

SIAG/Opt Business Meeting
Monday, 12 May, 2008, 7:30pm
Imperial Ballroom, Boston Park Plaza Hotel

Michael Ferris, President of SIAG/Opt, presided. He opened by going over the new officers of SIAG/Opt, and thanking the previous officers. He then thanked the organizers of OP08 for doing a great job, in particular that it attracted by far a record number of attendees. He reported that SIAG/Opt's membership is looking good, with many student members, and many non-US members.

There was then a "commercial break", where various people briefly publicized various SIAG/Opt and related publications and activities: Sven Leyffer: the SIAG/Opt newsletter is doing well (and solicits short submissions); Nick Gould: SIOPT is doing well (many submissions, ~40% acceptance rate, ~4.5 months to first review, 11.5 months to acceptance, and less than 2 years between submission and publication on paper; it solicits application-oriented papers); Philippe Toint: the SIAM book series solicits manuscripts; Stephen Wright: Math Prog C(omputation) is starting up after consultations with SIOPT and others, ISMP 2009 in Chicago is coming up, and INFORM's Nicholson Prize committee is soliciting student papers.

Later on Yinyu Ye will be soliciting submissions for the SIAM Optimization Prize for 2011. SIAG/Opt (like every SIAG) "owes" SIAM a track at the SIAM Annual Meeting every 5 years; our next turn is at the 2010 meeting in Pittsburgh. Here a "track" is an invited speaker and 4-6 minisymposium-type sessions that will attract a critical mass of optimization people.

There was some discussion of whether OP11 should be held jointly with ICIAM 2011 in Vancouver. There was some sentiment from the audience that possibly it could be held before or after or with some overlap, but on the whole people seemed against the idea of holding it at the same time for fear that we would be overwhelmed by the larger meeting. Also, ICIAM is set for July 18-22, and we seem to prefer OP to be held in mid to late May.

The co-chairs of OP11 will be Michael Ferris and Stephen Vavasis (or their designates). Michael and Stephen then opened discussion with the audience for suggestions for the site of OP11. Some suggestions: Germany, San Diego (a disadvantage: no direct flights from Europe), LA or San Francisco or Seattle (which do have direct flights). It basically came down to a choice between the west coast of North America or Germany. There was some discussion that holding OP outside North America stretches SIAM's administrative resources, but Jim Crowley noted that the previous OP in Stockholm was a success, and that the SIAM administrative staff were willing to follow the wishes of the SIAG/Opt membership. Michael Ferris took a straw poll, and by one count Germany got 30 votes, the West Coast US got 24 votes. The SIAG/Opt executive said that they would take this preference for Germany under advisement.

Michael Ferris then briefly discussed whether SIAG/Opt should move towards blogs or wikis or other "modern" ways to communicate with its members. The consensus seemed to be that blogs were not needed, but that perhaps a wiki might be useful, subject to coordinating with the NEOS wiki. He then asked if there was other business. There was none, so the meeting was adjourned.

[scribed by Tom McCormick]