

AAAI News

Minutes of the AAAI Council Meeting

The AAAI Council meeting was held 20 August 1989 in the Windsor Room of the Westin Hotel, Detroit, Michigan. Incoming President Daniel Bobrow called the meeting to order at 9:15 A.M. by welcoming the newly elected officers. Present were Bruce Buchanan, William Clancey, Robert Englemore, Ken Forbus, Barbara Grosz, Patrick Hayes, Barbara Hayes-Roth, Peter Hart, Geoffrey Hinton, Douglas Lenat, Hector Levesque, Kathleen McKeown, Raj Reddy, Elaine Rich, Howard Shrobe, Reid Smith, J. Martin Tenenbaum, and William Woods.

Old Business

Finance Committee: Bruce Buchanan reported the finance committee was exploring alternative investment strategies for the AAAI fund, with the goal of maximizing revenues while maintaining a low-risk profile. The committee contacted other nonprofit technical societies about how their investment funds were controlled and is interviewing professional money managers. The committee will have recommendations ready this winter for changes in the fund's management.

Buchanan also reported that 1989 revenue was not expected to cover expenses. The reason cited was the IJCAI conference, which incurred high costs and earned low revenue. The most optimistic revenue projection for IJCAI was a net earning of \$50,000 to \$200,000 net versus \$900,000 made from AAAI-88. Based on this projection, investment income would have to be used to cover operating expenses.

Lifetime Membership: Buchanan presented figures for lifetime membership rates. Figures were based on the current \$40 per year membership rate and assumed 7-percent investment opportunity. For the lifetime membership category to be financially viable for the association, rates would have to be \$600 per person. Discussion centered around the

advantages of such a membership to the association and its members. It was felt that offering a lifetime membership would have little effect on the current member attrition rate; the only perceived advantage would be convenience for a segment of the membership. The idea was tabled without action.

To accommodate schedules, one item of new business was moved forward. Daniel Bobrow began a discussion on funding of individual budget items in light of the projected reduced or negative cash flow. Current budget policy imposed by the executive council prohibits spending of the AAAI fund principal. Conference revenue traditionally supports the office overhead and provides cash for the fund; the magazine is supported by advertising and approximately 20 percent of the membership fees; interest income from the fund is used to support educational and philanthropic activities (that is, workshops, scholarships, and so on). Under the current guidelines, interest income would be required to meet association operating expenses which would severely limit funds for educational uses. Bobrow asked the council to review the current policy of not spending fund principle. After discussion, Reid Smith moved that the council suspend current policy for one year and consider spending fund principle to cover ongoing charitable commitments; the motion was seconded by Patrick Hayes, and the vote was unanimously in favor. The council decided to individually discuss each commitment, recommending funding for each commitment and then reviewing the total projected commitment in light of the expected revenue shortage.

The meeting returned to the agenda to complete old business.

Scholarship Committee: Barbara Hayes-Roth reviewed the current scholarship fund policy—to fund elementary- through graduate-level students interested in AI. The council has been focusing on high school age

students, hoping to increase the number of students entering college with the objective of majoring in computer science and AI. The target audience is those who might face some barriers to entry (for example, finances, race, or sex). AAAI is currently funding the following groups:

Group	Funding
Women and Minority Scholarships	
<i>Math and Science Network—promotes science/math as a career choice for women</i>	\$ 5,000
PRIME	\$ 5,000
<i>Operation Smart—encourages women and minorities to study science</i>	\$ 5,000
<i>American Indian Science & Engineering—encourages Native Americans to study science</i>	\$ 5,000
Additional funding was provided for:	
<i>AAAI Student Travel Scholarships to IJCAI</i>	\$27,000
<i>Spring Symposium Student Scholarships</i>	\$ 9,000

Discussion focused on whether to continue funding at current levels or to reduce or increase funding. The council discussed if having a women and minority scholarship program was a reasonable activity for a technical society and if funding of such a program should continue given the anticipated budget constraints. It was strongly felt by several members of the council that funding for the women and minority scholarship program should be continued at current levels to provide a consistent presence with the groups currently being funded. Barbara Grosz recommended that a local liaison be appointed to work with each of the groups currently funded. Grosz also requested that AAAI establish an informal mentor program with members going to local high schools to encourage AI as an educational objective. AAAI's role would be to provide a how-to guide for potential speakers and to make prepared slides or videos for such presentations available.

The motion by William Swartout, seconded by Patrick Hayes, that AAAI continue to fund the scholarship program for 1990 at the current level was unanimously approved. Barbara Grosz was encouraged to find liaisons for the organizations currently funded.

Conference Committee: Howard Shrobe reported that the Conference Committee was scheduled to meet later in the week. Issues to be addressed by the committee included the following:

- Quality of reviewing process—successes and failures of the reviewing process, with the goal of developing a reviewers' guidebook
- AAAI policy on multiple submissions in light of the published IJCAI policy
- Goals for the IAAI conference scheduled for 1–3 May at Georgetown University
- Proposed restructuring of the national conference

The restructuring of the national conference was pursued further. AAAI staff members, perceiving a declining interest in the national conference, noting an increase in the number of subtopic conferences, and responding to the criticism that the national conference is too large for discussion of presented papers, purposed that the national conference be restructured into a series of specialty conferences. The goal was to provide greater interaction between participants and allow the attendee greater scheduling flexibility. The council recommended that the conference committee not pursue this idea.

Publication Committee: William Clancey reported that the AAAI Press was launched with the publication of *Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence*, edited by Herbert Schorr and Alain Rappaport. The AAAI Press is a collaboration between AAAI and The MIT Press, with the former providing production and the latter distribution; editorial review is shared by both parties. The MIT Press was chosen as a partner because it provided the best financial incentives, had strong support and interest by upper management, and had a good reputation as a publisher in the AI field.

AI Magazine: Claudia Mazzetti reported that decreasing revenues and increasing production costs have required that the magazine review its current structure. Bob Engelmores, Mazzetti, and Mike Hamilton are reviewing a graphics reorganization model based on the *American Scientist*

and *Smithsonian* magazines. Production of the magazine will now occur at a graphic arts and typesetting house. Mike Hamilton of The Live Oak Press, who has coordinated production in recent years, will become more involved in the AAAI Press. Other editorial and procedural changes are under development.

Spring Symposium: Hector Levesque reported that the 1989 Spring Symposium at Stanford University was well received. The following symposia were included in the 1989 series:

- AI and Software Engineering
- AI and Manufacturing
- Planning and Search Spoken Language Systems
- Robot Navigation
- AI and Limited Rationality
- Knowledge Systems Development Tools
- Representation and Compilation in High-End Languages
- Performance Theorem Proving

One change in policy for 1990 is to open attendance to general membership after symposia invitees have registered. The 1990 series will be held 27–29 March at Stanford; approved symposia topics are the following:

- Planning in Uncertain, Unpredictable, or Knowledge-Based Human-Computer Changing Environments
- Communication
- Automated Abduction
- Case-Based Reasoning
- Text-Based Intelligent Systems
- AI in Medicine
- The Theory and Application of Knowledge-Based Environments for Minimal-Length Encoding
- Learning and Teaching
- Text-Based Intelligent Systems

Levesque reminded the council that a new symposium chair would need to be appointed for 1991. He recommended Peter Patel-Schneider.

Workshops: Peter Hart reported that 14 workshops were funded in 1989 at a total cost of \$92,700. The goal of the workshop program is to seed activity in a particular area. No honoraria or travel costs are covered. The council discussed the merits of adopting the SIGART model for workshop funding. Under such a model, AAAI would provide seed money to be replaced by revenue from the workshop. Arguments against this plan were the negative impact on stu-

dent participation in workshops and the increased monitoring and accounting time involved. Under the current model, new topics are favored over continuing topics, and few topics are funded more than two years in a row. The general feeling was that the current format fulfilled a need in the AI community.

Hart will continue as chair with assistance from Kathy McKeown, with the goal of having McKeown gradually assume the chair role. Ken Forbus moved that funding for the workshop program continue at the 1989 level of \$100,000. The motion was seconded by William Swartout and unanimously approved.

Computer Research Board (CRB): Raj Reddy presented a request for \$50,000 from CRB. The mandate of CRB is to encourage funding for computer science research by appearing before Congress and members of the Executive Branch and to educate the public through white papers, workshops, and conferences. Less of a lobbying organization, CRB states that its primary purpose is to educate about computer science research. CRB is currently funded by individual computer science departments in academia and industry. ACM has pledged \$100,000 over the next 1.5 years. AAAI would gain representation on the CRB board if it provided funding.

The council discussion included the appropriateness of AAAI participation, alternative ways of achieving this goal, and past conflicts between subareas of computer science research. The council decided to table the CRB request until after budget information was available for 1990. The council will consider funding as much as \$25,000 at this time.

Computer Museum: The Computer Museum in Boston would like to establish a permanent exhibit on AI. The total funding goal for the museum is \$500,000: AAAI was asked to give \$50,000 per year for the next five years to fund the exhibit; the remainder would be raised by the museum. The Computer Museum develops exhibits, training courses, and educational materials that are used around the country, not just locally. The motion was approved in principle at the last council meeting.

The council questioned the wisdom of moving funds from our fund to the Computer Museum's and recommended other ways AAAI could provide support. The question of funding was deferred until AAAI's

financial situation is known.

Project Mercury: AAAI provided \$65,000 in funding last year; Project Mercury, which is funded by the National Science Foundation, is requesting \$90,000 for 1990. The project goal is to develop a full-text retrieval database; AAAI is funding the inclusion of AI literature. Increased funding (\$25,000) is for the CLARIT Project—automating the construction of an AI thesaurus.

The council discussion focused on copyright issues, the need for AI literature and a thesaurus online, the impact of AAAI funding research, and the progress of the research (when the database and thesaurus would be available). The issue of whether this project was fulfilling a need or service desired by the membership was raised. It is not clear that it does because no requests have been made for such a service. William Swartout moved that AAAI fund the \$90,000 requested for 1990. The motion was seconded by Ken Forbus and approved 15 to 1.

National Research Institute (NRI): AAAI provided \$18,000 in startup funding for 1989. NRI is requesting \$30,000 to support continued efforts. The council voted to approve the motion by William Swartout that AAAI fund NRI for \$20,000. The motion was seconded by Patrick Hayes.

After raising the issue that the council needs to develop guidelines on how much philanthropic funding should go toward various types of projects, Reid Smith and Marty Tenenbaum were charged with developing a method for getting membership input into funding priorities.

Subgroups: Currently, AAAI has three subgroups: medicine (2,000–3,000 members), manufacturing (4,000 members), and law (200–300 members). A subgroup application was received for a fourth group—business. The proposal was submitted by two professors at the University of Southern California School of Business. The council discussed the potential costs involved (minimal) and the criteria for subgroup status. The council decided to accept the application if further review was positive.

New Business

Nomination and Election Procedures: Responding to criticism about the election, the council reviewed the current procedures for nominating and electing officers. Alternative suggestions were discussed. Policy changes were tabled for further review.

Endorsement of Other Journals: Publishers have approached AAAI with discounted magazine and journal rates for AAAI members. The question of whether accepting such discounts constitutes an endorsement by AAAI was discussed. The publication committee was charged with looking into this matter.

Relationship with IJCAI: Formal guidelines for cooperation between AAAI and IJCAI were established this year that will clarify the financial and administrative responsibility for IJCAI conferences held in North America. Alternative cost-sharing models were brought up and discussed. Policy changes were tabled for further review.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.

NTU Erratum

The following letter (dated 27 September 1989) from the National Technological University in Fort Collins, Colorado, was sent to Edward Feigenbaum, who forwarded it to *AI Magazine*:

Earlier this month NTU prepared a promotional flyer for three programs it is cosponsoring with the American Association for Artificial Intelligence.

The description for one of the programs incorrectly stated that Jonathan King pioneered the Dendral and Mycin expert systems. Dr. King has been involved with these systems but has never stated that he pioneered them. NTU regrets the editing error.

AI Magazine Correction

The photographs of authors David Hart and Michael Greenberg were inadvertently switched following their article appearing in the Fall 1989 issue (Volume 10 Number 3). *AI Magazine* regrets the error.

Congratulations to Polly Rogers

We are delighted to announce that editorial assistant Polly Rogers-Panela gave birth on 27 September to a healthy baby boy. Joel, weighed 7 lbs, 8 oz. and was 19 in. long. Mother, father, and son are doing well. Congratulations to Polly Rogers-Panela and Carmelo Panela!

AAAI-90 Call for Papers Clarification

The call for papers for AAAI-90 requires each author to specify his or her topic is from the published list. It was

unclear, however, which topic should be chosen for papers on distributed AI. The decision, made with the help of Tom Dietterich, a program chair, is that authors should select the automated reasoning topic and include the additional keyword DAI after it.

International Workshop on Principles of Diagnosis

The International Workshop on Principles of Diagnosis will be held 23–25 July 1990 in Menlo Park, California. This workshop, sponsored by AAAI and Price Waterhouse, encourages intensive and high-quality interaction and cooperation among researchers with a diversity of AI approaches to diagnosis. Attendance will be limited to 30 participants. Fifteen presentations will be spread over three days. Substantial time will be reserved for discussion.

To attend, participants should submit extended abstracts or short papers to be reviewed by the committee. Submissions are welcomed in the areas of approaches to modeling and diagnosing engineered and natural systems, especially analog and large-scale systems; theoretical aspects of deductive and abductive diagnosis; and strategies for controlling diagnostic reasoning to prevent combinatorial explosion.

Please limit submissions to 3,000 words. Accepted papers can be revised and expanded for compilation and distribution to the workshop participants. Although work published elsewhere is acceptable, new, original work is preferred.

Please send four copies of each submission to the chairman at the postal address that follows. Please include several ways to contact the principal author. Electronic mail, Fax, and telephone numbers are preferred, in this order. Also, please indicate whether you wish to make a presentation or only attend; in the case of multiple authors, please indicate which authors wish to participate.

Submissions received after 30 March 1990 will not be considered. The decisions of the committee will be mailed 25 May 1990.

To submit an abstract or receive more information, contact Walter Hamscher, Price Waterhouse Technology Center, 68 Willow Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025. E-mail: hamscher@pw.com. Telephone: (415) 688-6669.

The Board of Directors
American Association For Artificial
Intelligence • Menlo Park, California

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the balance sheet of American Association For Artificial Intelligence as of December 31, 1988, and the related statements of income, fund balance and changes in financial position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of American Association For Artificial Intelligence as of December 31, 1988, and the results of operations and changes in financial position for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.



Robert H. Burnham, C. P. A., March 20, 1989

American Association for
Artificial Intelligence
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1988

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A Method of Accounting:

The financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

B Inventory:

Magazine, tutorials, and proceedings inventory is valued at the lower of cost or market value as of December 31, 1988.

C Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment:

Furniture, fixtures and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line method over estimated useful lives of five to ten years. Furniture, fixtures and equipment consist of the following at December 31, 1988:

Cost	\$224,927
Accumulated depreciation	(81,330)
Net	\$143,597

D Income Taxes:

American Association for Artificial Intelligence is exempt from income taxes on its earnings from investments and its exempt function operations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701 (d) of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. Federal and California taxes totaling \$48,009 were paid during 1988 on earnings from sales of mailing labels and advertising.

Note 2: Operations

The American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) was formed in 1979 as a scientific society, to encourage the basic knowledge of what constitutes intelligent thought and behavior and how it can be exhibited in computers. This is accomplished by the *AI Magazine*, an official publication of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence issued quarterly. AAAI sponsored National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (NCAI), held annually, and the AAAI Workshop Program.

Note 3: Memberships

Membership in the American Association for Artificial Intelligence is \$20 for student members, \$40 for individuals, and \$60 for academic/corporate library subscriptions. All revenue from memberships is included in the AI Memberships gross profits center. Revenues from membership fees are earned ratably over the respective twelve-month period.

American Association for Artificial Intelligence

Balance Sheet

December 31, 1988

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash – checking	\$ 267,847
Cash – brokerage and money market savings	731, 175
Investments of \$4,716,552 less allowance for unrealized losses of \$167,069	4,549,483.
Accounts Receivable – Trade	76,190
Inventory (Note 1-B)	32,245
Prepaid Expenses	116,162.
Advances – Program committee & others	<u>23,682.</u>

Total Current Assets 5,796,784

Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment, net (Note 1-C) 143,597.

Deposits 12,986.

\$ 5,953,367.

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Current Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 36,490.
Advanced by IJCAI, Inc – '89 conference	150,000
Unearned membership fees (Note 3)	179,328.
Unearned advertising & exhibits revenue	<u>48,400.</u>

Total Current Liabilities 414,218.

Fund Balance 5,539,149.

\$ 5,953,367.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

American Association for Artificial Intelligence
Statement of Income and Fund Balance for the Year Ended December 31, 1988

Gross Profit (Loss), By Activity:

AI Magazine Revenue (Note 3)	\$ 299,570.	
AI Magazine Expenses	<u>(294,438.)</u>	\$ 5,132.

Memberships Revenue (Note 3)	411,394.	
Memberships Expenses	<u>(63,909.)</u>	347,485

Conference – AAAI-88 Revenue	793,345.	
Conference Expenses	<u>(446,352.)</u>	346,993.

Tutorials Revenue	892,538.	
Tutorials Expenses	<u>(345,099.)</u>	547,439.

Exhibits Revenue	544,158.	
Exhibits Expenses	<u>(126,532.)</u>	417,626.

Proceedings Revenue	112,069	
Proceedings Expenses	<u>(53,870.)</u>	58,199

Symposium Revenue	25,442.	
Symposium Expenses	<u>(43,946.)</u>	(18,504.)

AI Journal Revenue	3,142	
AI Journal Expenses	<u>(3,467.)</u>	(325.)

AI Magazine Readings	35	
Other Publications	611	

Interest income	391,269.	
Net unrealized losses on investments	(82,134.)	

Grants & gifts expended	(242,338.)	
Conference scholarships	(20,222.)	

Symposium scholarships	(12,217)	
Conference – AAAI-86 & 87 paid in 1988	(17,594)	

Miscellaneous income	1909.	
Donations	7,605.	
Bad debts	<u>(8,541.)</u>	

Gross Profit, Combined 1,722,428.

Operating Expenses (590,935.)

Net Income 1,131,493

Fund balance – beginning of year 4,407,656.

Fund balance – end of year **\$ 5,539,149.**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.