

AAAI News

Minutes

AAAI Executive Council Meeting

July 12, 1992
San Jose, California

Participants: Patrick Hayes, Danny Bobrow, Bruce Buchanan, Johan de Kleer, Tom Dietterich, Bill Clancey, Paul Cohen, Dick Duda, Richard Fikes, Ken Forbus, Mark Fox, Barbara Grosz, Barbara Hayes-Roth, Jim Hendler, Elaine Kant, Phil Klahr, Benjamin Kuipers, Wendy Lehnert, John McCarthy, Ramesh Patil, Raj Reddy, Elaine Rich, Paul Rosenbloom, Howard Shrobe, Candy Sidner, Bill Swartout, Pete Szolovits, Katia Sycara, Marty Tenenbaum, Beverly Woolf, and Carol Hamilton.

President Pat Hayes opened the meeting by welcoming the four newly elected members of the Executive Council who are Johan de Kleer, Benjamin Kuipers, Paul Rosenbloom, and Beverly Woolf. He also thanked the four retiring councilors—Ken Forbus, Howie Shrobe, Bill Swartout, and Marty Tenenbaum—for their three years of service on the Council and their continuing service to AAAI.

Standing Committee Reports

Reports were presented by the finance, workshop grants, fellows, conference, publications, symposium, and scholarship committees.

Finance Committee: Secretary-Treasurer Bruce Buchanan presented the financial report. Due to the decline in revenue for the association and poor interest rates, the financial outlook is not as positive as in past years. The finance committee will be reviewing the investment strategy during the next year to be sure it meets the current needs of the association, since it may be necessary to rely on these sources in the future. Bruce also presented a set of financial guidelines, based on past and current practices. A new guideline instituting a limit on new expenditures by the

president and executive committee was introduced and approved. This new guideline calls for a limit of three expenditures up to \$10,000 each by the president per annum, and three expenditures up to \$20,000 each by the Executive Committee (consisting of the four officers) per annum.

Workshop Grants: Workshop Grants Chair Candy Sidner reported that workshop grants totalling \$68,000 had been awarded from July 1991 through July 1992. In addition, Beverly Woolf volunteered to serve as cochair of the Workshop Grants committee for the 1992-93 year. Candy, who serves as the liaison to the Computer Museum, also mentioned that the museum is seeking new technology displays. Programs that present new work in AI, even videotapes, are welcome. Programs need to be user-friendly.

Fellows: Fellows Committee Chair Danny Bobrow reported the election of 26 new AAAI Fellows. It was noted that members of the Fellows Selection Committee may not nominate nor provide references for potential fellows.

Conference Committee: Conference Chair Bill Swartout began with a report from 1992 Program Cochair Paul Rosenbloom, who gave a short overview of the technical program. There were a few more paper submissions in 1992 than in 1991. The program cochairs had been more flexible in the grouping of papers than in previous years. The meet-the-authors sessions were omitted from the program, since they had not worked particularly well in 1991.

Bill introduced the program cochairs for 1993, Richard Fikes and Wendy Lehnert. Ramesh Patil and Paul Cohen will serve as Associate Chairs for 1993. In addition, it is hoped that program cochairs for 1994 can be identified early, preferably prior to the arrival of the technical papers in January, so that they can observe the entire 1993 process. Wendy and Richard plan to continue

the self-selection of papers by the program committee during the review process. Ramesh will be responsible for the software that will facilitate this process. They also hope to enlist the aid of senior members of AAAI to serve as area chairs. The list of paper subjects has been broadened in an effort to attract more and different kinds of papers. A strong push will be made for innovative papers. Since the conference will be in Washington, DC in 1993, the selection of the invited speakers will need special attention.

The conference did see a decline in registration, except for the IAAI Conference. It was generally agreed that the program committee's efforts to broaden the scope of papers might be beneficial in increasing numbers. In addition, better and different tutorial proposals are needed. Closer attention will be paid to the scheduling and pricing of the tutorials and workshops.

The new *Robot Competition* and *Arts Exhibition* were both regarded as very successful. It was hoped that both would continue in 1993 in some form.

Workshop Chair Jim Hendler noted that the AAAI workshops are becoming the standard forum for AAAI attendees. He also noted that there was some concern among the workshop organizers that there was a three-year limit on AAAI conference workshops. After a short discussion, it was decided that workshops will be reviewed after a 3-year period, but that if the workshops were proving beneficial to the community, they will be continued. Bob Filman will serve as Workshop Chair in 1993.

The IAAI Conference saw an increase in fully paid attendance. 1993 Program Chair Phil Klahr hopes to expand the program of the IAAI to include invited speakers and, possibly, tutorials focused on individual industries using AI. AI-on-Line, which was incorporated into the IAAI schedule this year, was again very popular.

AAAI Nominations

AAAI is seeking nominations for its councilors and president-elect. Candidates must be AAAI members. Candidates are expected to actively participate in the organization and attend at least two council meetings each year. Councilors serve a three-year term. The president-elect serves a two-year term, followed by a two-year presidency. Please contact the person you are nominating before you submit their name.

We must receive this form on or before March 1, 1993.

Nominee for president-elect (please print or type)

Name _____

Position _____

Organization _____ Department _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Nominee for councilor (please print or type)

Name _____

Position _____

Organization _____ Department _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please send this form to:

AAAI Nominations
445 Burgess Drive
Menlo Park, California 94025

You can fax the information to us at 415-321-4457. For more information contact Carol Hamilton at hamilton@aaai.org or 415-328-3123.

Nominator: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Publications: Editor-in-Chief Bill Clancey reported on the current status of press projects. Bill noted that the Press will continue to publish edited collections derived from AAAI activities, but is also exploring other publishing options. These include technical reports based on working notes from AAAI symposia and workshops in both printed and electronic forms.

AI Magazine Coeditor Ramesh Patil noted that the magazine is still in need of more submissions. He encouraged members to submit articles, and he and Coeditor Elaine Rich will continue their efforts to solicit quality articles. Several sources for articles were suggested, including tutorial speakers, invited speakers, and research sites that have not submitted research-in-progress articles for some time.

Symposium Committee: Jim Hendler, 1993 Symposium Chair, noted that the number and quality of proposals for AAAI symposia may be limited enough in the future to consider having the spring symposium alternate between the west and east coasts. This would eliminate the need for the Fall Symposium Series. This will be evaluated further in the coming months.

Scholarship Committee: Barbara Hayes-Roth reported that the Scholarship Committee granted a total of \$43,000 in student scholarships this year. Of this, \$11,000 was for international students. Barbara noted that several scholarships had been returned at the last minute, explaining the lower than budget figure. A little over \$17,000 was awarded in scholarships for the 1992 Spring Symposium Series, and another \$10,000 is expected to be granted for the Fall Symposium Series. Women and Minority Grants will be awarded in the fall. Barbara announced that Katia Sycara will be taking over as Scholarship Chair for the next two years.

Old Business

A report from Geoff Hinton, who could not attend, was circulated regarding the final outcome of the Eastern European Library Grant program. The program, launched in February 1991, offered a selection of conference proceedings and collections of papers from the Morgan Kaufmann "Readings in" series to 15 university libraries in Eastern Europe. All but two of the libraries participated. The total cost of the

grant was \$4,320.41.

Upon the request of the Executive Council, a legal opinion was obtained during the spring regarding the possibility of providing banking services for specialized conferences and workshops. There is no legal reason why AAAI cannot provide this service, so it will be offered on a trial basis to interested parties.

The AAAI membership survey which was conducted earlier this year was discussed briefly. The survey found that members are generally satisfied with the services that AAAI offers. A summary will appear in an upcoming issue of the *AI Magazine*.

New Business

A scheduled report by Jim Hendler on an affiliation with the Japanese AI Society was rescheduled for presentation at the March 1993 Executive Council meeting.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding AAAI's need for improved communications in Washington, as well as an improved image for AI in general. Several options were explored. It was decided that AAAI's membership in the Computing Research Association was an important part of this process. The president of AAAI has been asked to join the Board of Directors of CRA, which should serve as a good source of information. In addition, an email distribution list was initiated that will be alerted when negative AI media coverage appears. The list will initially include AAAI Executive Council members and AAAI Fellows.

Due to the decline in attendance at the National Conference over the past several years, much discussion was focused on the future of the conference and how it might better serve the needs of the members and the larger community. As AI moves increasingly out into the marketplace, IAAI was identified as an area for growth in the future, given the proper format. An ad hoc committee, headed by Mark Fox, was formed to explore the commercial focus of the conference. Tom Dietterich and Philip Klahr will also serve on this committee.

Hopefully, the current economic conditions will improve, which should affect the conference attendance favorably. In addition, more concentration will be placed on public education. A meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee will be scheduled before the next Executive

Council meeting to further explore these issues.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

AAAI Publications Available on the Internet!

Beginning in March 1993, selected AAAI technical papers and articles will be offered via Internet electronic mail, on-demand.

AAAI has arranged with Public Disc, a new Internet e-mail information distribution service, to offer its publications on-line. This service will enable AAAI members (and non-members) to purchase specific papers that are of interest to them. With no pre-subscription or connect-time fees, Public Disc users will pay only for the documents they want. Using the service requires no special software, equipment or training beyond the ability to send and receive Internet e-mail.

For more information on Public Disc and to learn how to become a subscriber send an Internet e-mail message to: info@PublicDisc.COM

Special Conference Thank-You's

AAAI gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following persons and companies for their support of the 1992 National Conference on Artificial Intelligence:

- **Apple Computer**, for a \$3,500 grant for rental of computer hardware used in the Robot Competition and Art Exhibition. Special thanks to Mark L. Miller of Apple Computer for his personal assistance.
- **Apple Computer**, for the internet connection made available during the conference. Special thanks to David Nagel for helping to arrange this connection.
- **Stanford University and the Knowledge Systems Laboratory**, for hardware used to connect to the internet. Special thanks to Thomas C. Rindfleisch for his role in arranging this donation and investigating alternatives.

Special Interest Group in Manufacturing Election Results

The SIGMAN elections were held in June, 1992. Elected to office were Miroslav Benda, *Industrial Co-Chair*; Stephen F. Smith, *Area Chair, Production and Operations*; D. Navinchan-



Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence 4

edited by Carlisle Scott and Philip Klahr

Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence 3

edited by Reid Smith and Carlisle Scott

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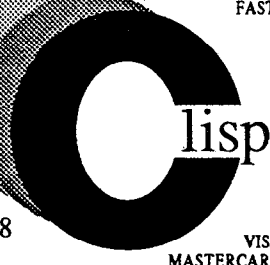
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dra, Area Chair, Material and Design; Mark Drummond, Benchmark Secretary; and Maria Gini, Newsletter Secretary:

Correction

In the October Fellows mailing to all AAAI members, Roger Schank's name was inadvertently listed as Eric Schank. We apologize to Roger Schank for this error.

Student Volunteers Needed for AAAI-93

Undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in a full-time degree program at any college or university are requested to serve as student volunteers during AAAI-93, to be held at the Washington Convention Center in Washington DC. In exchange for assisting AAAI staff during your volunteer shift, you will receive a complimentary technical conference registration, a copy of the AAAI-93 conference *Proceedings*, and a special AAAI-93 T-shirt.

If you are interested in assisting us at the national conference, please contact AAAI at volunteer@aaai.org. All inquiries should include your name, address, telephone, advisor's name, and email address. We expect to name a volunteer coordinator in the near future, so please watch for future announcements.

Nominations Due for Councilor and President Elect

AAAI is soliciting nominations for President-elect and councilors, to begin their term of office in July, 1993. Please consider nominating persons to fill these important volunteer positions. A nomination form can be

found elsewhere in this issue of *AI Magazine*.

AAAI Press Names New Editor-in-Chief

Ken Ford of the University of Western Florida was named the new Editor-in-Chief of the AAAI Press. Dr. Ford takes the place of outgoing Editor-in-Chief Bill Clancey, who will serve as an advisor to Ken Ford during the transition.

AAAI extends its sincere thanks to Bill Clancey for his valuable contributions to the Press during his tenure.

New Technical Report Series Begun

AAAI will begin distributing technical reports of selected workshops, symposia, and conferences through the AAAI Press. The first two reports to be issued include *Practical Approaches to Scheduling and Planning* and *Statistically-Based Natural Language Programming Techniques*.

AAAI Fellows Nominations

We are now accepting nominations for candidates to become 1993 AAAI Fellows. AAAI's Fellows program is designed to recognize people who have made significant, sustained contributions to the field of artificial intelligence. Candidates should, in general, have made significant contributions to the AI field for more than ten years.

We encourage you to give careful consideration to persons whom you think deserve recognition. If you would like to nominate a candidate, please contact AAAI at fellows-93@aaai.org.

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