

Mike Atwood and Guy Boy

Coming Soon – Two Significant Events

As we write this column (Bulletin articles are prepared about three months in advance of publication), two significant events are underway. Both of these events are crucial to the future of 'CHI and both will require your action very soon. So, we use this column to give you an advance look at these events – election of a new Executive Committee and a vote on our bylaws.

In past columns, we have given you updates on progress in creating Societies within ACM and in transitioning SIG-CHI to be a Society. One initial step was a change to the ACM Constitution and Bylaws that

ACM members approved last spring. We view these changes as positive and hope you do, as well. Now, the 'CHI Bylaws can change to enable us to create a self-governing substructure within ACM that reflects and supports the interdisciplinary membership of 'CHI.

One ACM Constitution and Bylaws change permits the ACM Council to define rules for forming Societies, or other technical communities, as well as SIGs. The bylaws currently being drafted should lead to 'CHI becoming the first Society within ACM. What will this mean for you, a SIGCHI member? You will receive a summary of the changes when you are asked to vote on the new bylaws. But, in order to give you an advance look, we summarize some of the likely changes below.

Identity. Currently, all technical communities within ACM are SIGs – Spe-

cial Interest Groups. Officially, we are ACM SIGCHI – ACM first, SIG second, CHI last. The proposed bylaws will propose a name that highlights our identity as a CHI community, while still highlighting membership in the larger ACM community. One proposal is "CHI: The ACM Society for Human-Computer Interaction." Logos will also be proposed, but these will not formally be part of the bylaws.

Local SIGs. The Local SIGs program within 'CHI has been extremely active. The growth in the number of Local SIGs is increasing at such a rate that we are reluctant to say how many there currently are! But, there are dozens of Local SIGs in North America, South America, Europe, and Africa. Many people view their primary ties with the 'CHI community as being through their Local SIG. Working with Local SIGs is so important that we have an Adjunct Chair for Local SIGs (Richard Anderson) who participates in Executive Committee meetings.

But, officially, 'CHI has no Local SIGs! Currently, Local SIGs are chartered and administered as Local Chapters of ACM. While there are clearly intellectual ties between 'CHI and the Local SIGs, there are no formal ties and we cannot specify the responsibilities or benefits to either the Local SIGs or to 'CHI. The proposed bylaws will define formal ties between Local SIGs and 'CHI, and the rights and responsibilities of Local SIGs will be defined.

Conferences and Publications. Much of the intellectual value of 'CHI comes from our conferences and the publications that they produce. For the past five years, the Executive Committee has been experimenting with ways to manage our conferences. Currently, we have a *Conference Management Committee (CMC)* that is involved in selecting conference sites, selecting

conference chairs, and selecting contractors to provide support for conference activities. The CMC was initiated by Gene Lynch (past Vice Chair for Conference Planning) and further refined by Gerrit van der Veer (current Vice Chair for Conference Planning). The CMC provides the linkage that allows for an effective partnership between the 'CHI leadership and the conference leadership. Officially, the CMC has no standing within 'CHI and the proposed bylaws will define the ties between these entities. In addition, the proposed bylaws will call for a *Publications Board* to oversee publications. Many 'CHI members view conference publications as very prestigious. However, tenure and other review committees may not share this view. A role of the *Publications Board* will be to oversee the paper selection and review process used by 'CHI conferences and other 'CHI related publications. Dan Olsen (current Vice Chair for Publications) has recently formed a Publications Board to initiate this process.

Officers. The current Executive Committee consists of elected officers, an Advisory Board, and Adjunct Chairs. The Advisory Board and Adjunct Chair positions were created because issues arise for which there is no responsible elected officer. The issues initially identified by the current Executive Committee include standards (Harry Blanchard), education (Allison Druin), international issues (John Karat), and Local SIGs (Richard Anderson). Other issues, such as identify, public relations, and organizational structure have also had Adjunct Chairs assigned in the past few years. To recognize that needs will continue to arise which are outside the charter of any elected officer, the proposed bylaws call for two "at large" positions. These positions will be elected by the 'CHI membership, participate as full members of the Executive Committee, and address whatever

issues need attention at the current time.

A change in structure provides both challenge and opportunity. Constitutions and Bylaws are written to provide guidance, not operational details. How changes in bylaws will impact us as 'CHI members depends on how they are implemented. Concurrently with voting on bylaws changes, 'CHI members will elect new officers. This is an extremely important election! The next Executive Committee will determine how the changes outlined above are shaped into opportunities. You determine the next Executive Committee!

As we write this column, the current slate is (alphabetically by first name) listed below. Note that other names may be added, as well.

Chair/Exec. Vice Chair

Guy Boy, Cathleen Wharton
Marilyn (Mantei) Tremaine, Wendy Mackay

Conferences

Angel Puerta
Gerrit van der Veer
Jürgen Koenemann

Communications

Barbee Teasley
Piet Kommers
Tina Groves

Finance

Jean Scholtz
Laura Leventhal

Operations

Bob Mack
Julie Jacko
Pavel Slavik

Publications

Andrew Sears
Dan Olsen

Mike Atwood chaired the nominating committee and wishes to thank the candidates for their past and future service to 'CHI. Best of luck to all of you!

Coming soon! Two events that are crucial to the future of 'CHI – bylaws and officers. The choice is yours!

Vote!

Mike & Guy