

USENIX Association
Board of Directors Meeting

March 18, 2015

Minutes, 03/18/15

Attendance:

Board:

Brian Noble
David Blank-Edelman
Hakim Weatherspoon
Kurt Opsahl
Carolyn Rowland
John Arrasjid
Dan Klein - via phone 9:25 - 3:30 p.m. PT

Staff:

Casey Henderson
Natalie DeJarlais - via phone
Michele Nelson - via phone
Julie Miller - via phone
Sara Hernandez - via phone
Rik Farrow
Hilary Hartman

USENIX Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, Central Room, 2nd Floor

Meeting begins 9:02 a.m. PT

1. Minutes of the Previous Meetings (10 minutes) (Noble)
 - a. November
4 in favor, 1 abstain.
 - b. December
 - One change to the minutes: Remove the second reference of Dan Klein's attendance.All in favor

Weatherspoon joins the meeting 9:03 am PT

c. January

All in favor

d. February

5 in favor, 1 abstention.

2. Changes to Regular and Consent Agenda (5 minutes) (Noble)

No changes.

Conferences

SREcon15 just ended. The event now has a steering committee consisting of these three chairs and Blank-Edelman, Henderson. We will have new chairs for 2016 but the former chairs have good connections for future chairs. The goal is to have a mission statement/manifesto to share with future chairs and the public so they can continue providing the content for this community with future SREcon events. SREcon15 sold out this year.

Veglia joins the meeting 9:12 a.m. PT

Discussed SREcon15 and our discussion with the chairs from this year of what worked and what didn't plus what the event should look like next time. The scope and scale were good and the chairs want to maintain the same high quality moving forward.

Dan Klein joins the meeting (via phone) 9:25 a.m. PT

We had strong attendance from other locations in Europe and non-US. SREcon Europe is a free event because Google is providing meeting space and sponsorship of food and beverage. We currently have 135 people registered out of a maximum of 250. We are defining this to the community as a special introductory offer. There were a higher number of submissions to SREcon Europe than SREcon in the bay area.

Some attendees might not be able to go if there were reg fees. We have to keep that in mind moving forward when we do charge reg fees. This year we will have vendors but they will be at the offsite reception.

Discussed membership and the communities of SREcon and LISA. These communities are different from our academic communities. The industry communities aren't as interested in a membership organization. We want to provide the right value and content to serve these communities properly, without focusing on membership in the organization.

We are investigating another international location for a future SREcon. The communities might vary depending where we are in the world but we need to focus on the SREcon mission statement.

JETS

JETS is a “journference.” The launch has been slow and it’s unclear if it has enough of a following. USENIX should keep an eye on this event in order to determine its future.

WOOT

We have chairs, Tom Ptacek and Aurélien Francillon, for WOOT. We will expand the steering committee because there are currently only 2 people aside from Henderson.

Security will go to Austin next, then Vancouver in 2017.

New Security-Focused Event

I’ve booked the hotel and staked USENIX’s relationship with Hyatt on this event happening. It will be the last week in January 2016 in San Francisco. Google will be the founding sponsor of the event. We have a timeline in place with all of our plans. [Henderson]

LISA

Two truly excellent program chairs for LISA. The CFP closes April 17. Last year we had to extend it a week.

While renegotiating the contract for LISA15, also talked to the Sheraton Boston about LISA16. Everything is booked for 2016. Just working on the final details of the OSDI contract in Savannah, GA.

3. 2014 Budget with Final Year End (15 minutes) (Henderson and Veglia)

It is an OSDI year. The BOD is reminded that this budget is un-audited so there might be some adjustments when we prepare for audit. Henderson opens the floor to questions on the 2014 year-end budget.

The BOD asked some clarifying questions about the 2014 year end budget.

Break: 10:27 a.m. PT

Resumed meeting 10:45 a.m. PT

4. 2015 Final Budget (60 minutes) (Henderson and Veglia)

LISA SIG

We should do the same thing we did with the code of conduct and put together a task force to determine the value of LISA SIG. [Noble]

NSDI (cont.)

This year NSDI is co-locating with IEEE ANCS and SOSR (Symposium on SDN research) at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara. Next year it will be co-located with ONS. ANCS is a different academic audience, while ONS is an industry audience.

Henderson provides a discussion of how budget projections change as we get to actual spending for events. Her example was how hotel use can change and we renegotiate as room block and catering needs change.

Blank-Edelman talks about the raw budget data and how useful it is to look at it graphically (cost, attendance, etc.). If provided access to the raw data, he might be able to create some visual reports that could help the BOD better understand.

Henderson warns that looking at specific areas of the budget might look strange because of differences in the way we broke out expenses from year to year.

What could be easy to do is to look at attendance numbers for individual events. This information is available to the BOD via registration statistics going back many years.

Discussion of email marketing/list rental and direct mailing.

The BOD discusses the value of certain expenditures to market our mission and events. Henderson describes how we use certain tools to expand our communities and how these expenditures fit in with the individual conference budgets as a whole.

Action items:

- **Add marketing to December agenda. [Henderson]**

Motion to approve the the budget [Arrasjid], Seconded, unanimously carried by all BOD attendees (1 missing).

5. Reserve Fund Review (5 minutes) (Henderson and Veglia)

I want us to think about a world where we can use the fund for good works. We want to use these resources responsibly. [Noble]

6. Risk/Exposure Report (10 minutes) (Henderson and Veglia)

The BOD reviews the risk/exposure report and discusses it against the reserve fund. The fund could be seen as a way to cover our risk exposure. There's what's left after we cover our risk exposure. Take the fund balance, subtract the risk exposure and take a small percentage of that for our spend (~4.5%).

7. Conferences (60 minutes) (Henderson)

HotOS

Accepted 29 papers for HotOS. ACM SIGOPS will host this event in the future because the costs to run the event align better with their financial model for conference management than that of USENIX.

NSDI

The program is in. The publication schedule stayed the same even though the conference moved to May (from April). ANCS (IEEE Symposium on Architectures for Networking and Communications Systems) will be taking place right after that could lead to some overlap of attendees. Hartman and Henderson have been meeting with the ONS organizers in preparation for next year. The event will move from May to mid-March and that will be the earliest it has ever occurred. The publication deadlines will stay the same but the whole process will get tighter. [Henderson]

NSF big-data meetings

USENIX continues to work on logistics of NSF big-data events. We received grant approval a week or so ago. The whitepaper submissions are coming in. These are 40-person meetings. Henderson will be traveling around the country to run these four events. The attendees are mostly from industry. This effort is part of [Project Open Data](#) (via the White House). Participants are creating profiles on the USENIX web site and can opt-in to whether or not they want to hear more from USENIX. The four regional meetings lead into a larger national meeting in DC just before LISA15. It should be easier for staff to manage it. [Henderson]

HotCloud/HotStorage

The chairs have listened to input from the steering committee to make these “workshops” into real workshops, not “baby conferences.” Both sets of chairs are interested in having overlap between the two events.

Security

We have the largest number of security submissions in history. The program chair is doing an excellent job of scaling the process for this number of papers. Many of the papers were submitted because of the Internet Defense Prize. We got over 500 submissions for ~88 paper slots. Many of the submissions are going to be rejected because they did not meet the paper submission requirements. There will be a third track as invited talks this year as well. In 2016 we have significantly more space (in Texas).

The goal is to be responsible for the organization's overall mission. [Noble]

Lunch: 12:00--1:00 p.m. PT

Reconvened 1:04 p.m. PT

Joining by phone:

Julie Miller

Michele Nelson

Jessica Kim

Camille Mulligan

Natalie DeJarlais

8. LISA Special Interest Group (90 minutes) (Blank-Edelman, Henderson, and Rowland)

Concerned about LISA SIG being a liability for the organization if we do not take action to define it with realistic benefits.

Task Force to look at the LISA-Sig:

BOD members

- Blank-Edelman
- Carolyn Rowland

staff member

- Julie Miller

members of the community

- Andrew Hume
- Mario Obejas, Chair
- Tom Limoncelli

Charge: Why do people pay to join the LISA-Sig? Is there something USENIX can do to provide value that doesn't detract from our reputation and ties in with goals for the re-engineered LISA conference? There will be staff support for this group. Will survey current LISA SIG members.

Action items

- **Reach out to community members to request their participation on the LISA SIG task force. [Henderson]**
- **Need report providing recommended options with pros/cons of each on LISA SIG from the task force by August 2015 meeting. [Task Force, Henderson]**

Break: 2:15--2:30 p.m.

9. CompCultureCon Concept (70 minutes) (Henderson and Rowland)

Culture crosses multiple communities. Discussion of audience, sponsorship, financial model, content basis.

Action:

- **Consider putting together existing videos on culture talks and create a stream on culture. [Miller]**

10. Next Meetings (5 minutes) (Noble)

Break: 3:24--3:30 p.m.

11. Executive Session (60 minutes)

Exec session begins 3:32 p.m. PT
Exec session ends 4:37 p.m. PT
Regular session ends 4:37 p.m. PT

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carolyn R. H.", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.