

USENIX Association

Board of Directors Conference Call

September 9, 2014

Minutes, 09/09/14

Attendance:

Board:

Carolyn Rowland
Brian Noble
David Blank-Edelman
John Arrasjid
Cat Allman
Hakim Weatherspoon

Staff:

Casey Henderson
Natalie DeJarlais

Previously scheduled, recurring conference call with the USENIX BOD and USENIX staff.

Meeting started 1:07pm ET

Agenda: Code of Conduct implementation at USENIX Security 14

The call began with discussion of the code of conduct email received by the BOD by attendees of USENIX Security '14 and the interactions of some of the BOD and staff with attendees at Security during two code of conduct violations.

Noble provided a summary of events at Security for the BOD members who weren't at the conference. An image in the keynote went against our code of conduct so it was removed from the posted video with notification to the speaker. The program chair made a low-key apology to the audience. Later in the week, there was a second instance where the code of conduct was also violated. A replacement co-speaker was brought in for one of the talks. He used profanity and made some inappropriate remarks during the talk. Staff saw tweets about the talk, an email was sent to USENIX, and persons approached the USENIX registration desk to lodge complaints about the talk. Henderson stepped into the talk and spoke to the

session chair who ended the session as soon as possible and apologized for the nature of the presentation.

Noble suggests that we convene a committee of ~8 consisting of current BOD members, staff, previous BOD members, community members, and signatories from the letter to review feedback and collect outside opinions. Noble asks the BOD to think about people to consider. The BOD and ED made recommendations for the committee. Noble wants a diversity of opinions.

Motion to form Code of Conduct Review Committee community is passed with 7 in favor, 1 absent. The committee

- Will **not** be responsible for reviewing Code of Conduct violations
- **Will** review USENIX code of conduct in light of recent events and compare to others in the community and make recommendations to the BOD.
- BOD would like recommendations by December 1 for the December BOD meeting and implementation in 2015.

Action Items:

- Reach out to potential committee members [Noble]
- Respond to email sent to BOD [Noble]

Meeting adjourned 1:50 pm ET