

USENIX Association
Board of Directors Meeting
October 18, 2018
9:00 am PST via Video Conference
Minutes

Attendance

Board:

Cat Allman
Kurt Andersen
Michael Bailey
Angela Demke Brown
Kurt Opsahl
Amy Rich
Hakim Weatherspoon -- joined at 9:40

Staff:

Casey Henderson
Ginny Staubach
Natalie DeJarlais

Not present:

Michael Bailey
Carolyn Rowland

Opsahl called the meeting to order at 9:05 am PDT.

Agenda

1) Enigma in 2020

Henderson presented the question of whether to hold Enigma in 2020. There was founding sponsorship from Google over five years; 2020 is the fifth iteration of the conference and the final year of this funding. Sponsorship has secured other funding, but costs are high due to Bay Area meeting space costs, expectations for production values, and labor intensive curated talks. Two venues are on hold until the end of this month when a decision must be made. Discussion ensued. All present expressed support for Enigma continuing in 2020.

2) LISA hotel contract renegotiations following 2018 format change

For the benefit of new Board members, Henderson gave a brief history of LISA and its format changes over time. Last year the Board decided to reduce LISA to three days, a

standard format for similar USENIX events. Henderson has completed renegotiation of the existing LISA contracts through 2021 to align with this new format. Due to the close proximity of the event, the 2018 renegotiation was the most difficult as the hotel had to try to resell excess meeting space and hotel rooms in a short period of time. Henderson brought to the Board's attention that we are still responsible for our food and beverage minimum spend and potential guest room attrition penalties should that resell not occur. Henderson raised issues associated with potentially rebooking with the venue as part of negotiation and recommended against doing so, even if steep financial penalties applied. Discussion ensued. Demke Brown noted that as the Board had previously agreed that there were acceptable financial risks to making this change to LISA format strategy, the Board should maintain its support of that position, despite those risks. All present concurred.

3) Other Business

Demke Brown congratulated Henderson on the success of OSDI. Henderson noted it had the highest attendance ever at 662.

Next Meeting: December 6, 2018, at the USENIX Berkeley office, in-person.

Weatherspoon called for a motion to adjourn. Opsahl moved to adjourn the meeting. Allman seconded the motion. All voted in favor; none opposed. Meeting adjourned.
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