

USENIX Association
Board of Directors Meeting

August 16, 2013

Minutes, 08/16/13

Attendance:

Board:

Margo Seltzer
Dan Wallach
Brian Noble
Carolyn Rowland
David Blank-Edelman
Niels Provos
John Arrasjid

Staff:

Anne Dickison
Casey Henderson

Joining by Phone

Toni Veglia

Guests

Dan Appleman

9:06am ET Meeting called to order.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meetings (5 minutes) (Seltzer)

a. April Minutes

Motion to approve, seconded, motion carried [7 in favor, 0 abstentions].

b. July Minutes

Motion to approve, seconded, motion carried, [5 in favor, 2 abstentions]

a. Bylaws Vote

The officers propose changes to the bylaws (see attached). [Note from 10/11/13: No members have existing concerns about the bylaws changes, having been given a 30 day reply period on these changes. Thus the bylaws changes will go into effect upon approval of these minutes by the board.]

Motion to accept changes, seconded, motion carried [7 in favor, 0 abstentions].

2. Audit Committee Plan (15 minutes) (Seltzer)

President, Treasurer and Executives are not allowed to serve on audit committee. Committee approves report from auditors. Auditor will be asking questions such as “do the books fairly represent the organization (to the best of your knowledge)?” A non BOD member raised the issue of protection for the members of the audit committee. BOD members have insurance, but coverage doesn’t extend to audit committee members who are not BOD members. It is reasonable to have insurance coverage for the non-BOD members on the audit committee.

Henderson asked Provos if he would consider serving an additional year on the audit committee after he leaves the BOD.

Seltzer suggested we re-constitute the audit committee with the members Provos, Arrasjid, and Eric Allman. [Seltzer]

Output from the audit committee is the audit report and minutes from the meetings. [Seltzer, Henderson]

The EDs reviewed a draft letter from the auditor firm stating that the financial affairs of the organization are in order.

Motion to extend insurance coverage and indemnification for members of the audit committee not on the USENIX BOD, motion seconded, motion carried [7 in favor, 0 abstentions, 0 against]

3. Update on Security '13, FAST '14, NSDI '14, OSDI '14 (30 minutes) (Dickison, Henderson)

FAST '14 the call is out. It will be at RedHat right after FAST. Rick Wheeler is leading the workshop and has some big names.

Security: Registration is up by 30-40 people over last year. We've had an excellent amount of press coverage. We have 10 or possibly 15 press registered. The articles are mentioning USENIX in particular. It has been a lively conference. SIGCOMM is taking place this week in Hong Kong. We have reached out to their leadership about avoiding this conflict but it looks like they will be at the same time as us next year. [Henderson]

The feeling at this conference has been fantastic. The energy level is high. [Seltzer]

NSDI will be in Seattle the first week of April this year. [Henderson]

OSDI chairs are working on the call. Mostly locked in the schedule. Waiting to finalize on PC. It will be in Colorado, outside of Denver, next year. [Henderson]

4. Plans for Honoring Evi Nemeth (10 minutes) (Dickison, Henderson)

We talked about doing something in Evi's honor at LISA. Yoshi wanted to do something at Security. I realized that Evi designed the 9-layer shirts and asked Paul Vixie if we could get some to sell at cost. They put 100 in a box and shipped them to us. We asked people to wear their 9-layer shirts, which many did. We talked to her son Laslo who is still searching for her. It was really a lovely event. LISA is her community so we should do something there. [Seltzer]

*Bio break 11:20am ET
reconvened 11:32am ET*

5. Executive Session: Legal Issues (45 minutes) (Appelman)

Executive session adjourned 11:59am ET.

*Lunch
Resumed regular BOD meeting at 1:04pm ET.*

6. ED Update and Discussion: Part I (60 minutes) (Dickison, Henderson)

The EDs present their vision for USENIX. They talked about open access in relation to USENIX's goals and how we can continue to move the organization forward. The EDs presented a timeline of actions they would take to define and implement a shared vision for the organization. The EDs will reach out to the community and others for feedback.

We don't say on our website "this is what open access means to USENIX" and we should have that. We also don't have our donor page up. [Henderson]

7. ED Update and Discussion: Part II (Dickison, Henderson)
a. Part II, USENIX and Academic Freedom (45 minutes)

Covered during executive session.

b. Fundraising Update/Strategy (35 minutes)

Derry came by and we got to meet him in person. We are focusing on student programs and WiAC, etc. We have a timeline for getting information up on the site. A few weeks ago I sent out a job description on fundraising committee. Who wants to be on the fundraising committee? [Dickison]

Committee Volunteers:

Dan Wallach

Margo Seltzer

*Break at 2:29pm ET
Back to order 2:45pm ET*

8. Conferences

- a. Liaisons (15 minutes) (Dickison, Henderson).

Conference liaisons no longer have to be BOD members. Members of the community can serve as the liaison for events. This will be a "USENIX liaison" instead of BOD liaison. It makes more sense to have someone within that community act as liaison. Liaisons will have to attend the event and write a report on it to USENIX. [Henderson]

- b. LISA (50 minutes) (Blank-Edelman, Dickison, Henderson)

Blank-Edelman presented to the BOD the points of discussion that occurred at FCW around a theme for the LISA conference going forward. We discussed some of the new content that would be included in the LISA '13 program. The BOD was able to ask questions of Blank-Edelman, Seltzer and Rowland who were in several LISA strategy meetings during FCW.

We started talking about FCW:

For 2014 we should do a CSCW experiment.

- They tweaked their reviewing process so they had a slightly earlier deadline.
- Accepted easy acceptance papers, Rejected obvious unacceptable submissions, then provided feedback to the papers in the middle for resubmission. Accepted about 2x the papers they normally do with the dual process. [Seltzer]

It is not consistent with our plan to shrink papers to 2 days.

You're already doing shorter presentations to compress into 2 days.

We talked about changing the focus of FCW to cloud, storage, and sysadmin related things, add a reverse engineering workshop, config management did well. We also considered adding some LISA tutorials, ending some workshops, changing the format of WiAC. Also, HotPAR went down to one day. FCW is down by one day this year (Tuesday - Friday). We already have two tracks for ATC (papers and talks). [Dickison, Henderson]

CSCW gave five weeks between rounds of reviews. [Noble]

Community meeting in June at FCW there was a suggestion to have a FCW chair that had oversight over all events or for staff to take a more active role in coordinating breaks/talk slots, etc. There was also a suggestion to have a plenary schedule for people who wanted to hit all of the big talks across multiple events. [Rowland, Noble]

9. Other Items for Consideration (15 minutes) (Seltzer)

We are collecting all of your [the BOD's] ideas. [Henderson]

Is there more that USENIX can do to support academic freedom?
Are there any additional stances we can take?

Can we define academic freedom? [Provos]

Our authors freely able to publish without being enjoined. [Henderson]

Action Items:

- **Security steering committee with Niels Provos to draft a whitepaper and video on how to publish. [Provos]**
- **Come up with group of people to work with Niels on whitepaper and video on how to publish (security steering committee). [Henderson]**

10. Next Meetings (5 minutes) (Dickison, Henderson)

Logistical question regarding BOD calls. We've been using Go To Meeting. For the next meeting we'll do a [Google] hangout. People who are calling in will still call in and the hangout will dial into Go To Meeting to join the phone people with the hangout people.

Move to adjourn 4:08 [Provos], Second [Noble], Carried by all in attendance (7 BOD members).

Dinner: 7:00 p.m. at Lincoln, 1110 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC

