USENIX Association

Board of Directors Meeting

December 11, 2013

MInutes, 12/11/13

Attendance:

Board:
Carolyn Rowland
Margo Seltzer
David Blank-Edelman
Brian Noble
John Arrasjid
Niels Provos -- *arrived 9:13am, left at the lunch break*

Staff:
Anne Dickison
Casey Henderson
Rik Farrow
Toni Veglia
Camille Mulligan
Derron Thweatt
Michele Nelson
Julie Miller

Joining by Phone
Judy Bausch (conference manager)
Rikki Endsley -- joined 9:18am
Niels Provos -- 2:58 pm
Sasha Fedorova -- joined after lunch

Guests
Glenn Samson
Karen Alexander

Meeting called to order at 9:01am PT

1. New Staff Introductions (5 minutes)

Introductions to people new or new to a BOD meeting:
- Judy Bausch - Conference Manager
- Derron Thweatt - Events and Projects Coordinator
- Karen Alexander - Finance Team [first BOD meeting]

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (5 minutes) (Seltzer)
a. August

Motion to approve, seconded, and carried [5 in favor, 3 absent]

b. September

Motion to approve, seconded, and carried [5 in favor, 3 absent]

c. October

Motion to approve, seconded, and carried [5 in favor, 3 absent]

3. Changes to Regular and Consent Agenda (5 minutes) (Seltzer)

No changes.

4. Reserve Fund Performance and Projections (20 minutes) (Samson)

Samson handed out a projection sheet for 2013 year end.
Both the stock and bond markets are doing well. USENIX bonds have returned 3-4% return.
Glenn discussed the current economy, what experts are predicting relating to stocks, bonds, and interest rates as well as how that might impact our investments in the short and longer-term.

5. 2014 Draft Budget (60 minutes) (Dickison, Henderson, and Veglia)

The EDs presented the draft 2014 budget, which needs approval. The voted is delayed until the end of the meeting, pending any modiciations arising during the meeting.

The 2014 budget is the result of a new budget process that incorporates consistent projecting cycles and milestones from each department. This new process has better break out for costs of workshops and conferences. In addition, each week, accounting produces a Monday mashup report summarizing cash balances, expected inflows and outflows.

The BOD raised questions about the budget and process to better understand what we were approving.

Lost Rikki Endsley on the call 9:38am
Rikki Endsley re-joined 9:41am

The board and EDs then discussed LISA connectivity charges and approaches to ensuring better connectivity at LISA.

Henderson suggested looking at our budget over a 2 year cycle instead of a 1 year to better handle biannual events (e.g., OSDI).

The Board then discussed implications of different membership options and the LISA-sig.

Break 10:25
10:41 resumed meeting

6. Strategic Plan/Discussion for 2014–15 (60 minutes) (Dickison and Henderson)

Strategy overview

Discussed open access and strategic direction for USENIX. The EDs presented a draft updated mission statement for the organization [The draft statement is presented as a discussion point and is in no way final]:

> **"USENIX, the Advanced Computing Systems Association, Provides open access to innovative computing research and practice, presented and discussed in neutral forums, while facilitating community collaboration and participation by students and underrepresented groups."**

The EDs suggest that we need the USENIX brand to mean more than conferences; it should include our mission-driven programs. The board then discussed the multiple USENIX communities and how to position open access for those communities.

NSDI

The EDs are discussing partnering with the Open Networking Summit (ONS). For 2015 or later the model would be to run the events consecutively, in an effort to foster interaction between the two communities and increase the size of NSDI. We are working in cooperation with them for 2014.

The BOD asked about pros and cons of partnering with ONS: how we would manage a larger hallway track and what the longevity of this pairing could be for the two organizations.

FCW

The BOD and USENIX EDs and staff discussed the future of FCW. The main issues of discussion were: 1) A possibly hybrid model similar to EVT/WOTE and JETS, 2) Preserving ATC as a publication forum, and 3) Preservation of HotCloud and potential partnership opportunities.

Open Access

The USENIX goal in open access is to make it free to users, but doing so requires that we find a mechanism to fund it. We should highlight open access in our mission statement and web presence.

The board discussed ways to financially support open access and the relationship between fundraising and membership.

Good Works

In times of budget austerity, our good works expenditures have taken a necessary hit. Of our current activities, WiAC (Women in Advanced Computing) and the student grant program are both good works; the EDs asked for direction on how much of the budget to apportion to such programs.

Break for lunch 12:23, return 1:15

7. Conference Liaisons (10 minutes) (Seltzer)
Lunch: 12:00-1:00 p.m. (catered by Picante Mexican Restaurant) with staff
8. LISA Conference (45 minutes) (Blank-Edelman, Dickison, Henderson, and Rowland)

Reconvened 1:23
Sasha Fedorova joined the call 1:23pm

LISA:

There has been a great deal of discussion around the future of LISA; the goal of LISA should be:

1) Provide systems people with a bridge to the future (where we are going or where they should be), focusing more on education of systems engineers.

2) Highlight advanced work being done in the field, ideally in a hands-on fashion.

There is also a desire to make LISA less confusing, reduce the number of session conflicts, and too many things going on at once.

9. Training Program (30 minutes) (Farrow and Klein)

LISA slate had 50% new content.

The FAST tutorial slate is set.

Approximately 300 people took training at LISA.

With the transition of training to Rik Farrow, we expect greater interaction with program committees and event liaisons to make sure that we are always attracting the newest, latest, and greatest content.

The board discussed the timing conflict between LISA and other events; the EDs continue to try to coordinate with other communities, but they often select dates much later than we do and do not coordinate with us.

The board then discussed a potential new event for 2014 that came out of discussions at FCW and LISA.

Action Item:
● Staff should determine if a new low-cost event complementary to senior IT operations or SRE content is feasible for 2014.

Break: 2:50 p.m.
Reconvened 3:00 p.m.

10. Fundraising Update (30 minutes) (Dickison and Henderson)

Launched the individual donor campaign. 100% staff participation. BOD members investigated company matching for donations. We've had donations from as far away as Japan and Finland.

Action:
● Share the fundraising documentation with the BOD. [Dickison] - Done 12/12/13

The board discussed two types of funds we could raise: Current use and endowed; immediate term needs are for current use funds. Potential donors interested in endowment funds should be directed towards support of open access.

11. Next Meetings (10 minutes) (Seltzer)

Meeting at Federated Conferences Week June 16-20, 2014 in Philly

Action:
- Send out a doodle poll for March and April 2014 to find next in-person meeting date. [Dickison, Henderson]
- Schedule monthly phone calls. [Dickison, Henderson]

Move to adjourn, 5,0. 3:26.

Break: 3:10-3:15 p.m.

12. Executive Session Meeting adjourns no later than 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made via email and seconded to accept the proposed budget. The BOD voted via email on 12/12/13 and 12/13/13 [8 yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain]