AAAI News

*Spring News from the
American Association for Artificial Intelligence*

Save the Date!

*July 22–26, 2006—AAAI-07
in Vancouver, Canada!*

The Twenty-Second National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-07) and the Nineteenth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-07) will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver, July 22–26, 2007. Please plan to join us for our second conference in Canada!

Join Us for AAAI-06 and IAAI-06, Celebrating AI's Fiftieth Anniversary

The Twenty-First National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-06) and the Eighteenth Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-06) will be held in Boston, Massachusetts at the Seaport Hotel and World Trade Center, July 16–20, 2006.

The AAAI-06 keynote address will be given by Tim Berners-Lee, Director of the World Wide Web Consortium, on Tuesday, July 18. Other invited speakers include Pedro Domingos (University of Washington), Ken Koedinger (Carnegie Mellon University), Karen Myers (SRI International), and Dan Roth (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). The IAAI-06 invited speaker program will include Sebastian Thrun (Stanford University), among others yet to be announced.

Several exciting new programs will be available, including special tracks on AI and the Web and Integrated Intelligent Capabilities, Senior Member Papers, Nectar Papers and AAAI Member Posters. AAAI-06 will also feature 10 half-day and 5 full-day tutorials, 17 workshops, the AAAI Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, the General Game Playing Competition, the Intelligent Systems Demonstration program, the Student Abstract Posters, and the AAAI/SIGART Doctoral Consortium.

Registration, hotel, and student housing information and forms are available on the AAAI-06 conference web site at www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai06.php. The early registration deadline is May 13, 2006.

Collocated Event

The Fifth North American School on Agents and Multi-Agent Systems will collocate with AAAI-06. For further information, contact Roger Mailler at mailler@ai.sri.com.

Boston

Boston provides an ideal spot to celebrate 50 years of AI, with its world-class AI centers and businesses. In addition, the city is packed with history, museums, and recreational activities during the summer months. Walk the Freedom Trail, visit the John F. Kennedy Library, enjoy Shakespeare on the Boston Common, or take a cruise on the bay, just outside the door of the conference venue, and don't forget to sample the delicious food in the North End! For more information on Boston, please visit www.bostonusa.com. We will see you in Boston!

AAAI Member—Submit a Poster to AAAI-06!

AAAI-06 invites submissions to the Member Abstracts and Poster program. The submission deadline is Wednesday, April 19.

The goal of this novel program is to provide a forum in which AAAI members can present and discuss their work based on a submitted abstract, rather than a regular AAAI paper. To stimulate cross-fertilization and the free circulation of ideas, AAAI encourages its members to submit posters of three types: (1) an original, unpublished work, (2) a summary of a recently published paper, or (3) an overview or synthesis of the author's work in a particular field or application of AI.

For complete details, please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/2006/aaai06members.php

Showcase Your Intelligent Systems Demo at AAAI-06!

The AAAI Intelligent Systems Demonstrations program showcases state-of-the-art AI implementations and provides AI researchers with an opportunity to show their research in action. The submission deadline is Tuesday, April 4, 2006.

Researchers from all areas of AI are encouraged to submit proposals to demonstrate their systems. Submissions will be evaluated on the basis of their innovation, relevance, scientific contribution, presentation, and usability, as well as potential logistical constraints. For complete information about the program and how to submit, please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai06.php.

Fourteenth Annual AAAI Robot Competition and Exhibition

AAAI invites you to participate in the Fifteenth Annual AAAI Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition, which brings together teams from universities, colleges, and research laboratories to compete and to demonstrate cutting edge, state of the art research in robotics and artificial intelligence. Hurry! Registration closes Tuesday, April 11.

This year's program, to be held in conjunction with AAAI-06 in Boston, will include the Robot Challenge, the Open Interaction Event, the Scavenger Hunt, the Robot Exhibition, and the Mobile Robot Workshop. More detailed information about each event, as well as how to register, is available

at palantir.swarthmore.edu/aaai06/.

AAAI Second Annual General Game Playing Competition

AAAI is pleased to announce the Second Annual Game Playing Competition, to be held in conjunction with AAAI-06 in Boston, Massachusetts, July 16–20. This competition is designed to test the abilities of general game playing systems by comparing their performance on a variety of games. The competition will consist of two phases: a qualification round and a runoff competition. A $10,000 prize will be awarded to the winning entrant. The competition is open to all computer systems, except those generated by affiliates of Stanford University. Sorry, no human players allowed. For a complete call for participation, please see www.aaai.org/Conferences/AAAI/aaai06.php. In addition, the competition website at games.stanford.edu contains further details, including the description of the underlying framework, the game description language, and the programmatic interfaces necessary to play the games.

Student Scholar and Volunteer Program

AAAI is pleased to announce the continuation of its student scholar and volunteer programs. Applications to the program are due by Tuesday, April 28.

The Student Scholar program provides partial travel support for students who are full-time undergraduate or graduate students at colleges and universities; are members of AAAI; submit papers to the conference program or letters of recommendation from their faculty advisor; and submit scholarship applications to AAAI by April 28, 2006. In addition, repeat scholarship applicants must have fulfilled the volunteer and reporting requirements for previous awards. In the event that scholarship applications exceed available funds, preference will be given to students who have an accepted technical paper, and then to students who are actively participating in the conference in some way. However, all eligible students are encouraged to apply.

After the conference, an expense re-

port will be required to account for the funds awarded. For further information about the Scholarship program, or to obtain an application, please contact AAAI at scholarships06@aaai.org, or write to 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Telephone: 650-328-3123.

The Student Volunteer program is an essential part of the conference and student participation is a valuable contribution. Volunteers will support AAAI conference organizers in Boston, Massachusetts. In 2006, a limited number of complimentary technical program registrations will be available for students who volunteer during the conference. Preference will be given to student scholars for the volunteer positions. Local students or students not requiring travel assistance can apply for the Volunteer program if openings are available. AAAI membership is required for eligibility. For further information regarding the Student Volunteer program, please contact AAAI at volunteer06@aaai.org.

Check Out the Second Annual Artificial Intelligence for Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference (AIIDE-06)!

The Second Annual Artificial Intelligence for Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference (AIIDE-06), to be held June 20–23, 2006, at the Marriott Hotel in Marina del Rey, California, is intended to be the definitive point of interaction between entertainment software developers interested in AI and academic and industrial AI researchers. The conference is targeted at both the research and commercial communities, promoting AI research and practice in the context of interactive digital entertainment systems with an emphasis on commercial computer and video games. The conference will include a technical program and an interactive demo program.

Registration information, as well as full details about the conference program can be found at the AIIDE-06 web sites: www.aaai.org/Conferences/AIIDE/aiide06.php or www.aiide.org.

AAAI Executive Council Elections

Please watch your mail for your AAAI ballot, which will be mailed to all regular AAAI members in April. The membership will vote four new councilors, who will each serve three-year terms. Ballots will be due back at the AAAI office no later than June 2. The annual business meeting for AAAI will be held this summer during AAAI-06 in Boston, Massachusetts. The exact day and time will be announced on the ballot, in the summer issue of the magazine, and in the conference program.

2006 Fall Symposium Series

The 2006 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, October 13–15, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Washington, DC. The Symposium Series will be preceded on Thursday, October 12 by a one-day AI funding seminar, which will be open to all registered attendees of the Fall Symposium series. The topics of the eight symposia are:

- Aurally Informed Performance: Integrating Machine Listening and Auditory Presentation in Robotic Systems. Derek Brock (brock@aic.nrl.navy.mil)
- Capturing and Using Patterns for Evidence Detection. Ken Murray (murray@ai.sri.com)
- Developmental Systems. Sanjeev Kumar (sk525@cornell.edu)
- Image Comprehension. Walt Truszkowski (Walt.Truszkowski@nasa.gov)
- Integrating Logical Reasoning into Everyday Applications. Mike Kassoff (mkassoff@stanford.edu)
- Interaction and Emergence in Societies of Agents. Goran Trajkovski (gtrajkovski@towson.edu)
- Knowledge Acquisition from Autonomous, Semantically Disparate, Distributed Information Sources. Vasant Honavar (honavar@cs.iastate.edu)
- Spacecraft Autonomy: Using AI to Expand Human Space Exploration. David Kortenkamp (korten@traclabs.com)

AAAI Has a New Website!

AAAI launched a new website earlier this year, and we are pleased to announce some new features for members in this new system. First of all, please take a moment to create your new account by taking the following steps:

1. Go to http://www.aaai.org and click on "members log-in."

2. Select "Not registered? Sign up now" in the upper right-hand corner.

3. Fill in the requested information.

4. You will be sent a message with the subject line: [AAAI] Registration Successful

5. Before you can use the activation code in this message, AAAI must authorize your account. Please allow one business day for this to occur. No authorizations can be made over the weekend.

6. Once your account has been authorized, you can activate it, using the code sent in the message described in step 4.

7. A password will be sent to you immediately, and you can then log on to the members only site. You will be able to change your password to one of your own choosing.

Please note that AAAI logins and passwords issued prior to January of 2006 are no longer active, so all current AAAI members will need to create new accounts in order to access the AAAI Members Only site. The Members Only site includes convenient links to the AAAI Digital Library, *AI Journal Access,* conference photographs, a coupon for 20% off AAAI publications, and announcements about other member benefits.

The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2006. Please refer to the call for participation at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/fss06.php.

2007 Spring Symposium Series

AAAI is currently accepting proposals for the 2007 Spring Symposium Series, to be held at Stanford University, California, March 26–28, 2007.

Approximately eight symposia on a broad range of topics within and around AI will be selected for the 2007 Spring Symposium series. All proposals will be reviewed by the AAAI Symposium committee, (chair: Alan Schultz, Naval Research Lab; cochair: Marjorie Skubic, University of Missouri-Columbia; and associate chair: Karen Myers, SRI International). Symposium proposals should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than April 21, 2006. See www.aaai.org/Symposia/Spring/sss07.php for details.

Please submit your symposium proposals by electronic mail (no postal submissions), and inquiries concerning symposia, to Alan C. Schultz, Director, Navy Center for Applied Research in Artificial Intelligence, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington DC, schultz@aic.nrl.navy.mil, (202) 767-2684, (202) 767-3172 (fax).

AAAI Member News

AAAI regrets to report that Victor Saks, a longtime member of AAAI, passed away on November 17, 2005. Saks was a mathematics professor, computer software engineer, topologist, and popular teacher of Kabbalah. He earned a master's degree in computer science from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a doctorate in mathematics in 1972 from Wesleyan University. He taught at several colleges, including the University of Costa Rica and SUNY. After moving to Pittsburgh in 1985, he conducted research and development in applications of artificial intelligence to solve real world problems with the Carnegie Group. Victor Saks continued with Transarc, a software development firm that was acquired by IBM in 1994. He was also an advisory software engineer with IBM.

AAAI Executive Council Minutes

The Executive Council Meeting was held July 10, 2005, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Attending: Ron Brachman, Alan Mackworth, Tom M. Mitchell, Ted Senator, Tony Cohn, Tim Finin, Lise Getoor, Yolanda Gil, Carla Gomes, Jim Hendler, David Leake, Michael Littman, Andrew Moore, Karen Myers, Illah Nourbakhsh, Peter Stone (partial), Carol Hamilton, Mike Hamilton

Not attending: Steve Chien, Oren Etzioni, Haym Hirsh, Maja Mataric, Yoav Shoham, Eric Horvitz, Maria Gini, Kevin Knight, Sebastian Thrun

AAAI President Ron Brachman brought the meeting to order at 9:00 AM, and introductions were made. The minutes of the last meeting on March 20, 2005, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were approved. Secretary-Treasurer Ted Senator briefly reviewed the fiduciary responsibilities of the Council members

Standing Committee Reports

Finance. Finance Committee Chair Ted Senator noted that the budget for 2005 was slightly better than anticipated because of some minor cuts that were made during the early part of the year. In addition, the location and format of the conference resulted in lower costs than in recent years. In addition, the new AIIDE conference broke even. However, the association is still operating with close to a $600,000 deficit, and Senator encouraged the Council to find ways to reverse this pattern. Ron Brachman noted that the Council and each of the committees should suggest areas of growth to help balance the budget. He requested that each committee find two innovative ideas to grow numbers in their specific areas.

Fellows/Awards/Nominating. Past President Tom Mitchell, who chairs the Fellows Selection committee, Awards committee, and the Nominating committee, reviewed the list of AAAI awards for 2005. Four new fellows were elected, including Usama M. Fayyad (Yahoo, Inc.), Raymond J. Mooney (University of Texas at Austin), Andrew W. Moore (Carnegie Mellon University), and David E. Smith (NASA Ames Research Center). The 2005 Classic Paper award was awarded to two papers from the AAAI-86, including Steve Hanks (University of Washington) and Drew McDermott (Yale University) for their paper "Default Reasoning, Nonmonotonic Logics, and the Frame Problem," and David Haussler (University of California, Santa Cruz) for his paper "Quantifying the Inductive Bias in Concept Learning." The AAAI Distinguished Service award was given to Nils Nilsson (Stanford University), and the Robert S. Engelmore Memorial award was presented to James A. Hendler (University of Maryland).

Other conference awards presented included the AAAI-05 Outstanding Paper award, which was given to Vincent A. Cicirello (Drexel University) and Stephen F. Smith (Carnegie Mellon University) for their paper "The Max K- Armed Bandit: A New Model of Exploration Applied to Search Heuristic Selection;" the AAAI-05 Outstanding Senior Program Committee Member award, which was presented to Gaurav Sukhatme (University of Southern California); and the AAAI-05 Outstanding Program Committee award, which was given to Joerg Hoffmann (Max-Planck-Institute for Computer Science). IAAI-05 honored authors of seven outstanding papers with the IAAI-05 Deployed Applications award. Finally, an exciting addition in 2005 was the $10,000 prize for the winner of the General Game Playing Competition.

AAAI continued to award ten prizes of $500 each for the best projects in the area of computer science with an artificial intelligence component at the annual Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Reid Simmons served as the chair for this event, and judges included Sven Koenig, David Kortenkamp, and Holly Yanco. In

2005, there were 10 winning projects by 12 winning students (one team of 3). Five projects were entered in the category of computer science and five were entered in engineering.

Mitchell also welcomed the four new members of the AAAI Executive Council (Maria Gini, Kevin Knight, Peter Stone, and Sebastian Thrun), and thanked the outgoing councilors (Carla Gomes, Michael Littman, Maja Mataric, and Yoav Shoham) for their work during the past three years.

Conference. Conference Committee Chair Jim Hendler reported that the number of papers exceeded all expectations with 803 submissions. Although paper submissions are usually down in an IJCAI year, the timing of the paper deadline after the IJCAI-05 notification deadline may have contributed to this significant rise in submissions. The rise in submissions, and subsequent acceptances, resulted in a significant increase of 25 percent in attendance over 2004 (preregistration figures). However, the greatest growth was in student registrations, so there was little positive impact on the conference revenue. It is hoped, however, that the submission and attendance trend will continue in 2006.

Hendler noted that the program cochairs for 2005, Manuela Veloso and Rao Kambhampati, created several new features for the 2005 conference, including the sister conference track, the conference-wide poster and demo session, and a new schedule where no invited speakers run in parallel with technical paper talks. The General Game Playing Competition was added, and Tim Finin reported that a student blog run by student volunteers would be available on site. Yolanda Gil, program cochair for AAAI-06, noted that the Conference Committee has a good mechanism in place to transfer the successes of 2005 to 2006.

Gil reported on the plans that she and cochair Ray Mooney have made thus far for AAAI-06. The position of General Chair was approved at the last meeting, and Ken Forbus will be serving in this capacity. Several new features have been incorporated into the call for participation, including two special tracks: AI and the Web and Integrated Intelligent Capabilities; senior member papers; nectar papers; and member posters. The response to these innovative ideas thus far has been very positive. Gil hopes to

launch an aggressive campaign to get the word out about AAAI, including reminders to members, press releases, and special features on the web site. The Council agreed that the innovations of 2005 and proposed innovations for 2006 were very exciting, and thanked both the 2005 and 2006 cochairs for putting these new features and programs in place.

Hendler reported that the Conference Committee made a recommendation to continue with the Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference (AIIDE) for a second year. The conference received good media coverage, and despite smaller than expected attendance, met with enthusiastic reception by the community. This recommendation was approved by the Council.

The Council asked the Conference Committee to propose a long-term AAAI affiliation model for conferences like AIIDE, after discussing any significant issues with the AIIDE chairs. In addition, Alan Mackworth suggested that the committee investigate the possibility of a semiautonomous model for other conferences that might be interested in some kind of AAAI affiliation.

Alan Mackworth noted that it has been increasingly difficult to schedule the AAAI conference during the busy summer conference season without running into some conflict. He noted that the program committee might consider other time periods if a schedule change would result in less conflict and better participation. Tony Cohn noted that IJCAI had chosen January in 2007 because of the climate in India, but will probably return to a summer schedule after that time.

Grants. Yolanda Gil reported for Grants Chair Maja Mataric, who could not attend. The Grants Committee proposed the following course of action for its members: First, review and revamp the current set of guidelines for AAAI conference cooperation, and define creative and nonmonetary forms of sponsorship that AAAI can offer other conference, and the associated obligations of the sponsored organization (such as having the AAAI logo on the conference page and distribution materials). This includes ad-

dressing sponsorship of international and foreign conferences. Second, post these guidelines and forms of sponsorship on the AAAI web site for easy access by interested potential partners. Third, agree on a list of conferences that Carol Hamilton can contact annually to discuss or establish or renew AAAI sponsorship. Finally, revisit this issue at an AAAI Executive Council meeting annually, in order to review the list membership and update it as appropriate. This proposal was enthusiastically endorsed by the Executive Council. It is expected that a set of guidelines and obligations will be prepared for the next Executive Council meeting. Gil planned to get feedback from the representatives of the sister conferences during the upcoming week.

Gil also reported that the Grants Committee had awarded $10,000 in conference grants, split between the Agents Americas Summer School and AAAI Affiliate KDD-06. AAAI also granted cooperation status to another eighteen conferences.

In other areas, AAAI continued to contribute about $40,000 in subsidy to several programs at the national conference, including the Intelligent Systems Demos, the Robot Competition, the Game Playing Competition, and the Doctoral Consortium. In addition to the awards listed above, totaling approximately $16,000, AAAI also provides $52,000 in scholarships to students attending the national conference and symposium series.

In 2005, $73,500 was provided by outside grants to help support AAAI conference programs. The Executive Council suggested that the task of securing sponsors should be a function of the conference program committee, and that it is important to find a person who would be willing to serve for more than one year in order to build of relationships with past and potential sponsors.

Membership. Carol Hamilton reported that the number of paid members had increased during the past year, and that this was largely due to the platinum category on conference and symposium registration forms. The increase was fairly evenly split between regular and student members,

but there was a sharper increase in the percentage of student members. This can also be tied to the increase in registration numbers for AAAI-05.

Publications. Publications Chair David Leake reported that upcoming issues of the *AI Magazine* included the fall issue on innovative applications of artificial intelligence, and the AAAI 25th anniversary issue in the winter. On the production side, the bundling of *AI Magazine* with other magazines has resulted in faster delivery to most areas. Leake encouraged Council members to encourage colleagues to submit good articles to *AI Magazine.*

Tony Cohn, the editor of AAAI Press, reported that the most recent two books from AAAI Press sold 1,000 copies each, and several new books are either in production or being considered. He is in the process of putting together an editorial board for the press, and asked the Council for recommendations. Cohn noted that The MIT Press is no longer copublishing the AAAI conference proceedings. The proceedings were distributed on CD only at the conference, and will be made available in hard copy after the conference on a limited basis. A revenue neutral model is planned. Orders for the hard copy of *JAIR* have been somewhat disappointing, but only a small number of orders are needed to make the project break even. Cohn encouraged Council members to ask their own libraries to order copies. The Council suggested that an order form be made available on the *JAIR* website.

David Leake reported that Google search engines now have IP access to our digital library. It is hoped that users will be able to use Google and possibly CiteSeer in the near future to search the papers in our digital library.

Symposium. Symposium Associate Chair Karen Myers reported that the current chair of the Symposium Committee, Holly Yanco, would be stepping down in fall 2005. Cochair Alan Schultz will assume Holly's responsibilities, and a new cochair will be sought. The 2005 Spring Symposium consisted of eight symposia. Although attendance was down from 2004, the event was expected to break even. Registration materials were currently being distributed for the 2005 Fall Sym-

posium, and a slate of eight topics had been chosen for spring 2006.

Old Business

Area Conference Research. Yolanda Gil, who prepared an extensive report on area conferences for the March meeting, updated the committee on current plans to continue to build relationships with these conferences. Gil proposed that AAAI form ongoing relationships with the conferences represented in the 2005 sister conference track program, and that current chairs could pass along AAAI cooperation guidelines to future chairs. Gil would like to form an AAAI Ambassadors Committee, consisting of AAAI members among sister conference communities. This committee would work with the various conferences and AAAI to coordinate dates and other issues. The Council supported this idea, and Gil will work to find appropriate members for the committee.

CRA Report. Tim Finin, AAAI's Computing Research Association (CRA) liaison, reported that the CRA has formed two task forces—one on government funding of computing research and one on human resources in computing research. (These are discussed in more detail in the new business section.) CRA is also studying the future of scientific publishing, and Finin encouraged AAAI to be a part of this discussion, and suggested that Mike Hamilton participate in these discussions. CRAW (CRA Committee on the status of Women in Computing Research) continues to be successful, and will broaden their efforts to address the issues being considered by the Human Resources task force. The annual CRA Snowbird Conference, which serves the North American computing research community, will be held in 2006. Finin encouraged Council members to submit proposals for invited talks, sessions, or panels with an artificial intelligence theme. Finin also suggested that creating a Grand Challenge topic for the research community that incorporates an AI theme, would give more visibility to AI, and could attract increased funding for the field.

Fiftieth Anniversary Committee. Jim Hendler reported that plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Dartmouth Conference were beginning to take shape. Bruce Buchanan will serve as the chair of the Fellows program, which is scheduled for July 15–16. Others involved in the preliminary planning phase include Tom Mitchell, Dave Waltz, Haym Hirsh, and Ed Feigenbaum. A formal committee will be formed in the fall, and the Council requested a formal proposal and budget by the end of September.

New Business

Before the commencement of new business, the gavel was passed from outgoing President Ron Brachman to incoming President Alan Mackworth. The Council formally thanked Brachman for his leadership and contributions during the past two years, and also thanked Tom Mitchell, outgoing past president for his six years of service on the Executive Committee as president-elect, president, and past president.

CRA Task Forces. Alan Mackworth reported that two new task forces had been formed by the CRA as a result of discussions at the annual CRA Leadership Summit in February 2005. The Computing Research Funding Task Force will develop a coalition of societies and companies to be the source of computing research information and advocacy to the government, other coalitions, and to the members of the participating societies. The AAAI representative on this task force is Haym Hirsh.

The Image of Computing Task Force will work to increase the public's understanding of computing, thereby increasing the number of computing students at all levels—K-12, undergraduate, and graduate. AAAI's representative, Andrew Moore, was in the process of putting together a list in the following two categories: (1) ways in which AAAI helps to promote a positive image of computer science to the public, encourages diverse participation, and attempts to attract high school students into computer science programs and undergraduates into computer science graduate programs; and (2) ways in which AI has contributed and hopes to contribute in the future to the image of computing, particularly among K-12 students. He asked Council members to please send suggestions directly to him.

AAAI Mission Statement. In response to issues surrounding the ethical use of AI, the Council discussed a proposal to modify the mission statement of AAAI. After a lengthy discussion, the Council concluded that the mission statement would be amended with the following phrase: "… to promote research in, and responsible use of, artificial intelligence." The overall statement will be reviewed for style. More importantly, AAAI should continue to encourage open debate on this issue, and inform the public and the policy makers about the ethical uses of AI.

International Issues. Alan Mackworth discussed the issues facing AAAI in the international arena, including the hesitancy of many conferences to formally affiliate with a national society rather than an international one. Although AAAI's membership has always been international, it is perceived as a national society, primarily because of its name. A meeting of the representatives of national and multinational, umbrella societies will take place in Edinburgh during IJCAI-05. IJCAI hosts this meeting every two years in its capacity as the primary international conference group. Although IJCAI is expanding its mission to include journal publishing, there is still no organization that addresses the international concerns of the AI community, and serves as a coordinating body for the dozens of national societies and conferences. Mackworth discussed the idea of forming a separate, international umbrella organization, and will discuss the idea with other organizations at the meeting in Edinburgh.

CD Donations. David Leake reported on a proposal to donate CDs to developing nations. Under the proposal, AAAI would contribute available excess back inventory to libraries in specified countries. The proposal suggested using the guidelines established by ACM SIGMOD for a similar program. The Council allotted up to $500 for postage and materials for this effort. AAAI staff will develop a list of potential libraries.

ICINCO 2006

3rd International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics

1 - 5 August 2006, Setúbal - Portugal

http://www.icinco.org

Main Topic Areas
Intelligent Control Systems and Optimization
Robotics and Automation
Signal Processing, Systems Modeling and Control

Important Dates
Full Paper Submission: 27th February, 2006
Authors Notification: 17th April, 2006
Final Paper Submission and Registration: 8th May, 2006

AI Journal Membership Benefit. AAAI currently contributes a small fee per regular member to cover the AI Journal online access benefit for AAAI members. However, Carol Hamilton reported that the number of users is currently significantly lower that this number. The Council requested that Hamilton investigate the possibility of changing the plan to cover users only, rather than eligible members. In addition, the membership committee should review this benefit to see if it is still of significant value to the members.

AAAI-07/IJCAI-09 Preparations. Carol Hamilton reported that negotiations were currently underway for Denver or Vancouver as possible sites for AAAI-07. AAAI continues to face issues with regard to the ratio of sleeping rooms to meeting space used in major cities. Forming a small rotation of cities or returning to the same city each year would help to increase the number of options available. Alan Mackworth noted that it will be important to contact CSCSI, the Canadian AI Society, and coordinate with them if we decide to go to Vancouver in 2007.

Hamilton reported that she would be presenting three options to the IJCAI Trustees and Executive Commit-tee during IJCAI-05 later that month, including Pasadena, California, Austin, Texas, and Minneapolis. During the search for a suitable location for IJCAI-09, she encountered many of the same issues facing AAAI. In addition, IJCAI requested both winter and summer options for the first time. The IJCAI Executive Committee planned to make their decision regarding a city at IJCAI-05.

Strategic Planning Committee. Tom Mitchell reported that he plans to convene a meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee and solicited feedback from the Council. The Council suggested the following issues for consideration by the SPC: (1) ethical use of AI, and ways to educate the public and policymakers about this issue; (2) fundraising for AAAI events, and establishing an ongoing function that takes care of this effort; (3) explore emerging areas of AI, and foster ways for these areas to grow within AAAI rather than outside, using AIIDE as a model; (4) explore the international issues facing AAAI, and propose a mechanism for AAAI to formally affiliate with the international community; (5) work with AAAI staff to review the current website; (6) designate a person or committee to investigate the possibility of establishing an AI exhibit at computer or science museums (Bruce Buchanan is currently working on this effort with the Computer History Museum in Mountain View); (7) Review and modify the current timeline at AI Topics website, and create a list of "What's Happening in AI;" (8) Create a repository of materials that will represent the best practices on the teaching of AI; (9) Encourage participation of AAAI members in the CRA, CSTB, and other national forums, as well as service in Washington, DC at DARPA or NSF. Organize face-to-face meetings between conference attendees and people who have served in these capacities at the conference to facilitate this dialogue, or run 2–3 day new faculty seminars; (10) Establish a committee to make suggestions for giving AI equal status in undergraduate curriculum; (11) Work with the conference committee to attract highly visible keynote speakers for the national conference.

Alan Mackworth thanked the Council members for coming and for all their work on behalf of AAAI. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.