Mobile Communication Interest Group
business meeting minutes

Ballroom Foyer M
Hilton Prague, Prague,
May 27, 2018, 17:00-18:15

Chair: Colin Agur
Vice Chair: Rich Ling
Secretary: Thilo von Pape

20 persons members attended

Agenda
1. Chair’s report
2. Pre-conference
3. Doctoral consortium
4. Awards
5. Nomination committee for fall election (Vice Chair)
6. Membership committee
7. Review process
8. Preconference
9. Doctoral consortium
10. Nomination committee for fall election of vice chair

1. Chair’s report (Colin Agur, Chair)
Colin Agur reported a set of positive numbers: the membership has increased from 160 in 2017 to 230, the submissions from 59 to 102, and the sessions allotted to the Mobile Communication Interest Group (MCIG) from 6 to 12. The acceptance rate was a little higher, because we were offered a little more time slots, and we programmed high density timeslots. The sessions were of high quality, and all sessions were diverse in terms of gender and the nationality of the presenters.

Colin then provided an outlook on ongoing and upcoming projects:

- The website has been redesigned. The aim of the new site is to give a unified, seamless user experience where all our activities can be found and followed.
- Colin is also working on a membership drive to extend the MCIG’s network.
- A mentorship program will be developed to benefit scholars who work globally. This initiative should further bolster the global diversity of the MCIG.
- A task force will be built to focus on best practices in reviewing.
- MCIG hopes to be among the next first interest groups to move up to division status next.

Colin ended the president’s report by giving the word to representatives of two publications.
- Veronika Karnowski reported from the Journal Mobile Media & Communication that it has been included into the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI). The first citation index will be published in a few weeks.
MCIG Vice Chair Rich Ling spoke about the Oxford book series “Studies in Mobile Communication”. Rich said that it has already developed two books and that several others are in the pipeline. He held that books are excellent to cultivate ‘big ideas’ and encouraged potential authors to approach him with their book projects.

2. Pre-conference (Vice Chair Rich Ling)
Rich reported from this year’s preconference, for which he had been responsible as Vice Chair. It was located in the National Technical Museum, which was a wonderful location. About 40 persons attended four workshops. This was the 15th preconference. Rich emphasized that the new “Blue Sky” format of the workshop works well in that people bring ideas together that provide a fertile ground for future collaborations, panels, special issues, etc. The preconference ends with a convivial evening program, which is excellent for networking. Rich thanked the sponsors Nanyang Technological University, University of Sydney, University of Michigan, and University of Hawaii.
Rich ended with an outlook on next year’s preconference: he is working on having it hosted at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington. Rich called for volunteers for the organization. Jordan Frith, Sun Kyong Lee, and Mariek Vanden Abeele volunteered.

3. Doctoral Consortium (Past Chair Veronika Karnowski)
Veronika Karnowski explained that the MCIG organizes a doctoral consortium (DC) together with the Communication and Technology section. The doctoral consortium is held on the day of the opening reception (Thursday). Small groups with mentors work together to review the proposals of students and give them constructive feedback. This year’s DC was in the Scouts venue in Prague center, a beautiful location. Veronika appealed for potential mentors to volunteer in an aim to diversify the mentorship.
She also asked to spread the word about the DC to potential student candidates. The acceptance rate is about 50%, and the DC gives preference to students who are still in an ideational phase so that the feedback can still have an impact in terms of improving the work before submission. Next year is the 10th university, and there will be a celebration to which former participants will be invited.

4. Awards (Jason Martin)
The head of the awards committee Jason Martin presented the Top Paper award and the three Emerging Scholar Research Grants of $500 each.
- The Top Paper Award was handed to John Robert Bautista, Sonny Rosenthal, Trisha T.C. Lin, and Yin-Leng Theng for their manuscript “Predictors and Outcomes of Nurses’ Use of Personal Mobile Phones for Work Purposes”.
- The Emerging Scholar Research Grants were awarded to Julia M. Hildebrand (Drexel U), Claire M. Segijn (U of Minnesota), and Yeliz D. Ozdemir (Ankara U).
The dissertation award is awarded bi-annually. People who want to review, are invited to make themselves known to Jason Martin.

5. Nomination committee for fall election of Vice Chair
Colin asked for volunteers for the nomination committee for the fall election of the Vice Chair. Lynne Kelly and Mariek Vanden Abeele volunteered.
6. Membership committee (Colin Agur, Chair)
The Mobile IG wants to identify potential new members from across ICA. In addition, the mobile IG wants to identify and prioritize growth topics in which people can play a leadership role. Two members volunteered for the committee: Leah Komen and Maxwell Foxman.

7. Review process 2018 (Colin Agur, Chair)
The mobile IG seeks people to serve on a task force on reviewing, with the aim of developing best practices for reviewing the different formats. There is a discussion about the limitation to five papers per scholar which is set by ICA. Veronika clarifies that the system does not allow a solution in which an author could accept as many papers as wanted but would not be allowed to present more than five. The issue was raised that the limitation to five papers is particularly problematic for senior scholars who supervise a large number of junior scholars and have to make choices as co-authors as to which manuscripts to submit.
Another discussion addressed the different presentation formats. The format of seven presentations of seven minutes was generally seen as very positive. Colin clarified that poster-sessions are not decided by individual sections but automatically granted via ICA. The advantages of high-density poster-sessions with a break-out an possibility to exchange were emphasized by one members.

8. Preconference (Colin Agur, Vice Chair)
Vice Chair Rich Ling spoke about the preconference at Technical Museum. There were 40 participants for 4 workshop sessions. This was the 15th edition, and the third with the new “BlueSky” workshop format. The conference dinner has again proven to be an important moment for the community. Rich thanked the sponsors.
Rich invoked the possibility of organizing the 2019 preconference at the Smithsonian. Jordan, Sunny Lee, and Mariek volunteered to be part of the organizing committee.

9. Doctoral consortium (Veronika Karnowski, Past Chair)
Veronika presented some information on the doctoral consortium. The organizers seek an exchange between “Mobile Com” and “Communication and Technology” scholars, so no separation of groups is planned. All interested to act as mentor were invited to get in touch with the organizers, in order to diversify the pool of mentors. The acceptance rate was at about 50%. Rich emphasized the importance of the doctoral consortium. Next year will be the tenth anniversary, and some kind of alumni event is planned.

10. Nomination committee for fall election of vice chair (Colin Agur, Chair)
Colin announced the upcoming election of the new vice chair. Mariek Vanden Abeele and Lynne Kelly volunteered to head the nomination committee. Candidates should be able to attend the next five business meetings at the following conferences.

11. Other business (Colin Agur, Chair)
Colin thanked Thilo von Pape for his work as the inaugural secretary of the interest group and welcomed the new secretary Mariek Vanden Abeele.