

Pacific Telecommunications Council
Board of Governors
21 March 2007
Conference Call Meeting
MINUTES

Participants

Board of Governors:

David Lassner, President and Chair
Bruce Drake, Past President (joined in progress)
Bill Barney, Treasurer (Lorraine Wong for Bill, Bill joined in progress)
Robert Walp, Executive Secretary
Ken Zita, Vice President for Conference
Yoshikazu Kobayashi
Richard Nickelson
Richard (Dick) Pang
Richard Taylor
Gregg Daffner

Guests:

Ed Simnett, Advisory Council Chair
Sharon Nakama, Director of Conferences & Secretariat Manager
Mark Hukill, Senior Advisor
Linda Ristow, Fiscal Manager
Morris Bodnar (recording secretary)

Regrets:

John Hibbard
Kenji Saga

The meeting commenced at 2:33 PM Honolulu time.

1. Review of Agenda

APPROVED: 21 March 2007 agenda approved as distributed.

2. Approval of Past Minutes

Mark Hukill advised spelling of names and titles had been corrected.

APPROVED: 21 February 2007 PTC Board of Governors meeting minutes.

3. Proposal for Award Program

Richard Taylor summarized proposals for introducing named PTC awards. One will support the present student essay contest, the second a new research paper prize. Each will carry 5 year commitments for external financial support and be awarded under the supervision of the Research Committee.

Richard commented the new award could be a catalyst to increase interest within the research community, including corporate researchers. David Lassner suggested reviewing this new approach giving thought to using outreach effectively through the development of a coordinated message describing the academic and research tracks, peer review, and integration within the PTC conference program. The Research Committee is likely in the best position to develop recommendations. Richard Nickelson suggested the Research Committee (Heather Hudson) could develop a press release for the Board of Governors' review in order to expedite the announcement of the new award.

ACTION: Richard Taylor moved the PTC Board of Governors approve the use of named awards for the existing PTC student essay contest and proposed research paper prize. Seconded by Robert Walp. Passed

Mark Hukill then described an option to create a third award to recognize significant individual contributions to the PTC. Recognition would be in the form of an honorific (plaque) awarded when warranted. While a methodology is not fully developed, a selection committee would likely be utilized to review candidates. David asked if there were any concerns or objections before granting approval in principle. No objections received.

DECISION: Approval in principle provided for Mark Hukill (Robert Walp assisting) to develop a framework and criteria for a third award to be considered by the Board in the future.

Mark Hukill described a fourth award proposal from Fedor Smith, VP of Atlantic ACM, to present their annual Wholesale Telecom Award at PTC'08. The '07 award was recently presented during the Comptel Conference in Las Vegas. Mark related John Hibbard's concerns regarding the prestige of the award and whether it is global in context. Fedor Smith has been asked if the candidate pool can be more regionally and internationally inclusive. A response is anticipated shortly.

David Lassner asked if, subject to Atlantic ACM's willingness to shift the award to a global context, the Board of Governors would be willing to recommend the PTC Secretariat work this up further and bring a proposal forward at a future date.

A discussion ensued in which further concerns were raised with respect to the necessity for the award to be inclusive in a global context while generating value-added for PTC. David acknowledged these comments suggesting the PTC Secretariat take note while continuing to work with Atlantic ACM.

DECISION: The PTC Secretariat will continue to work with Atlantic ACM to develop a proposal, taking into consideration the said concerns, to be brought back for the Board of Governors' consideration.

4. Update on Executive Director Search

David Lassner provided an update on behalf of Bruce Drake. David along with the ED staffing committee, composed of Bruce Drake, Bill Barney and Dick Pang, will review the two corporate and six individual proposals received. The review committee will bring back a report for the consideration of the full Board including a discussion of options and a recommendation.

Richard Nickelson indicated an associate with potential recently expressed interest in the ED opening. David asked that Richard forward the candidate's CV and other information to Bruce.

5. Mid-Year Seminar Update

Sharon Nakama advised that due to a conflict the dates for the Mid-Year seminar had been pushed back to September 12 to 14 (Wednesday to Friday). Invitations have now been issued to potential Mid-Year Program Committee members. Two sponsors have been identified and the search continues for others. The Mid-Year Program Committee will meet within two weeks; initial members will be: Bruce Drake, Lou Zacharilla, Robert Walp, Joe Mertz and Maui Sanford.

6. PTC'08 Conference Planning

Ken Zita indicated the PTC'08 Conference Planning Committee had their first teleconference yesterday (20 March '07). Ken reminded all that a broader volunteer-based organizing approach will be employed this year. The committee members have a general notion of the theme and content and continue to actively solicit further suggestions. A title and statement of direction are being worked on in order to commence marketing activities. Work continues to identify a conference chair, headliners and keynote speakers.

David Lassner related the committee is attempting to bring in additional communities by expanding the scope beyond the traditional constituencies of carriers, sub-optic and satellite, to include content, video, wireless, and IP in a manner which does not neglect existing constituents. With this view, ideas for themes and headliners are most welcome.

Bruce Drake indicated having witnessed an interesting content themed presentation which drew a very positive response from the audience. Further information will be sent to David and Ken.

7. Hilton Discussions

Sharon Nakama advised the Hilton has offered PTC 8.5% of gross room revenues. This will increase Secretariat revenues to approximately \$114,000 from the \$78,000 currently received through rebates and surcharge revenue. Options to also receive a percentage of food and beverages (receptions & room service only) are up for consideration along with other miscellaneous benefits. The Hilton indicated a willingness to increase the percentage of gross room revenues to 10% provided PTC signs on to 2015.

David Lassner noted a request for proposals strategy could still be employed. Richard Nickelson wondered if there had been sufficient movement given what PTC brings to the table. David added the new gross room revenues formula would eliminate the non-conference registrant accommodations surcharge, and in doing so potentially increase the number of rooms attributable to PTC.

Bill Barney suggested it may not be prudent to extend the Hilton contract based on current financial projections. With new information being received on conference-host facility agreements, and the new ED coming on stream, it may be beneficial to delay for two to three months.

Sharon believes the Hilton time slot is secure and early termination would be cost prohibitive.

Bill identified the option to consider relocating the conference outside of the state, potentially to an Asian location. This would open the bidding to many more potential hosts, increasing the competitive response.

ACTION: Sharon will initiate a RFP to solicit Hawaiian and Asian location conference hosting proposals. The RFP will specify a 2011 start with an option to restructure '09 & '10 with the Hilton.

8. Other Business

David Lassner asked Richard Nickelson if he had any specific observations on the financial updates circulated by Sharon Nakama. Richard offered to hold this till next teleconference, David suggested distributing comments by email.

Next Meeting: Date/Time: Wednesday, 18 April 2007, 14:30-15:30 HST

Meeting Closed: 3:36 PM Honolulu Standard Time.