

CSE SIAG Business Meeting 2019

Meeting called to order at 7pm on 2/27/19 by Karen Devine.

Karen presented a set of slides on the SIAG/CSE and the SIAM CSE19 Conference.

Announcements:

1. Congratulations to the current SIAG/CSE officers:
 - Chair, Karen Devine
 - Vice Chair, Suzanne Shontz
 - Program Director, Stefan Wild
 - Judith Hill, Secretary.
2. Thanks to the outgoing SIAG/CSE officers:
 - Chair, Hans De Sterck
 - Vice Chair, Lorena Barba
 - Program Director, Suzanne Shontz
 - Secretary, Karen Devine.
3. Thanks to the SIAM CSE19 Conference Co-chairs:
 - Jeffrey Hittinger, Luke Olson, and Suzanne Shontz.
4. Thanks to the SIAM CSE19 Organizing Committee.
5. Congratulations to the SIAM Fellows in the Classes of 2017 and 2018 who are SIAG/CSE members.
6. SIAG/CSE membership history was presented.
7. SIAG/CSE conference history was presented.
8. Congratulations to the winners of the SIAM/ACM Prize in Computational Science and Engineering, the James H. Wilkinson Prize for Numerical Software, the SIAG/CSE Early Career Prize, and the Inaugural SIAG/CSE Best Paper Prize.
9. Thanks to prize selection committee members.
10. Stay in touch with the SIAG through the electronic mailing list, the website, and the blog.
11. Thanks to the past CSE liaison to SIAM News.
12. A volunteer is needed to serve as a CSE liaison to SIAM News. If you are interested, please contact Karen Devine.
13. SIAM will not hold an annual meeting in 2019. Instead, you are encouraged to participate in the International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ICIAM 2019) to be held in Valencia, Spain in July 2019. A special SIAG CSE track has been organized by Suzanne Shontz consisting of 21 minisymposia on CSE.

14. The SIAM Annual Meeting in 2020 will be held jointly with the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Applied and Industrial Mathematics Society (CAIMS). It will be held on July 6-10, 2020 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Stefan Wild and Hans De Sterck are organizing a SIAM CSE track. Those interested in proposing a minisymposium for the track should contact Hans or Stefan.

15. The Gene Golomb Summer School will focus on High Performance Data Analytics and will be held June 17-28, 2019 in Aussois, France. Information on future summer schools can be found in the slides.

16. Consider joining SIAM if you are not already a member. There are numerous benefits of SIAM membership.

17. The dates and location for the SIAM CSE 2021 Conference are not yet known. A Central/Eastern U.S. hub city has been requested. Stefan Wild is the program director and will serve as one of the conference co-chairs; other co-chairs are being identified.

18. For SIAM CSE 2023, there is interest in holding the conference in a location outside of North America; a partner would be needed in the host location. Two options were presented for holding SIAM meetings outside of the USA. For Option 1, SIAM handles the financial responsibility and manages the meeting. Option 2 involves a local organization which takes financial responsibility for the meeting. For SIAM CSE 2023, notices of intent should be submitted by July 2019, and proposals should be submitted by October 2019. Both should be submitted to the SIAM officers and SIAM.

Discussion Items:

1. A discussion regarding SIAM CSE21 ensued and was led by Stefan Wild. The focus of the discussion was on concerns related to the significant growth that SIAM CSE has experienced and how best to handle it.

The conference format was discussed at length. It was noted that there are some constraints (e.g., technological constraints) on the format based on SIAM processes. It is not clear how much perturbation we can tolerate.

Some attendees indicated that the conference has maxed out the amount of parallelism. Not many venues can hold the conference. To continue to grow, the structure needs to change. We would also like to see more people in attendance at each event.

One suggestion was that SIAM CSE rethink how we handle minisymposia, contributed talks, and poster session. Right now, the contributed talks are second class with the way they are scheduled and attended. In addition, the minisymposia are rather insular. It was suggested to follow the American Geophysical Union (AGU) model which involves large minisymposia that are open submission and involve both invited and contributed talk submissions. This would also result in many fewer conflicts in regards to parallel sessions on the same topic. Note that AGU also restricts the number of talks. When that happens, more people attend the talks. Talks should be limited based on the number of available rooms. It was also noted that poster sessions at AGU are really exciting. AGU also has a much larger organizing committee. It takes much more time and investment to serve on the committee.

Another suggestion was that we change the culture of who presents posters. Senior people need to give posters. Don't just have your students do it. There is lots of interaction at the poster session.

Currently thousands of dollars are given away in poster prizes. If you have other suggestions as to how to promote the poster sessions, please let us know.

E-posters have worked really well in the past (e.g., at the annual meeting) for some of the posters. Would that make the posters better? Presenters could show simulations, slides, etc., and make it more interactive.

To encourage more people to present posters, they could be printed at the meeting. Or fabric posters could be used.

It may help to order the posters by topic. Currently this has to be done by hand.

It was also suggested to conduct the poster session in a minisymposium setting. The first hour could be for a poster blitz. The second hour everyone intermingles and interacts during the poster session. This approach was used at ICIAM when it was in Seoul.

Embedded poster blitzes were also suggested. TVs could be used to display posters. The blitzes could last for 30 minutes and have 10 people per topic per blitz. The posters could then be viewed which surrounded the poster blitzes.

A lengthy discussion was held on the value of presenting a talk versus giving a poster. Some people would rather give a talk, whereas others would rather give a poster. Similarly, some people get more out of attending talks than going to posters. For others, it's the other way around. It's important for the conference to continue to make both types of presentation opportunities available.

Right now you can give a minisymposium talk and a poster. To reduce parallelism, only let people do one of these two presentations.

Talks can be rejected if we would rather hear other work being presented. Instead, people can be asked to present a poster.

A target of 25 parallel sessions was suggested for the minisymposia.

Conflicts could be minimized if keywords were selected when talks and posters are submitted.

Clean data for each abstract and scheduling software are needed in order to put together a conference program with a minimal number of conflicts.

Another possibility would be to partition the conference by topics. There could be a poster session on Topic A while talks on Topic B are occurring. Then switch things around. This way, we are not hearing presentations on all topics together.

It was also suggested to split the conference into 2 or 3 conferences and have them every year. The value of the present system is its charm. The conference has its own way of doing things.

The conference could move from the plenary speaker model to a semi-plenary speaker model. It was noted that the annual meeting (which is smaller than SIAM CSE) has three semi-plenary speakers with parallel talks going on at once.

Please e-mail the officers if you have additional ideas.

2. Other Business

An attendee asked why Spokane was selected for the SIAM CSE19 Conference. Given the size of the conference, it is hard to find locations we fit correctly into. Larger cities want to hold much larger conferences made up of attendees who will pay a lot more for their hotel rooms. Smaller cities are cheaper. One attendee noted that the discussion should not be about the cost of a hotel room. Spokane was difficult to get to, and airfare was rather expensive. Another attendee noted that some people would have trouble getting reimbursed for an expensive hotel room. There is a tradeoff between travel costs and the amount of time spent traveling to the conference and the cost of the hotel room and conference registration.

One attendee noted that they really liked the conference facility.

Scribe: Suzanne Shontz