SIGCSE Board 2025-2028

Meeting Time: Friday May 15 at 4-6 US Eastern / 3-5pm US Central / 1-3 Pacific Time and Saturday May 16 at 5:30-7:30am Adelaide / 8:00-10:00am Auckland

Meeting Location: https://acm-org.zoom.us/j/91647485606

Attendees:

Brian Dorn, Chair
Claudia Szabo, Vice Chair (Absent)
Michelle Friend, Treasurer
Mark Sherriff, Secretary
Kemi Ola, At Large Member
Ethel Tshukudu, At Large Member
Chris Gregg, At Large Member (Joined late)
Alison Clear, Past Chair

Approval of Minutes

The board reviewed the April 2026 board meeting minutes and corrections were made. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Travel Grants

RESPECT Travel Grants

Ethel Tshukudu reported that three applications had been received for RESPECT travel grants, with two awards available. Alison Clear and Kemi Ola assisted in reviewing the applications.

Discussion clarified that the review committee would finalize recommendations and Brian Dorn would verify SIGCSE membership status before notifications were sent.

The board discussed broader themes around travel grant prioritization criteria, particularly for ITiCSE. Topics included:

- Geographic proximity to conferences
- Whether applicants were presenting work
- Potential institutional funding availability
- Supporting first-time SIGCSE attendees
- Supporting applicants from regions with fewer nearby SIGCSE opportunities

- Maximizing impact of limited funds

Board members discussed balancing fairness with strategic impact. There was general agreement that applications should be evaluated holistically rather than using rigid exclusion rules.

The board also discussed the need to better formalize evaluation criteria and rubric guidance before the larger SIGCSE Technical Symposium review cycle later in the year.

ITiCSE Travel Grants

Ethel Tshukudu reported that 28 applications had been received for ITiCSE travel grants with five awards available. Reviews would begin over the weekend with decisions targeted for the following week.

Discussion continued around how regional access, prior SIGCSE participation, and institutional funding opportunities should factor into decisions.

ICER Travel Grants

Applications had begun arriving for ICER and SIGCSE TS travel grants, though only a small number had been submitted so far.

CompEd

Terms of Reference Updates

The board revisited CompEd steering committee terms of reference updates that had been pending from prior meetings. Discussion focused on:

- Moving from four-year to three-year terms
- Adding renewal language to align with other SIGCSE steering committees
- Clarifying board-appointed positions
- Updating public documentation before formally appointing new members

A significant portion of the discussion centered on representation and diversity within the CompEd steering committee, particularly the desire to ensure meaningful representation from regions traditionally underrepresented in SIGCSE leadership.

Board members discussed:

- Whether language should explicitly require representation from outside North America/Europe/Australasia
- The distinction between aspirational versus mandatory language
- Recruitment challenges
- Avoiding tokenism while still making strong commitments to representation

The board agreed the existing language should be strengthened and refined before final approval.

ITiCSE

SC Feedback

The board reviewed feedback from the ITiCSE steering committee. No major action items emerged from the discussion.

SIGCSE Technical Symposium

Collaborative Project Incubator Track

The Technical Symposium steering committee approved a pilot “Collaborative Project Incubator” pre-symposium track for SIGCSE TS 2027.

Discussion clarified that:

- The activity is intentionally distinct from working groups and birds-of-a-feather sessions
- It is intended as a collaborative brainstorming/incubation space
- It must operate at effectively zero net cost
- No additional organizing positions would be created

The board supported the pilot approach and agreed the experiment could help foster future collaborations and working groups.

Hybrid / International Participation Feedback

The board reviewed attendee feedback following the decision to discontinue hybrid attendance for SIGCSE TS.

Feedback was generally less negative than anticipated, though concerns focused heavily on:

- International travel costs
- Visa barriers
- Funding limitations
- Accessibility for attendees outside North America

A recurring concern was that SIGCSE Virtual is not currently CORE-ranked, limiting its usefulness for some international faculty seeking institutional recognition.

Discussion noted that pursuing CORE ranking for SIGCSE Virtual may become increasingly important.

AI and Reviewing Concerns

The Technical Symposium steering committee expressed appreciation that AI-related issues had been discussed at the SIG governing board level.

Discussion specifically highlighted concerns around reviewers potentially using generative AI tools to perform reviews rather than conducting substantive human evaluation.

The board noted that SIGCSE TS 2027 chairs are already exploring automated reference-checking tools and broader review-process support ideas.

Kid Support / Companion Support

The steering committee expressed strong interest in SIGARCH’s support model for attendees with children and suggested exploring whether broader support mechanisms could also assist attendees requiring caregivers or companions.

Discussion noted that such a program would likely need to operate as a board-level initiative similar to the travel grant program rather than being conference-specific.

Technical Symposium Steering Committee Appointment

The board reviewed Technical Symposium steering committee nominations.

Motion: Kemi Ola moved to appoint Jeff Stone; Michelle Friend seconded.
Outcome: Approved unanimously.

TS 2027 Budget

The board reviewed the SIGCSE TS 2027 draft budget.

Discussion included:

- Slight registration increases
- Removal of swag bags
- Removal of Kids Camp funding from the conference budget
- Removal of tutorial sessions on Saturday
- Elimination of the Friday plenary session in favor of distributed programming
- Continued use of both Conf.researchr and Hoova
- California venue costs
- Questions regarding hotel room block negotiations

Motion: Mark Sherriff moved to approve the budget; Michelle Friend seconded.
Outcome: Approved unanimously.

Web/Data Team Appointment — Lucas Cordova

The board reviewed a request to move Lucas Cordova from the eliminated Hybrid Chair role into the TS Web/Data team.

Motion: Mark Sherriff moved to approve Lucas Cordova as a Web/Data team member; Alison Clear seconded.
Outcome: Approved unanimously.

RESPECT

Steering Committee Recommendation

The RESPECT steering committee recommended Nikki Washington for appointment to the steering committee.

Motion: Michelle Friend moved to approve Nikki Washington pending receipt of final supporting materials from the steering committee; Kemi Ola seconded.
Outcome: Approved (one abstention).

Chairs Roundtable 2027 Appointment

The board reviewed self-nominations for the 2027 Department Chairs Roundtable junior co-chair position.

Motion: Mark Sherriff moved to appoint Daniel Cliburn; Alison Clear seconded.
Outcome: Approved unanimously.

SIGCSE Chapters

Proposed Canada Chapter

The board reviewed ACM concerns regarding creation of a Canada-wide SIGCSE chapter rather than regional/local chapters.

Discussion emphasized:

- Existing precedent for country-level SIGCSE chapters
- Canada's geographic realities
- The goal of supporting computing education communities across underserved regions
- Potential future conference and networking opportunities

Motion: Kemi Ola moved that the board formally express support for the proposed Canada chapter and encourage ACM to approve the exception; Michelle Friend seconded.
Outcome: Approved unanimously.

Special Projects

Chris Gregg reported:

- Approximately six proposals had already been received
- The deadline would be extended by two additional weeks
- Decisions would likely be completed by the second week of June

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CACM Research Highlights

The board reviewed a request for SIG nominations for CACM Research Highlights.

Discussion suggested creating a small committee to review best papers from SIGCSE conferences and identify strong candidates.

Action Item: The Board suggested that Claudia Szabo (not present on the call) would be a good person to look into a CACM Research Highlights committee.

ACM AI Leadership Summit

The board discussed planning for the ACM AI Leadership Summit and SIGCSE participation.

Discussion included:

- Potential use of remaining Generative AI Consortium funds to support panelist travel
- Concern about limited conference planning visibility and timeline
- Coordination with SIGDOC and SIGSITE

The board agreed that supporting SIGCSE participation using existing AI initiative funds was appropriate.

SIGCSE Virtual

Chris Gregg reported:

- SIGCSE Virtual received more than 200 submissions
- Registration projections appeared strong
- Additional costs for accessibility captioning services would need to be incorporated into updated budgeting

Discussion noted that updated TMRF paperwork might be needed if registration structures changed.

Website

Mark Sherriff reported ongoing progress with:

- New conference URL structures
- Transition of TS 2027 email systems
- Integration planning with Conf.researchr
- Coordination with ICER website transitions

The board agreed to devote additional dedicated discussion time to website transition planning during the June meeting.

Secretary

SIGCSE Bulletin

The board discussed possible content for upcoming SIGCSE Bulletin issues, including:

- ACM AI Leadership Summit announcements
- A possible “first year as the board” retrospective later in the year

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Other Logistics

September Retreat Planning

The board discussed possible timing for an in-person retreat meeting, tentatively targeting late September or early October.

2026 CRA Summit

The board discussed a request for SIG representation at the 2026 CRA Summit in Minnesota.

Author Attendance Policy Clarification

The board discussed confusion arising from RESPECT communications regarding whether one registered author may cover multiple accepted papers.

Discussion confirmed that SIGCSE practice has traditionally allowed one registered author to satisfy attendance requirements for multiple accepted papers.

The board agreed that current policy language is unclear because presenter registration expectations are only indirectly addressed through the presenter substitution policy.

Next Meeting

Wed June 24 at 4-6 US Eastern / 3-5pm US Central / 1-3 Pacific Time and Thurs June 25 at 5:30-7:30am Adelaide / 8:00-10:00am Auckland