularity relative to Snowbird; limitations of the Snowbird as a location as the group is facing an increase of the meeting in size; whether the meeting has gotten too big and a split is inevitable; taking into account people having issues with high altitude and the isolated location. The discussion was concluded by a member of the audience asking whether demographic data for this meeting available. Andy mentioned that some data was available (particularly on gender and employment sector) and he would share what he had. Lisa Fauci encouraged people to fill out the SIAM demographic questionnaire.

At the end of the discussion Andy conducted a straw poll. The motion was to decide on whether Snowbird should be the location of the SIAM DS 2023 or to leave this question open. By show of hands a clear majority voted to leave the location issue open.

RAFFLE

At the end of the meeting Alexandria Volkening and Heather Brooks conducted a raffle, entries for which were collected during the Student and Postdoc Icebreaker sessions. Several people won t-shirts with the SIAM logo and certificates for a free SIAM book.