## **AAAI News**

Summer News from the American Association for Artificial Intelligence

## AAAI-02 and IAAI-02 in Edmonton

Five days packed with AI content presented by leading researchers and practitioners: It's time to mark your calendar for this summer's AAAI conference from 28 July to 1 August. It promises to be filled with a host of fascinating talks, papers, competitions, and demonstrations—not to mention socializing and touring in beautiful Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and surrounds.

## **AAAI** Conference Offerings

The Eighteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-02) starts with a group of workshops and free tutorials from leading AI researchers. Topics span a wide array of current research, such as information integration on the web, collaborative multiagent systems, machine learning, AI in space, rational action in autonomous agents, automation of elder care, agents for gaming, agents for electronic commerce, and ontologies for the semantic web.

American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) President Tom M. Mitchell's presidential address is entitled "AI and the Impending Revolution in Brain Science." The keynote address, "Probabilistic AI and Information Retrieval," is being presented by Michael I. Jordan of the University of California at Berkeley. Jordan will examine the possibilities and implications of bringing together information-retrieval technology (such as internet search engine technology) with probabilistic AI.

Invited presentations and panels range from the more traditional to unconventional AI. In addition, this year, 121 technical papers have been selected. They represent the best new research and applications across all areas of AI. For the first time this year, attendees will have an opportunity to meet and talk with the authors of all the technical papers at two special poster sessions. Other highlights of the conference will include the AAAI-02 Exhibition, presenting leading suppliers of AI software, consultants, and publishers, and the Intelligent Systems Demonstrations of research systems.

## Fourteenth Innovative Applications of AI Conference (IAAI-02)

The Innovative Applications of AI Conference spotlights new ways that AI technologies are being applied in the real world. Awards are given to deployed applications with measurable benefits arising from the use of AI technology. Award winners present papers on their systems. The conference recently added an emerging applications track to enable developers to learn about tools and techniques for next-generation AI applications. IAAI is organized in conjunction with the AAAI program, so schedules are coordinated, and a single registration allows attendees to move freely between IAAI and AAAI sessions.

This year IAAI organizers are introducing the Entrepreneurs Forum. It will focus on AI companies—how they are created and lessons learned from more recent startups as well as veter-

IAAI invited presentations and panels are quite varied. They include a talk entitled "Robot-Assisted Urban Search and Rescue at the WTC" by Robin Murphy, who with her team and others participated in the search effort at Ground Zero from September 12 to 22, collecting and archiving data on the use of robots. Her talk will include extensive video footage of the site from a "robot's eye view."

AI pioneer Raymond Kurzweil is giving a joint AAAI-IAAI invited talk entitled "Human Level 'Strong' AI: The Prospects and Implications." Kurzweil will explore his assertion that once nonbiological intelligence matches the range and subtlety of human intelligence (coming before 2030 with three-dimensional molecular computing), it will necessarily soar past it because of the continuing acceleration of information-based technologies as well as the ability of machines to instantly share their knowledge.

Two IAAI invited panels will examine the business of AI: "Pioneering AI Businesses I: A 20-Year Review" will look at companies such as IntelliCorp, Teknowledge, Inference, Syntelligence, Carnegie Group, and Cycorp. "Pioneering AI Businesses II: Recent Startups" will focus on the process of starting up an AI company. Speakers will be AI researchers who recently started their own companies.

## Eleventh Mobile Robot Competition and Exhibition

Always a popular aspect of the conference, the Mobile Robot Competition has evolved quite a bit from its early days when the big challenge was for the robots to successfully navigate through a small set of half-wall hallways to find a specific "room." This year, the competition will include three events. For the Robot Challenge, each robot contestant will start at the entrance to the conference center, find the registration desk, register for the conference, perform volunteer duties as required, then report at a prescribed time in a conference hall to give a talk.

The second event is the Rescue Robot Competition. The objective of this contest is to give participants the opportunity to work in a domain of critical practical importance. Robots must enter a fallen structure, find human victims, and direct human rescuers to the victims. Some of last year's entrants were actually involved in the search and rescue efforts at WTC; Robin Murphy will present details in her invited IAAI talk.

What AAAI conference would be complete without the ever-popular Robot Host Competition (formerly Hors d'Oeuvres Anyone)? This event, which now consists of two parts, is designed to support research in human-robot interaction. The first task will require robots to meander through the crowd offering desserts to attendees at the AI Festival in the exhibit hall. Each contestant is required to explicitly and unambiguously demonstrate interaction with the spectators. The competition has been expanded this year to allow robots to act as mobile information kiosks in the registration and break areas during the conference. While there is no award for ingenuity or humor for this event, it is always entertaining to see how the participating roboticists adorn their entrants with clothing, clever repartee, etc.

The Robot Exhibition has attracted some fascinating experimental robots through the years. The exhibition gives researchers an opportunity to demonstrate new ideas in a less structured environment.

The Robot Building Laboratory is a hands-on two-day workshop intended for AI researchers to experiment with hardware. Participants will break into small groups, be given a robot kit, and then spend a day and a half creating a robot system to achieve this year's task—multiagent cooperation and manipulation. The lab concludes with a friendly competition among the groups.

## **Student Programs**

Because part of AAAI's mission is to promote education and foster new talent in the field of AI, the conference also includes a Student Abstract Poster Program; Botball 2002, which features top robots built by middle and high school students nationwide: and the Doctoral Consortium, which provides a forum for Ph.D. students to discuss research and career interests.

### Opening Reception

This year's opening reception will find attendees socializing at Fort Edmonton Park, a living history museum, where they will board a 1919 steam train. The train will take them back through time to the 1846 era of the Hudson's Bay Fur Trading Fort replete with costumed interpreters. Attendees will tour the recreated streets of Edmonton's past, learning about its history, and participating in lifestyle activities, such as baling furs or throwing tomahawks (no robots allowed!).

Once again, the depth and breadth of the AAAI-IAAI-02 promise a full, fascinating week. Look for your conference brochure in the mail, or visit aaai.org/Conferences/National/2002/aaai02.html for more details about the conference and registration information.

## Artificial Intelligence Journal Online Access

AAAI is continuing its two-year experiment with Elsevier, giving unlimited access to the online version of the Artificial Intelligence Journal to all regular AAAI members. AAAI regular members can view and browse tables of contents, view articles published in recent issues of AI Journal, and use the current features available through Elsevier's electronic journal service. They may also view, print, and/or download excerpts of reasonable quantity, provided that the use of such excerpts is personal and does not amount to, or result in, commercial distribution. If you are a current regular member and have not received your 2002 reader key and instructions for accessing the online AI Journal, please contact membership@ aaai.org for more information.

If you have feedback regarding this program, please send it to membership@aaai.org. A decision will be made later this year about the continuation of this program, so your comments are important.

## AI ALERT Newsletter

Many of you have been receiving the AI ALERT newsletter, which highlights selected features from the "AI in the News" section of the AAAI Pathfinder/AI Topics web pages. If you are a member of AAAI and would like to begin receiving this newsletter, along with other AAAI announcements, please subscribe to our AAAI membership list server by writing to majordomo@aaai.org with the following text in the BODY of the message: subscribe aaai-members. Be sure to visit the AI Topics web site at www. aaai.org/AITopics/aitopics.html

## AAAI Executive Council **Nominations**

Every two years, the AAAI membership elects an individual to serve a two-year term as President-Elect, followed by two years as President, and, finally, two years as immediate Past President. In addition, every year four new councilors are elected to serve three-year terms on the AAAI Executive Council. The Nominating Committee encourages all regular members in good standing to place an individual's name before it for consideration. The Nominating Committee, in turn, will nominate in the spring one candidate for President-Elect and eight candidates for councilor. In addition to members' recommendations, the committee will actively recruit individuals to provide a balanced slate of candidates. AAAI members will vote in the late spring of

To submit a candidate's names for consideration, please send the individual's name, address, phone number, and email address to Carol Hamilton, Executive Director, AAAI, 445 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025; by fax to 650/321-4457; or by email to hamilton@aaai.org.

Nominators should contact candidates prior to submitting their names to verify that they are willing to serve, should they be elected. The deadline for nominations is November 1, 2002.

## AAAI Grant Program

AAAI currently supports a host of conferences, workshops, and other programs through its gifts and grants. To evaluate submitted proposals more effectively, the Grants Committee will be implementing a system of two annual fund request deadlines later this year. This will replace the current system whereby requests can be submitted and evaluated at any time. The first fall deadline will be announced to all members via email or the AAAI web site. Please write to Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org for more information about this program.

#### **AAAI Member News**

The Cognitive Science Society announced the formation of a new fellows program this year, honoring people who have made significant contributions to the field. To establish this honor as a mark of distinction, the first group of fellows was limited to five eminent scientists who have made outstanding contributions to cognitive science throughout their careers. Among the five inaugural fellows is AAAI Fellow and Past President Patrick J. Hayes.

## **AAAI Past President** Bruce Buchanan Honored at Symposium

A symposium was held Saturday, 18 May 2002 at the Frick Fine Arts Building in Pittsburgh, Pennsyvania in honor of University of Pittsburgh professor of computer science, philosophy, and medicine Bruce G. Buchanan, who retires at the end of the term. "Bruce has had a tremendous impact on our lives, both through his intellectual leadership and guidance and through his friendship and humor" noted symposium organizers Greg Cooper and Tom Dietterich.

Presentations were given by many of Buchanan's former students, as well as current colleagues and friends. The symposium included formal talks by Tom Mitchell, Peter Karp, Randy Davis, Paul Hodor, and Mike Wagner. Informal talks were given by Gerald Massey, Ted Shortliffe, Greg Cooper, Ed Feigenbaum, Bob Engelmore, Vanthi Gopalakrishnan, Alan Lesgold, and Tom Dietterich.

Following the symposium, a dinner was held for attendees at the Rhapsody Room of the Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel.



AAAI Past President Bruce Buchanan and Greg Cooper at the University of Pittsburgh Symposium Held in Honor of Buchanan's Retirement.

## 2002 AAAI Fall Symposium Series

The 2002 AAAI Fall Symposium Series will be held Friday through Sunday, November 15-17, 2002 at the Sea Crest Conference Center in North Falmouth, Massachusetts. The titles of the five symposia in the 2002 Fall Symposia Series are:

- Chance Discovery: The Discovery and Management of Chance Events Cochairs: Yukio Ohsawa (osawa@gssm. otsuka.tsukuba.ac.jp), Simon Parsons (s.d.parsons@csc.liv.ac.uk), and Peter McBurney (p.j.mcburney@csc.liv.ac.uk) www.miv.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~matumura/ FSS02/
- Etiquette for Human-Computer Work Chair: Christopher A. Miller (cmiller@SIFT.info)
- Human-Robot Interaction Chair: Alan C. Schultz www.aic.nrl.navy.mil/~schultz/fss02-hri
- Intent Inference for Users, Teams, and Adversaries Chair and Cochair: Eugene Santos Jr. (eugene@cse.uconn.edu) and Benjamin Bell (benjamin.l.bell@lmco.com) excalibur.engr.uconn.edu/fss/
- Personalized Agents Cochairs: Peter Stone, Charles Isbell (isbell@ai.mit.edu), and Gal Kaminka (galk@cs.cmu.edu), Symposia will be limited to 40–60

participants each. In addition to invited participants, a limited number of other interested parties will be able to register in each symposium on a first-come, first-served basis. Complete registration and hotel information will be available in July by request from fss@aaai.org or on the AAAI web site at www.aaai.org/Symposia/Fall/2002/fss-02.html. Invited participants must register by September 20, and the final registration deadline is October 18. The deadline for hotel reservations at the Sea Crest is October 10, 2002. The discounted single/double room rate of \$86.00 per night may not be available after this date. Please call the Sea Crest at 1-800-225-3110 or 1-508-540-9400 for reservations, and be sure to identify yourself as an attendee at the American Association for Artificial Intelligence Fall Symposium Series.

## 2003 Spring Symposium Series

The 2003 Spring Symposium Series will be held March 24-26, 2002 at Stanford University. The Call for Participation will be available in July on the AAAI web site (www.aaai.org/Symposia/symposia.html) and will be mailed to all AAAI members. Submissions will be due to the organizers on October 4, 2002.

## IJCAI-03

Please mark your calendars now for the Eighteenth International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI-03)! The conference will be held August 9-15 in Acapulco, Mexico. IJ-CAI-03 is cosponsored by IJCAI, Inc., the Mexican Society for Artificial Intelligence, and the American Association for Artificial Intelligence. There will be no AAAI conference in 2003. The Call for Participation will be available later this summer, and will be mailed to all AAAI members. For more information about IJCAI-03, please visit the IJCAI web site at www.ijcai.org, or write to ijcai@aaai.org.

#### IAAI-03

We are pleased to announce that the Fifteenth Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence Conference (IAAI-03) will be collocated with IJ-CAI-03 in Acapulco, Mexico, August 12-14. The Call for Participation will be mailed to all AAAI members in midsummer and will also be available on the AAAI web site (www.aaai.org). The Conference Chair for IAAI-03 is John Riedl, University of Minnesota (riedl@ cs.umn.edu).

## **AAAI Annual Business Meeting**

The annual business meeting of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence will be held at 1:00 PM, Thursday, August 1, 2002, in the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

## **Executive Council Meeting Minutes**

The AAAI Executive Council held a meeting on March 24, 2002 in Palo Alto, California. Attending the meeting were Tom Mitchell, Ron Brachman, Bruce Buchanan, Marie desJardins, Rich Doyle, Craig Knoblock, Daphne Koller, Deborah McGuinness, Norm Nielsen, Peter Norvig, Reid Simmons, Manuela Veloso, Carol Hamilton, and Mike Hamilton.

AAAI President Tom Mitchell called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and introductions were made.

#### **Standing Committee Reports**

Standing committee reports were delivered by the Finance, Conference, Fellows, Awards, Membership, Publications, Grants, and Symposium committee chairs or representatives.

Secretary/Treasurer Norm Nielsen reported that AAAI's operating reserve had been adversely affected by the current economy. In addition, AAAI has been relying on its operating reserve to fund many of the programs it supports, which cannot be sustained on a long-term basis. A variety of solutions will be studied during the coming months, including increased membership and conference fees, reduced grants and other spending, and an increased effort to apply for available outside funding for conferences and symposia.

Nielsen also reported on the Finance Committee's current review of AAAI's financial managers. There are some indicators that the growth manager might not be the best match for AAAI's investment strategy, and other possible managers are being considered. A final recommendation and decision will be made in the fall.

#### Conference

In Conference Committee Chair Jim Hendler's absence, Carol Hamilton reported that 470 papers were submitted to AAAI-02, up from 431 in 2000. One hundred twenty papers were accepted versus 143 in 2000. The acceptance rate was 26 percent. Twenty-nine papers will be presented orally in a plenary session, and all papers will be presented in one of two evening poster sessions. No parallel technical sessions will be held. Papers were given three reviews each by the 180 members of the program committee, and each paper was overseen by one of 25 senior program committee members. Reviewing was blind. The conference submission software, Conf-Man, will be updated and improved during the next six months in anticipation of IJCAI and future AAAI needs.

An increase in registration rates was proposed (see new business). The technical program will also feature four invited speakers and the presidential address. The conference will feature several social events, including the opening reception at Fort Edmonton, the AI Festival in the exhibit hall, and the two poster sessions. The exhibit program will include Intelligent Systems demonstrations, the Robot Competition and Exhibition, a high school Botball exhibition, vendor exhibits, and the Student Abstract Poster session. The National Botball Tournament will not be held at AAAI-02, but will collocate again in 2004. Twelve tutorials, twenty workshops, the SIGART/AAAI Doctoral Consortium, and the Robot Building Laboratory will be held on the two days preceding the technical program. AAAI supports most of these programs through its grants program. The Robot Competition, Botball, RBL, and the Doctoral Consortium also receive support from other sources.

IAAI-02 submissions were significantly up from 2001, continuing a gradual increase over the past several years. Seven deployed applications and eleven emerging applications were accepted. IAAI will be held in parallel with the AAAI plenary session, and is included in the AAAI technical registration fee. The IAAI-02 program also features one invited talk, one joint AAAI-02/IAAI-02 invited talk, and three panels.

#### Fellows/Nominating

Bruce Buchanan, Past President and Chair of the Fellows Selection Committee and the Nominating Committee reported that both committees were in the midst of their selection processes. The Fellows Committee received 24 nominations this year, including 15 unsuccessful nominations from 2000 and 2001, as well as nine new ones for 2002. The Nominating Committee will select eight candidates to run for councilor. Of those, four will be elected to three-year terms. A ballot will be mailed to all regular members in May.

#### Awards

Bruce Buchanan reported that nominations were still being considered for the three AAAI special awards. Jon Glick, the AI Topics webmaster, is preparing a list of articles to consider for the Expository Writing Award. Committee decisions will be made in late spring. Carol Hamilton reported that AAAI is continuing to sponsor fifteen \$1,000 awards at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, to be held May 12-18 in Louisville, Kentucky. Hamilton reported that Reid Simmons, the coordinator for this event, was currently seeking volunteers to serve as judges.

#### Membership

In Membership Chair Reid Simmons' absence, Carol Hamilton reported that AAAI memberships had remained relatively steady for the past three years. Several suggestions were made, however, to retain and attract new members, including a campaign to advertise the AI Magazine to computer science students through AAAI faculty members. In addition, AAAI will add a job listing service to its "members only" web site. Since the last meeting, it was reported that the Executive Council had approved a plan for AAAI local chapters.

#### **Publications**

Publications Director Mike Hamilton reported on behalf of Publications Chair David Leake. A CD containing all the articles in AI Magazine from 1980-2001 will be available at AAAI-02. Hamilton also reported that postage costs have increased steadily each year, with another increase scheduled in July. They are now double what they were at the time of the last membership fee increase in 1994. AAAI Press published three new books in the fall of 2001, and has several more new projects under consideration. The Press is seeking proposals for new books to add to the spring 2003 list. The classic book on MYCIN, edited by Bruce Buchanan and Edward Shortliffe, was scanned recently and has been made available on the AAAI web site. Hopefully, this will be one of several books in a new section of the web called "Classic Books." Finally, the scanning project for AAAI technical reports is continuing on schedule. Many of these are already available to members on the AAAI web site. Proposals from several e-book vendors are also being explored for wider distribution.

#### Grants

Grants Chair Manuela Veloso reported that \$117,340 had been awarded in grants since August 1, 2001, with an additional \$370,950 committed for the remainder of the calendar year. Grants support independent workshops and conferences, women and minority programs, several national conference programs, the student scholar program, awards and fellows programs, and miscellaneous special project requests. Given the current economic situation, Veloso advised the Council and staff to closely monitor expenditures for 2002, and to study current conference programs supported by grants to see where expenses could be trimmed.

#### **Symposium**

Carol Hamilton reported that Holly Yanco has agreed to serve as the new Symposium Chair, and Dan Clancy will serve as the Cochair. The 2001 Fall Symposium was held in North Falmouth, Massachusetts. Each of the five symposia had an average attendance of 36 people, exactly the same as in 2000. Based on feedback from a symposium survey, it was decided that the Fall Symposium will return to the same site in 2002, but will seek an alternate site in 2003. The 2002 Spring Symposium had nine symposia, and preregistration figures were down by about 20 percent from 2001, despite the fact that there were two additional symposia.

#### Old Business

Reports were given on the CRA, AI Topics, the conflict of itnerest statement, workshop guidelines, and Botball.

#### **CRA Report**

Ron Brachman gave an overview of the recent CRA Leadership Summit, an annual meeting for computer society presidents and executive directors. Several informative presentations were given by Rita Colwell, Director, National Science Foundation; Captain D. 'Mike' Egan PE, Chief, National Response Center (G-OPF), Office of Command, Control and Preparedness, United States Coast Guard; Alan I. Leshner, Chief Executive Officer, AAAS; Alan Merten, President, George Mason University; and Representative Nick Smith, Chair, House Subcommittee on Research.

#### AI Topics/AI Alert

Bruce Buchanan reported that the AI Topics web site had been named a primary AI web site by the BBC, and Science magazine ran a favorable review of the site last year. The AI Alert newsletter has also met with positive feedback from members, who are pleased to be kept abreast of the latest news on AI. Buchanan will explore outside funding possibilities for the continuation and expansion of the site.

#### Conflict of Interest Statement

This statement is under review by a AAAI attorney, and will be circulated to the Council when it is complete.

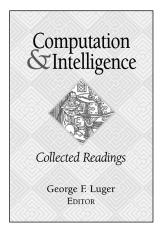
Workshop & Conference Guidelines Manuela Veloso reported that the Grants Committee had reviewed the current guidelines for support and had only one recommendation. They would like to add a requirement that the primary organizers of conferences requesting funding be AAAI members. This requirement was approved by the Executive Council. In addition, the committee recommended that AAAI institute a uniform deadline for funding requests so that they could be compared and evaluated together. Two deadlines per year were recommended, and the committee plans to implement this schedule for 2003 requests.

#### Botball

Ron Brachman reported that AAAI has been working with the Botball organizers to explore the possibility of building a new conference around the National Botball Tournament. This conference would be sponsored by AAAI, and geared toward high school students. It would be collocated with the national conference. With this goal in mind, AAAI is continuing its funding of the National Botball Tournament, although it will not be collocated with AAAI in 2002. The Council is supportive of this endeavor, but would like to explore outside funding alternatives and the implementation of registration fees to offset logistical expenses.

#### **New Business**

New business topics included conference and membership fees, conference



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program cochair papers, conference site selection and format, ICAPS-04 collocation, RoboCup, AI videos, and the roles AAAI should play.

#### **AAAI-02** Conference Fees

Carol Hamilton circulated several options for AAAI-02 conference fee structures, noting that the current fee structure does not allow the conference to break even on basic expenses. After some discussion, the Executive Council voted to increase early regular fees by approximately 15 percent and late and onsite fees by at least 25 percent. Early student member rates, however, were raised by only \$5.00.

#### Membership Fees

Carol Hamilton reported that the current membership fee structure has been in place since 1994. It no longer covers the services provided to the members, including the *AI Magazine*, *AI Journal* Online Access, and the AAAI Member's website. The Council agreed to consider a proposed fee increase at the summer meeting.

Conference Program Cochairs Papers On behalf of the AAAI-02 Program Cochairs, Carol Hamilton introduced the issue of allowing program cochairs to submit conference papers. The Executive Council generally agreed with the program chairs that it is not appropriate for a paper that has a program chair as a first author to appear in the oral program in the single-track, plenary session format of 2002. However, the Council did not feel that program chairs and senior program committee members should be discouraged from submitting papers for review.

#### AAAI-04 Site Selection / Conference Format

Carol Hamilton updated the Council on the status of the search for a site for AAAI-04. Current possible venues include Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Hawaii, and San Francisco. Of these, the Council voted to pursue Boston, Hawaii, and San Francisco. Hamilton noted that it is difficult to determine the right space to hold because the format of the conference has changed. Until the format has been decided for 2004, no final commitment can be made. An update will be presented at the summer meeting, and a final venue will be decided by the end of 2002.

#### **ICAPS-04 Collocation**

Carol Hamilton reported that the newly formed International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling (ICAPS), a merging of the International Conference on AI Planning & Scheduling (AIPS) and the European

Conference on Planning (ECP), is considering collocating with the 2004 Spring Symposium at Stanford University or another Bay Area location. The Council was enthusiastic about this idea, and generally supports the idea of collocation.

#### RoboCup

Carol Hamilton reported that RoboCup 2002 had sent a request for funding. AAAI donated approximately \$47,000 to RoboCup in 2001 when it was collocated with IJCAI-01. The Council recommended that the event be funded at a similar level to that of other independent conferences and workshops in 2002. Hamilton will follow up with the Grants and Executive Committee.

#### AI Video Clips

Bruce Buchanan presented a proposal for AAAI to take the initiative in collecting AI video clips, reviewing them, and making them available to AAAI members only on the web site. The Council enthusiastically supported this idea, and approved staff time to assist with this process. Manuela Veloso, Daphne Koller, and Bruce Buchanan agreed to begin collecting information about currently available videos. Buchanan may seek outside funding to assist with this effort.

#### **AAAI Roles**

Tom Mitchell opened the floor to a discussion of ideas about important roles AAAI plays or could play. Although time was limited, the Council outlined several areas, including direct support of research through conferences and publications, public education through web site and press relations, recruitment of new researchers through outreach and student programs, community education about funding through CRA membership, direct support of teaching through a video project, syllabi repository, or mentoring initiative. Mitchell hopes to hold a strategic planning meeting in the next several months to pursue these ideas further.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.