

The meeting was held on Wednesday, May 15th, 2024 and a presentation was given by Melina Freitag. The minutes were taken by Arvind K. Saibaba.

Fellows and Prizes: The SIAG/LA was well-represented in the SIAM fellows classes of 2022 and 2024. The SIAM fellows from the class of 2022 are James Curry, Chen Greif, Daniel Kressner, Rosemary Renaut, Wil Schilders, Raymond Tuminaro and from class of 2024 are David Bindel, Hans de Sterck, Chao Yang, Ulrike Meier Yang. MF congratulated the winners of the SIAG/LA Best paper prize awarded to Nicolas Boule and Alex Townsend and the SIAG/LA Early Career prize awarded to John Urschell. She also thanked both the prize committee members.

SIAM ALA 2024: MF mentioned that the attendance of the conference has shown a healthy growth in recent years. (2018: 434, 2021 virtual: 617, 2024 Paris: 650). MF thanked the organizers Laura Grigori and Daniel Kressner and also the organizing committee for organizing the 2024 conference.

Upcoming events: MF discussed some current and upcoming events such as the SIAM Annual Meeting 2024 (Spokane, USA), the Gene Golub Summer School 2024 (Quito, Ecuador) and the SIAM ALA 2024 conference (Paris, France). The officers are about to start planning for the SIAM ALA conference in 2027. The meeting will be held in the US, since 2024 was held in Paris. The officers will need to appoint chairs, and work with them on selecting a location. Suggestions for the location are welcome. One possibility is to hold it in New Orleans, where SIAM ALA 2021 was supposed to be held (but was moved online due to Covid). In particular, anyone that wants to organize it at a university is encouraged to contact the officers.

SIAG/LA Membership: MF presented the membership statistics of the SIAG, which shows a slight decrease in recent years but is consistent with SIAM membership decline. To increase student members, the attendees were reminded that each year they can nominate 2 students for free SIAM membership; in addition, they can join up to two SIAGs for free. MF noted the low percentage of women among non-students and students (although the percentage of women in students was slightly higher) and remarked in the last decade, women were highly represented in the SIAG/LA officership.

SIAG/LA Elections: The current 3-year tenure of the SIAG/LA officers is about to end in 2024. There will be an election to decide the new officers for the next term. Members can nominate a colleague (or themselves!) through the form on the SIAG/LA website.

Discussion: After the presentation, the floor was open to discussion and there were two main topics discussed.

The first was about the budget information of the SIAG/LA. SIAM CEO Suzanne Weekes, who was in attendance, mentioned that while budget information of SIAG/LA is not explicitly available, the budget information of SIAM as a whole is available online. A link to the budget is available here:

<https://www.siam.org/about-siam/bylaws-and-reports/detail/financial-reports>

The second was related to several concerns and complaints regarding the high cost of registration at SIAM ALA 2024 compared to previous conferences, and the lack of transparency of the pricing. The high cost of registration prevented several people from the US and eastern European countries from attending. Response from SIAM: The costs have been going up, resulting in higher registration fees. It was mentioned that the budget information used to be provided as a part of the conference registration booklet in the past. Response from SIAM: this will be considered in future years.

The business meeting attendees made a few suggestions to SIAM regarding these discussion points. First, to make the conference pricing calculations more transparent. Second, to make the demographic information of conference attendees in the last few conferences publicly available. Third, to perhaps choose more affordable locations. Ultimately, SIAM is implored to make efforts to not lose members of the community because of the pricing structure.

In response, the SIAM staff promised to take these issues under consideration and to follow-up on some of the action items in the next few weeks, either through SIAM Engage or other avenues.