

VGTC Executive Meeting Minutes

Time: 7pm – 9:30pm, Oct. 17, 2012 (during VisWeek 2012)

Venue: BOKA, Seattle

Attendees:

Klaus Mueller (incoming vgTC Chair)
Rachael Brady (Vice Chair)
Mark Livingston (incoming Vice Chair for Conferences)
Arie Kaufman (Director, Chair of the Technical Awards Committee for Virtual Reality)
Hanspeter Pfister (Director)
William Ribarsky (Director)
Robert Moorhead (Director)
Larry Rosenblum (Director, Liaison for National Initiatives, Chair of Technical Awards)
Amitabh Varshney (outgoing Chair, Director)
Loretta Auvil (Finance Chair)
Torsten Möller (outgoing Publications Chair)
Huamin Qu (Secretary)
Meghan Haley (Publication & Project Coordinator)
Hans Hagen (International Liaison)
Christopher Collins (Online Communities Chair)
David Ebert (Members at Large)
Eduard Gröller (Members at Large)
Christopher Johnson (Members at Large)
John Stasko (Members at Large)
Ming Lin (Editor in Chief, IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics)
Dieter Schmalstieg (ISMAR)
Richard May (General Chair, VisWeek 2012)
John Waltz (President, IEEE Computer Society)

Klaus Mueller assumed duty as the new chair and introduced three new members:

Mark Livingston: Vice Chair for Conferences

Huamin Qu: Secretary

Daniel Acevedo: Web Master

VisWeek 2013 GC Richard May:

IEEE VisWeek'2012 is going very well. The team is fantastic. The conference is handled by a new management team SCH. SCH did pretty well. The industrial involvement is excellent. Expected 10 exhibitors but finally 13 or 14 showed up. The number of attendees reached

1048. The conference venue is almost at full capacity.

In the future, may not need 3 separate conference general chairs. Unlike SciVis, InfoVis, and VAST, each of which has different program committees and needs different program chairs, the roles of general conference chairs are similar so in the future we may blend three conference chairs together.

VisWeek 2013 GC John Stasko:

IEEE VisWeek'13 will be in a main downtown area hotel, the Marriot. There is subway directly connected to the hotel. Like in Seattle, all activities will also be on one floor. Atlanta does not have large IT companies and infrastructure, unlike Seattle. Its strength is CNN, CTC, etc. Will try to get more publicity for the conference and get the conference on news.

IEEE TVCG EIC Ming Lin:

TVCG now has its first VR issue. 18 papers were accepted. The VR community values this as a huge success. This year, the best 10 VAST papers are published in TVCG, next year VAST will be fully included into the special issue. A special issue for ISMAR is currently under consideration (see next).

Dieter Schmalstieg on ISMAR developments:

ISMAR is a conference sponsored by IEEE VGTC and is held at Atlanta this year. The conference and its statistics is very comparable to IEEE VR. There are about 400 attendees. To enable the TVCG special issue it will also adopt the required two phrase review process. The conference has two tracks, long papers and short papers. Only the long papers are considered for publications in the special issue. This topic will be brought up for a vote at the ISMAR SC (which will meet at the conference next week). If successful ISMAR will officially submit a proposal – what they have right now is a draft.

IEEE TVCG EIC Ming Lin on special issues for TVCG:

TVCG now has 12 issues and 2 issues go to special issues. A much bigger page count of 3000 pages per year has been negotiated. Publishing ISMAR as a special issue can help increase the subscriber base, and with more subscribers, the special issue can be justified.

Eduard Gröller on the new model for EuroVis conferences:

EG no longer takes responsibility for financial affairs. Individual conference chairs are responsible for the financial shortfalls if they occur. IEEE computer society members will obtain a discount (15%) for registration. EuroVis papers can be accessed by both EG and IEEE digital library.

Chris Collins on the new VGTC website:

Work is well underway on the development of the new VGTC website. A lot of effort has gone into capturing video. HD quality video is now available and conference talk videos will become available a few days after the talks. The talks will have links to the digital library and each paper has DOI. The captured videos will be archived and be available as streaming videos. A news website will also be available, as well as social media like Twitter. About 10% of attendees are twitter users, and they are quite active. The old VGTC site has been discontinued due to vulnerability to hacking and the temporary new website is <http://vgtc.org>. will also have a mailing list. When accessing the website, visitors will be asked about their interest in subscribing to the mailing list. The new website will have blogs, news page, job section, etc.

John Waltz, IEEE Computer Society President offers advice:

People like to express themselves – harness their energy and give them a chance to express themselves, via book reviews, crowdsourcing, etc. Allow them to provide comments for paper presentations and even real time feedback on the presentations.

Loretta Auvil on financial affairs:

Financially the conference is doing very well. A surplus has been reached every year. In the future, IEEE allows conferences are allowed to roll over 25% of their surplus (if the surplus is over \$5000) to the next year.

Torsten Möller on publications:

Outgoing publications chair. Says that all duties have been smoothly transmitted to Meghan Heley.

Larry Rosenblum announces his intent to resign from NSF:

No successor identified as yet but consensus is reached to search widely for such a person.

Larry Rosenblum and David Ebert propose to form a “Visualization Pioneers Group”:

On behalf of a larger group of senior community members they propose to establish a new program under IEEE VGTC’s leadership to take advantage of their amazing collective knowledge and experience. The group would be modeled after the greatly successful Computer Graphics Pioneers Group at ACM SIGGRAPH. The new program, if approved, would be open to the general visualization and computer science community at large for participation. Detailed membership requirements will be established after negotiating with all parties involved but most likely include extended years (like 20 years) of technical and/or leadership contributions serving the visualization community. David

Ebert: "We can interview pioneers. Some people are not around anymore. The history of our community should be recorded. We should also have scholarships for students to attend the conference who cannot afford it." It is agreed that it is an idea worth exploring. Hence, the group will formulate a dedicated charter modeled after vgTC's and submit it to vgTC.

Klaus Mueller thanks Amitabh Varshney for his great service as the previous VGTC chair:

He presents Amitabh a family gift coupon for a visit at the Kennedy Space Center and a dinner at his favorite restaurant.

Chris Johnson makes a final, but impactful proposal:

He suggests removing "week" from "IEEE VisWeek" and re-naming the conference to "IEEE VIS", with VIS representing Visual Analytics, Information Visualization, and Scientific Visualization, respectively. He argues that the name is not fitting a top conference. After some discussion, the suggestion is supported by all attendees (no abstains) and it is recommended to discuss this further at the VEC level.

Minutes compiled by Huamin Qu and edited by Klaus Mueller