The new AAAI News Column appears in this issue for the second time. We welcome your feedback, particularly requests for information that would be valuable to you. Please send suggestions for future news columns by electronic mail to aaai-office@sumex-aim.stanford.edu or by US Mail to the AAAI office.

William J. Clancey & Claudia Mazzetti

Council Committees
During the Fall, the Executive Committee reviewed the current composition of the existing committees and suggested changes for some committee chair positions. The Execom devised a method of chair rotation that ensures continuity and progression.

The Committee decided that the current chair will remain on the committee in a steering capacity for 2 years. The new chair will be the standing chair for the same period of time and will nominate his/her successor. This procedure will apply for the following committees: Finance, Publications, Fellowship, Scholarship, Conference and Workshops. The other committees, Nominating, Program, and Symposium, usually rotate chairs annually.

A committee must consist of at least two members of the Executive Council, in addition to the chair, who is ultimately responsible for determining who participates on his committee.

New Committees
The Executive Council organized and/or nominated new committees in recent Council meetings. The charters of the new committees are:

Fellowship Committee: Committee will solicit, review and monitor nominations for post-doctoral fellowships which will be for a two year span.

Scholarship Committee: Committee will review and select students to receive grants to attend the National Conference on Artificial Intelligence.

Symposium Committee: Committee is responsible for the selection of topics and their chairs and overseeing the Series's program development.

These charters may be expanded by the Council at any time. The committees were approved by a mail vote of the Executive Council during January, 1988.

New Committee Chairs
The following people were nominated as committee chairs and also approved by a mail vote.

Scholarship: Raj Reddy (acting); Symposium Series: Hector Levesque;

Nominees to the Fellowship Committee are still pending.

The following chairs for standing committees were approved.

Conference: Howard Shrobe, Finance: Bruce Buchanan; Workshops: Peter Hart. Nominees to the Publication Committee are still pending. The chair of the Nominating and Program Committee have not been nominated.

The Council thanks the past chairs for all their work over the years [however, they will still serving in a steering capacity for the next 2 years!]. They helped form the tenor and direction of the AAAI's programs and services and without their energy and creativity, those formative programs could have faltered.

The Executive Council will hold its next scheduled meeting on Thursday, afternoon March 24 in Palo Alto. Suggestions for discussion can be sent to this column.

Symposium Public Forum
There will be a public forum on Wednesday evening, March 23, 1988, at 8 PM in Kresge Auditorium, Stanford University, providing a summary of discussions in the individual meetings. This plenary session should be useful for those who are unable to attend all three days or who wish to learn about each symposium in the series.

Nominees For 1988 Elections
Members of AAAI are requested to submit nominations for the 1988 election of President of AAAI and council positions (1988-1990 period) to Pat Winston (Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee).

North American Special
AAAI is now able to offer a lower membership fee to Canadian and Mexican members. They no longer need to pay an extra $15 dollars for mailing because we now have a second class permit for the magazine.

Student Volunteers Needed For AAAI-88
AAAI-88 will be held August 20-26, 1988 in beautiful St. Paul Minnesota. Student volunteers are needed to help with local arrangements and staffing of the conference. To be eligible for a Volunteer position, an individual must be an undergraduate or graduate student in any field at any college or university.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to participate in the conference. Volunteers receive free registration at AAAI-88, conference proceedings, a "staff" T-shirt, and are invited to the volunteer party. More importantly, by participating as a volunteer, you become more involved and meet students and researchers with similar interests.

Volunteer responsibilities are varied, including conference preparation, registration, staffing of sessions and tutorials and organizational tasks. Each volunteer will be assigned twelve (12) hours.

If you are interested in participating in AAAI-88 as a Student Volunteer, apply by sending your name & electronic mail address, US mail address, telephone number(s), dates available, student affiliation, and advisor's name to: feifer@SEAS.UCLA.EDU or Richard Feifer, UCLA Center for the
what it would take to bring to AAAI
AAAI. Here is his report.

1989: IJCAI-89, Detroit, Michigan;
the current status of his investigation
of an on-line abstract service for
members some on-line capability to
personnel in each organization. I have
play in this process. Everybody claims
poration for National Research Initia-

tives about possible roles NRI might
be willing to help. The following is
a summary of what I have learned so
far:

AI Abstracts, edited by Yorick Wilks,
New Mexico State University, Pub-
lished by Blackwell Ltd., London
Current collection: about 2000
abstracts, created or received on line.
(Back through part of 1986). Coverage:
Major journals, conferences, research
center report series. Search services:
None available. Policy on use of database: None Provision for supplying full text: None
Business Focus: Providing a quarterly
journal of abstracts

Turing Institute Abstracts, Published
by Turing Institute, Glasgow.
Current Collection: about 30,000
abstracts, back to 1984. Coverage:
Major journals, conferences, research
center report series. Search services:
Available with dial-
up to Glasgow (no network connec-
tions). Turing Institute uses BRSSearch for full text search, a com-
mercial software package that is
reported to cost about $50K.
Policy on use of database: None. Would be willing to consider ideas.

Provision for supplying full text: They
guarantee to provide to subscribers
full text copies of any article whose
abstract is received.

Business Focus: Providing a complete
library and search services for organi-
zational subscribers. Members of the
organization get on-line search access,
and some limited number of full-text
retrievals a year. These are distributed
by post in Europe. Limitation not well
formalized. They have no US dis-
tributor for their service, and have not
thought about how to separate costs
of abstract retrieval service and full
text availability.

EIC Intelligence, Jim Kollegger, Presi-
dent New York Current collection:
about 4000 abstracts, created or
received on line. (Back through 1985).
Coverage: Major Journals, confer-
ces, Research Center report series,
plus more popular sources. Search services: Available as a Dialog
database (Base Number 238). None
directly with them. They are willing
to connect to networks and update
database on-line.

Policy on use of database: They sell
their database, in formats determined
by the customer. They have delivered
day base to a number of corpo-
rate clients. They are willing to make
special deals, especially with organi-
zations like AAAI. They will add to
the database (going back in time if we
request it).

Provision for supplying full text: They
have microfiche available for full text
delivery. Libraries currently subscribe
to this service.

Business Focus: Providing general
information services. They do not
have computers, but rather view
themselves as wholesalers of informa-
tion. They do have fiche subscrip-
tions, where they pay royalties to pub-
lishers whose fiche they have caught.

In our continuing investigations, we
will be considering the following
issues: Comparative tests of the EIC
Dialogue database and the Turing Insti-
tute Database. How do we measure
quality, and what do we want out of
the database? What are appropriate
alternatives for providing search ser-
ices to the community? Should the
AAAI office try to run search software
on their Sun workstations? Is the

National Research Institute a better
initial candidate for running such a
service? How would this relate to pro-
posals for the national digital library?
Would one of the Universities like to
take a lead in providing this service to
the community, with the idea that it
would use it as a testbed for new
retrieval services? Or an industrial
organization?

What search software should be
used? How do we get the community
to make it better, and yet protect the
database for the providers?

How much money would AAAI
make available annually to support
this service? Is $2.5 per member possi-
ble and adequate?

How could we grow this service?
This depends on who runs it. If AAAI
ran the service, and got the fiche from
EIC, would they have the staff to pro-
vide hardcopy output? Would we want
a separate charge? Or would we try to
get requested papers on-line in some
way (e.g., scanners, recognizers)?

To take the next steps to make this
real will require someone who can
give some significant time to the
enterprise. Is there a volunteer with
appropriate talent, ambition and ener-
gy?

If you have information that could
help AAAI in setting up an on-line
abstract service, or better yet, wish to
participate in establishing the service,
please contact Danny Bobrow at
Xerox-Parc (Bobrow.pa@xerox.com).

AAAI Workshops

In the first AAAI-News column (Win-
ter '87-'88) we included a table of
workshops sponsored by AAAI. We
neglected to mention that most of
these workshops were co-sponsored
by other organizations, sometimes
more than one. The AAAI is grateful
for these collaborations. Indeed, the
program is designed to foster growth
of specialty areas, particularly by sup-
plementing funding from other areas
of support.