

SIAM-MS16 SIAG Business Meeting Minutes

Present: Qiang Du (Chair), John Lowengrub (Vice Chair), Maria Emelianenko (Secretary), Bill Kolata, Timothy Fest, members of the SIAG. Notes taken by ME.

1. The meeting started with a presentation given by the SIAG Chair Qiang Du. It included information about the conference, SIAG membership and growth statistics and announcements of past and upcoming events, including Spring 2018 SIAM mini symposium at the Spring MRS Meeting and planned SIAM/MRS workshop.
2. SIAG Secretary Maria Emelianenko spoke briefly about SIAG web presence and efforts aimed at increasing representation of women and minorities in SIAG, including Women in Mathematics of Materials Networking luncheon.
3. After the presentation the floor was opened to questions.
 - One participant raised a question on whether there will be any special reciprocity agreements between SIAM and MRS in terms of the membership rates. It was noted that the cost of the membership is unlikely to be a determining factor in SIAG member ability to attend joint conferences with MRS.
 - There was a shared sentiment that starting SIAM-MS conference later in a year (after the finals are over) and not on Mother's Day in the future would be desirable. It was also suggested to shorten the MS conference cycle to 2 years.
 - There were some concerns regarding how much control conference organizers have over the structure of the conference. It was noted that the inclusion of contributed talks in each session created some issues and communication between SIAM office and mini symposium organizers could have been improved. The overall idea of this change was positively received by the community and the efforts of SIAM staff on resolving technical issues was greatly appreciated.
 - There was a suggestion to include Poster prizes and refreshments to make the venue more successful and motivate more people to participate. It was also noted that holding the poster session jointly with the welcome reception the first night of the conference might increase its chances for success. Mini-symposia can be scheduled to end one hour earlier that day.
 - There is a need to elect new SIAG officers starting January 2017. The nominations committee will be formed to compile a list of candidates and carry out the elections. A call is out for volunteers to serve of the nominations committee, and nominations for officers are also being accepted at this time.

The meeting adjourned at around 2:29pm ET.