

Minutes of SIAG/DM Business Meeting
Tuesday June 15, 2010, 6:00-7:00 pm
Texas 4-7 Room, Hyatt Regency Austin, Texas

Chair: Jerry Griggs, Chair, SIAG/DM
Secretary: John Schmitt, Secretary, SIAG/DM

Also in attendance: Karen Collins, Vice Chair, SIAG/DM
James Crowley, SIAM Executive Director
Approximately 40 other SIAG/DM members (or conference attendees)

These minutes are complemented by a PowerPoint presentation made at the meeting and available from the SIAG/DM website.

I. SIAG/DM Election 2009

Chair gave thanks to outgoing officers and introduced new officers.

II. SIAG/DM membership report

Chair gave report of membership: in brief, approximately 380 paying members of SIAG/DM and 384 student members. Our activity group is about average with respect to other SIAGs.

Complete membership details with respect to geography, gender, employer type, and department membership were given and are available in above-mentioned PowerPoint presentation.

III. SIAG Charter Renewal 2011, Election and SIAM Fellows

SIAG Charter renewal will be due at end of 2011. Elections for new SIAG/DM officers will also be held at this time. Nominations may be sent to current SIAG officers.

Chair informed us about relatively new SIAM Fellows program and called on membership to forward nominations for this program; call for nominations goes out each July. J. Crowley explained nomination process, including letters from SIAM members. He pointed members to information located on SIAM's website, noting that nomination committee meets each fall and a nomination lasts two years (if needed).

Chair indicated that “eligibility requirements (for nominations) are frustrating.”

R. Martin asked if SIAG/DM could have a webmaster. Volunteers are sought.

Suggestions for SIAG/DM website are sought – please forward these to J. Schmitt (SIAG Secretary). SIAG board wishes website to be of service to our community.

Chair expressed opinion that 2-year appointment to SIAG board is short; called for adjustments to allow for smoother transitions and better long-term planning. J. Crowley indicated that longer appointments could be done or advisory board could be formed, as in other groups. One attendee indicated that this should be investigated at time of Charter renewal.

SIAM News wishes to have a liaison to our activity group. Volunteer(s) and story ideas are sought.

IV. SIAG Activities

SIAM Annual Meeting to be held in Pittsburgh in July 2010. P. Tetali indicated that a session on Probabilistic Combinatorics will be held. D. West suggested that SIAM Annual Meeting is not of interest to SIAG members given SIAM DM in even years and CanaDAM in odd years. Chair indicated that Annual Meeting allows SIAG members opportunity to interact with broader community.

ICIAM will be held in Vancouver, BC in July 2011. B. Mohar announced that call for minisymposium is end of summer (early deadline is August 18, 2010) and that there will be a graph theory session.

Dates for next CanaDAM meeting were announced; these are May 31 – June 3, 2011, to be held at University of Victoria, BC, Canada (contact G. MacGillivray for details).

P. Tetali gave an overview of SIAG's involvement with SODA (Symposium on Discrete Algorithms), an annual meeting run jointly with ACM-SIGACT. It is in consideration for size of steering committee for SODA to increase in size to six people (from the current two) with a balance of membership from the two groups that reflects involvement, two for SIAG and four for ACM-SIGACT. Steering committee is responsible for next meeting location, identifying program chair, and other scheduling and travel-funding issues. Input was called for. J. Crowley indicated that SIAM has full financial support of meeting. B. Mohar suggested that steering committee be evenly balanced. D. West suggested that SIAG withdraw from participation at SODA. Much discussion ensued with regard to issues of fairness, both programmatic and financial.

V. Conference DM10 and DM12

Chair gave Mike Molloy, Organizing Committee Chair for SIAM/DM 10, a hearty thank-you. A round-of-applause followed.

Attendance history was given; attendance for DM10 as of time of this meeting was 348, making it one of the best attended meetings in series history.

Location, timing and program committee for DM12 was then discussed. Locations for DM12 were put forward: small cities with university sites and local organizers included Missoula, Montana (M. Kayll, J. McNulty at U. Montana) and Halifax, Nova Scotia (J. Janssen and R. Nowakowski at Dalhousie U.), large cities included Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Montreal, Philadelphia, and Portland (OR), with location most likely at large hotel. Other sites put forth by those in attendance included Atlanta and Las Vegas. One student attendee complained of high hotel cost at current meeting. M. Molloy pointed out that large cities have possibility of increasing attendance at meeting through local participation. A

“straw poll” was taken for consideration between Halifax and Missoula; Halifax garnered 30+ votes, Missoula 6. A second “straw poll” was taken for university site versus, large city; university site garnered about 25 votes, large city 7 (with student members seemingly in favor of large city due to airfare costs to smaller cities).

Mid-June is still the preferred time for the meeting.

K. Collins brought forth the idea of a conference proceedings. Attendees did not, in general, wish to have articles that did not go through a refereeing process and so questioned the value of a proceedings. It was asked if a repository of DM attendee’s lectures be made. J. Crowley informed us that plenary and prize lectures at DM10 were being “captured” for audio and overhead projection with the intent of posting to the world-wide-web if quality recording is achieved.

A short discussion on conference themes for DM12 was then discussed. It was agreed that better representation from those interested in algebraic combinatorics at DM10 was most welcome, contributing greatly to current meeting.

The Chair requested ideas for an organizing committee chair and conference themes for DM12 to be sent to him.

VI. Dénes König Prize

J. Schmitt informed us that additional request to Google for permanent funding of this prize has not met with success; such a request was called for at the business meeting at DM08. Requests to other institutions/companies/etc. will be made. One attendee suggested raising registration fee by \$10 to fund the prize. R. Anstee indicated (subsequent to the meeting) that it is not in the business interest of a profitable company to endow a prize.

VII. SIAM book publishing in discrete mathematics

M. Ellingham gave a brief presentation on recently identified issues regarding SIAM's book publishing history in discrete mathematics. SIAM has moved away from publishing books in Discrete Mathematics series. No such books have been published for past 5 years. He voiced concern that a recent manuscript submitted for consideration by a colleague was turned away for not being "applied enough". He indicated that the book would have been of interest to SIAG community. He has lobbied SIAM's VP for publications for re-consideration of this manuscript, and for representation on subcommittee by a member of our SIAG (currently there is no such member). The activity group also has the possibility of putting forth a book liaison to represent the desires of our SIAG to SIAM. His complaints to SIAM publications were being responded to.

VIII. The meeting was then adjourned.