

**USENIX Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
May 31, 2006  
Boston Marriott Copley Place**

Attendance:

**Board:**

Mike Jones, Chairman

Matt Blaze (joined at 9:18 a.m.)

Clem Cole

Alva Couch

Jon "maddog" Hall

Kirk McKusick

Ted Ts'o (joined at 9:18 a.m.)

Absent: Geoff Halprin

**Board Elect:**

Remy Evard

Niels Provos

Absent: Margo Seltzer

**Staff:**

Young

Allman

Chalup

Dickison

Henderson (via phone)

Klein (joined at 1:30 p.m.)

Long

Mulligan

Veglia (via phone)

**Guests:**

Dan Appelman, USENIX Attorney

Nick Stoughton, Standards Liaison

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m., with all of the above present except as noted.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**McKusick moved and was seconded by Cole to accept the minutes of the December 2005 meeting with noted changes.**

**Passed: In favor: 5; absent: 3 (Blaze, Ts'o, Halprin)**

## **Changes to the Agenda**

Jones would like to hold a brief executive session meeting at the end of the June 1st meeting to approve the executive session minutes of December 2005. He invited Hall and McKusick to attend as well.

Jones would like to bring forward the Member Services and Student Program reports in the consent agenda at the June 1st meeting, for the benefit of new Board members.

Couch would like to add a discussion on business models and the use of the term “in-cooperation” at the end of the conference item.

## **Action Items**

The Board reviewed their actions items, with most discussed in detail later in the agenda.

**Cole moved and was seconded by Couch to thank everyone involved with the successful audit. Passed: In favor: 7; absent: 1 (Halprin)**

## **Report on Standards Activities**

Stoughton reported that the core work on POSIX is continuing, and all Linux Standards Base related items aren't covered by the USENIX budget previously approved. He said that the Free Standards Group is considering some funding. He asked the Board to consider additional funding for POSIX and C work. He submitted a report in the April ;login: and plans to submit one for the August issue as well.

**McKusick moved and was seconded by Cole to approve a \$4,630 alteration to the standards budget.**

**Passed: In favor: 7; absent: 1 (Halprin)**

## **Awards**

Cole reported on the 2006 awards, with Radia Perlman being awarded the Flame for her work on the spanning tree protocol, and Bram Cohen received the STUG for his work on BitTorrent.

The board discussed other potential awards that could generate enthusiasm, with ideas ranging from “Best Hack,” “10 Best Practices,” “Tech Oscars,” and to getting the membership involved in naming and nominations for new, “fun” awards. Cole and Evard agreed to come up with a solid proposal for one or two more awards.

## **CRA**

Jones reported that he is impressed with the Computing Research Association's substantive work, and that they have been instrumental in having the National Science Foundation increase its science budget. They are holding their bi-annual meeting at Snowbird in July. Both Jones and Couch will be attending. Blaze offered to get involved, and replace Jones on the Funding Task Force committee.

## **John Lions Award**

Hall talked about his efforts to raise money for the endowed chair. He stated that the E-Bay auction of the autographed edition of the Lions book would begin on June 1, 2006. Dickison added that USENIX has run ads in *login*;, placed a button on our home page, and printed a flyer to get the word out.

## **2006 Budget**

Young explained the budget process in which a first draft is presented and approved at Fall meeting preceding the current fiscal year. Final approval of the revised budget is voted on at the first in-person meeting of the fiscal year. Young stated that in past years we have attempted to produce close to break-even budgets. However, in 2006 the Board agreed to keep staffing levels the same even with fewer events planned, and also commit up to \$250,000 to the John Lions matching donor campaign. Therefore, we are budgeting for a \$673K deficit in operations. Based on her discussions with our financial manager, it is likely that we can rely on the \$300K in non-operating to cover some of this deficit. She also felt that it is unlikely that we will have to match the entire amount for the Lions fund. She is also hopeful that with increased sponsorships and attendance we might come close to break even by the year's end. Young said that both Samson, and the USENIX accountant, Michelle Suski would be attending the fall to provide fuller reports on the endowment and finances.

*Break from 10:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.*

*McKusick returned at 11:05 a.m.*

## **Office Disaster Recovery and Database Migration**

Long discussed the current database set-up at USENIX, explaining that is an old, unsupported, Sybase system, which crashed in April. She would like to proceed with a feasibility study that will look into our migrating to another system. Per her proposal in the packet, she requested up to \$50,000 for funding, which would include the study and migration. It was suggested that she explore other alternatives to MySQL.

## **Sponsorship of the Grace Hopper Women in Computing Conference**

Young stated that we've historically supported this event, where most of the attendees are students. Ts'o suggested that we look into sending 2 or 3 female USENIX members to staff a USENIX table at the event. The goal would be to encourage students that systems is an exciting place to be in academia.

## **New Supporting/Sponsorship Classes**

Allman went over her report, suggesting the creation of a "Patron" category in which sponsor's would be given corporate membership as a part of their agreements, and that we do away with the current supporting member category. She would "grandfather" in the current members in those categories. The change would help obtain larger sponsorships, and prevent misuse of the rental option of our mailing lists.

**McKusick moved and was seconded by Hall to change the definition of supporting membership classes to be as Allman proposed:**

- **Corporate, Educational, Individual, Student, and SAGE memberships will remain as they are.**
- **Patron Program:**
  - **Supporter: \$5,000**
  - **Partner: \$6,000-\$49,000**
  - **Patron: \$50,000 and up**
- **Conference Sponsors at the Platinum, Gold, and Silver levels and various options would continue to be determined on a per event basis, and may sometimes include the benefits of a corporate membership.**

**Passed: In favor: 7; absent: 1 (Halprin)**

### **Sales/Exhibit Report**

Allman reported that she has over \$500,000 committed in sponsorships for the year, and went over her report. She is interested in getting suggestions on how to increase attendance and sponsorship at LISA in Washington DC in December.

### **Exhibitor Fees**

Allman put forth her proposal to increase booth fees for LISA vendors. She stated that there has not been an increase in four years, and that Washington DC is an expensive venue. The increase would keep us on par with O'Reilly's OSCON and below SANS. Some nonprofit and user groups would still have complimentary booths.

**McKusick moved and was seconded by Hall to raise the booth fees for vendors by \$195 effective September 1, 2006.**

**Passed: In favor: 7; absent: 1 (Halprin)**

### **SIG Policy language**

McKusick went over his proposal and the need to change the USENIX policies to reflect the current situation regarding Special Interest Groups and status of SAGE, and to remove old language related to Special Technical Groups.

**McKusick moved and was seconded by Cole to delete the old wording in the policy document regarding Special Technical Group's and SAGE and replace it with his proposed language as follows:**

#### **10. Special Interest Group: SAGE**

**SAGE is a Special Interest Group of the USENIX Association. Its goal is to serve the system administration community by:**

- **establishing standards of professional excellence and recognizing**

**those who attain them**

- **promoting activities that advance the state of the art or the community**

- **providing tools, information, and services to assist system administrators and their organizations**

- **offering conferences and training to enhance the technical and managerial capabilities of members of the profession**

**SAGE is a class of membership within USENIX. Members can join SAGE in addition to their USENIX membership or join as a SAGE-only member.**

**SAGE SIG governance:**

**SAGE is overseen by a subcommittee of the USENIX Board of Directors. The USENIX staff and SAGE members develop and deliver benefits and programs.**

**Passed: In favor: 7; absent: 1 (Halprin)**

## **Executive Office Report**

Young referred to her report, and announced that Mulligan will be leaving toward the end of June; Chalup is the part-time SAGE Programs Manager; and Rik Farrow has been working as the ;login: editor for one year.

## **SAGE Report**

Chalup reported that she and the staff have been focusing on member communications and updating the SAGE Web site. The last six months have been focused on booklets, programs, and the jobs board, all of which are getting good feedback. We have also revised the Code of Ethics and the 2006 Salary Survey is up. She is also developing a self-service mentoring area, which hooks folks up peer-to-peer style, online.

*Lunch break from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.*

*Klein joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m.*

*McKusick returned at 1:35 p.m.*

*Blaze returned at 1:56 p.m.*

## **Marketing Report**

Dickison went over her report, stating that she would like to expand our reach by using new lists in direct mail efforts, and going to other shows. She would also like to implement a referral system for event registration and do some pod casting that reflects new and updated web content. She is also working with membership on implementing category-specific renewal notices.

Dickison also discussed the recent LISA Regional Training event, which was cancelled due to low attendance, despite local targeted mailings and working closely with the San

Francisco Bay LISA local group. She feels that a larger marketing budget would have been helpful in buying more mailing lists and producing flyers. There was a sense of the Board to retry an event like this, and to devote more money to the marketing effort and get company support. The staff was asked to produce a proposal.

## **Conferences**

### **Tutorial Report**

Klein went over his report. He felt that Annual Tech is going well even though attendance is lower than we had hoped. He is starting the solicitations for the LISA program. He discussed his plans for remuneration of instructors, saying that USENIX is paying as well if not more than our competitors.

**Cole moved and was seconded by Ts'o to approve Dan Klein's tutorial remuneration plan as follows:**

**1) New pay scale**

**a) New instructors - \$2,000/day (same as before, and still better than many other groups, encouraging new instructors to come to us, and allowing us to pick the best instructors)**

**b) Seasoned instructors - \$2,500/day (a published reduction that is fair and appropriate given our decreased tutorial attendance). We put this into effect for the 2-3 years following 9/11, and no one really objected.**

**c) Special instructors - \$3,000/day (used as an unpublished reward for those instructors who a) are especially deserving - long history, good attendance, great classes, etc., or b) we need, but who refuse to take a justifiable and fair pay cut) - hopefully there shall be none of these.**

**2) New bonus scale - \$15/head over 75 attendees**

**3) Cancellation avoidance policy. If the attendance looks like it will be low, we will ask the instructor if they are willing to work for less money (the actual dollar amount will vary depending on attendance numbers and whether the instructor is also teaching other well-attended classes or not) rather than canceling the class. Our threshold will be on the order of 25-30 students, and we will pay the instructor the original amount if their tutorial gets a jump in attendance.**

**Passed: In favor: 7; absent: 1 (Halprin)**

Klein spoke about our possibly doing a certification program aligned with training. He is going to discuss the possibility with SANS, FreeBSD and SNIA. He said there have been suggestions for us to partner with the Linux Professional Institute as well. Klein also suggested the possibility of working with Wall Street financial houses on a video version of training. Young and Klein will investigate further. Couch offered to assist with the curriculum.

### **Duplicate Submissions Policy**

Blaze discussed the issues that came up for Angelos Keromytis as the chair of the Security Program Committee regarding some duplicate submissions that were referred to USENIX for action (the authors are banned from submitting to the next year's event as well). Blaze sent letters on behalf of USENIX. Appelman said that the Board needs to be sure it's consistent in the enforcement of the policy.

### **Current Conferences**

#### **LISA**

Young said that Bill LeFebvre is chairing the 2006 event, and there were 47 paper submissions. Couch reported that a refereed Configuration Workshop and an un-refereed Service Science workshop are planned for LISA.

#### **FAST**

Young reported that the attendance was higher by 75 people, and it had good sponsorships. The conference is now on a 14-month schedule, with the next one being held in February 2007.

#### **WORLDS**

This event will be evaluated after it is held next, which will be the day before OSDI.

#### **NSDI**

It was held in early May, and had the same number of attendees as in the past.

#### **Annual Technical Conference**

Young reported that attendance is about 700, but we were hoping for 800-900. Jeff Chase will chair the 2007 event, for which we are holding space for three tracks (refereed papers, Invited Talks, and undetermined), and a Guru track. Young requested a decision in the next few months about what direction to take. She said that Peter Honeyman was working on an experimental CS event, but just realized that ACM is holding a workshop on the topic in the same month. Honeyman suggests we talk with them about collaboration. Further discussion was tabled until the meeting tomorrow.

#### **SRUTI**

Young said the workshop only has authors and invited guests of the program chairs as attendees, but that attendance may be opened to all comers for a short time. There were a low number of submissions this year, and the program is reduced to one day. Cole felt that this conference could be a hot topic in the future, but that the closed, invitation only model is wrong. Ts'o commented that other groups are starting to hold email and anti-spam events. Provos will attend the event.

#### **Linux Kernel Developers Summit**

Ts'o reported that this is on track, the invitations are out, and sponsorship is going well.

## Security

Blaze reported that there were a record number of submissions again. Angelos Keromytis is the Program Committee Chair, and is doing a great job. There are a few other events co-located that week: E-Voting, HotSec and MetriCon, a first-time event which Dan Geer arranged.

## OSDI

Young reported that there were 150 submissions, and sponsorships are better than ever.

## HotOS

Young reported that this will be held in San Diego in 2007. Galen Hunt will be finalizing the call shortly.

## Co-Sponsored Conferences

### SANE

Young said she had forwarded to the Board the report from Peter Honeyman. Ts'o reported that he was there, and it was a good conference, but not as well attended as it could have been. It is unclear what will happen in two years. Honeyman is pitching a pan-European event. Young recommends careful consideration before pledging our support in the future.

### Middleware

USENIX is committed for student stipends. Cole is taking over the liaison from Honeyman.

### VEE

Couch reported that it would be co-located with PLDI. There were 44 submissions, mostly related to Java Virtual Machines and virtual open systems. He said that co-locating with PLDI seems to make sense for now.

### HotAC

Couch said there were 15 submissions, with 6 acceptances. This will be co-located with ICAC. Couch doesn't suggested posting the proceedings, as he feels the net was too narrowly cast.

### MobiSys

Young said there were a record number of submissions. Up until last year, we have been trading off organizing it with ACM SIGMOBILE. Jones said we would like to run this conference entirely, without interference every year. Young would reiterate our desire but was not hopeful that SIGMOBILE would agree.



## **In Cooperation Status with ACM**

Couch discussed this, hoping to better define the terms of what we offer and what we get in return. Young reported that it is usually our helping to promote an ACM event with no financial ties. Couch would like the status to grant us access to post the digital copy of papers on our Web site as well. The Board agreed.

*Break from 4:30 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.  
Blaze left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.*

## **Follow-up on April '06 Vision Meeting**

Jones started the discussion by going over a brief summary of USENIX branding and the idea that we could introduce new conferences and/or new conference models. He said the certification item that Klein spoke of earlier was a result of the meeting. Dickison will look into our doing more regional training. Because of a lack of time, the discussion on SECSE and open source conferences is tabled for now.

Young, Dickison, and Farrow will look into highlighting ;*login*: articles online as a member benefit. Young asked about our getting positioned to run conferences on the bleeding edge. The ideas of what's new and emerging ranged from Ruby to Service Oriented Architectures (SOAs), to Ajax, though it was noted that Ruby and Ajax communities are more self organizing. Couch said that he is talking with Mark Burgess regarding the Atlas framework. Evard said that LISA could be expanded into architecture and management. Couch will look into configuration and enterprise architectures. A gathering of VIPs to discuss the interesting things that have happened in the past year and potential topic areas was suggested. Jones questioned how we might engage the members for input and suggested sending them short summaries of what we are planning and asking for feedback and ideas. Blaze suggested a USENIX news board.

**McKusick moved and was seconded by Hall to approve the 2006 budget with adjustments to include up to \$50,000 for the database migration and \$10,000 for sponsorship of the 2006 Grace Hopper conference.**

**Passed: In favor: 7; absent: 1 (Halprin)**

**McKusick moved and was seconded by Hall to adjourn the meeting.**

**Passed: In favor: 7; absent: 1 (Halprin)**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

---

Secretary

---

Date