

AAAI News

Student Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist staff members during AAAI-90 in Boston, Massachusetts (29 July-3 August 1990). You must be an undergraduate or graduate enrolled in a degree program at a college or university.

In exchange for 12 hours of assistance, you will receive a complimentary conference registration, a copy of the AAAI-90 conference proceedings, and a special AAAI-90 T-shirt. To receive further information or to volunteer, please send your name, address, telephone, adviser's name, and e-mail address to:

Carole Hafner
Student Volunteer Coordinator,
AAAI-90
College of Computer Science
Northeastern University
Boston, MA 02115
E-mail: hafner@corwin.ccs.northeastern.edu

Minutes, Executive Council

Meeting, March 29, 1990

Participants: Bruce Buchanan, Danny Bobrow, Bill Clancey, Wendy Lehnert, Ron Brachman, Ken Forbus, John McCarthy, Kathy McKeown, Peter Patel-Schneider, Elaine Rich, Bill Swartout, Pat Hayes, Barbara Grosz, Bob Engelmores, Marty Tenenbaum, and Claudia Mazzetti

Standing Committee Report

Reports came from the finance, symposium, program, and publications committees.

Finance Committee. Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Buchanan began the meeting with a discussion about having AAAI's assets professionally managed to increase its capital assets. Assets are currently invested in fixed assets, such as bonds and certificates of deposit. Any change in the investment strategy to include equities would require professional involvement as well as a change to the

investment policy allowing AAAI to invest its capital in equities. The council unanimously voted to change AAAI's investment policy to allow as much as 40% of its portfolio to be invested in equities, with the rest remaining in the high-quality fixed assets.

A presentation was given by representatives from Harris, Bretall, Sullivan, and Smith (HBSS), an investment firm. HBSS said it only invests in a selected stock portfolio that it follows closely. HBSS results have been consistently better than Standard & Poor's stock index, and its advisers are in the top quartile of investment managers. HBSS never invests in junk bonds or real estate. After the presentation, the council unanimously voted to hire HBSS as its investment adviser.

Buchanan proposed establishing a lifetime membership category. The council unanimously voted in favor. Details will be forthcoming.

Finally, each standing committee chair was instructed to present a series of recommendations for cuts to their individual budgets for 1991, including recommendations for what they would cut if revenues from the conference did not support current levels.

Symposium Committee.

Peter Patel-Schneider, incoming chair, reported that overall this year's symposium was quite successful, offering a variety of formats.

The council agreed to expand the symposium series into the fall of 1991. Staff members will look into finding a location on the east coast for a weekend symposium.

Jim Hendler and Wendy Lehnert agreed to serve as associate committee chairs in the future.

Program Committee. Bill Swartout stated that there were 910 papers received for AAAI-90. The panels and invited talks are already confirmed for the program. He thanked Peter Friedland from NASA Ames Research Center for all his work.

There was some discussion about the cost of the program committee meeting and ways to cut expenses. It was pointed out that in 1988, it cost \$55 for each submitted paper to be reviewed and \$70 in 1990. The program committee was asked to discuss this issue.

Publications Committee. Bill Clancey reported on the number of potential book projects associated with AAAI Press. With Bob Engelmores retiring as editor-in-chief of the magazine at the end of 1991, AAAI is looking for a replacement.

Old Business

Reviews of the Computer Research Board and the Computer Museum Grant proposals were delayed until the July Council meeting.

New Business

Ron Brachman and Pat Hayes proposed establishing a AAAI Fellows program similar in function to the IEEE Fellows program. The council unanimously voted to establish the program, but there was extensive discussion about avoiding problems typical with beginning such a program. A new standing committee, AAAI Fellows Committee, is now established. The past president will serve as the chair.

Ken Forbus proposed establishing an archival software library available to AAAI members that would contain programs from older systems. The council voted unanimously in favor. Forbus was instructed to prepare a more complete plan for the council by July.

