

IEEE Computer Society News

I wrote in the last issue about a proposal that TC Chairs had heard from the Computer Society about enabling TC's to maintain a fund balance, and I indicated that we did not have specifics then. The specifics have now been announced, and I do not believe that the current proposal changes very much. The critical point is that this is an extremely limited proposal. Here is the wording: "TCs will have the ability to reinvest surplus allocation for *one additional year* in order to fund new initiatives and expanded activities".

My reply via email was the following: "So- we have two years to consume our allocation. This is truly a very very modest change- and not conducive to long range planning for activities that require some sustained control over budgets. I doubt that this will change behavior of conference planners- who will continue to try to just break even."

TCDE Chair Election

I want to draw your attention to the "Message from the TCDE Nominating Committee Chair" letter from Paul Larson and Masaru Kitsuregawa on page 3. We have two nominees for TCDE Chair, Malu Castelanos and Kyu-Young Whang. Both are distinguished members of the database community who have previously served the TCDE. The TCDE chair position is an important one for the ongoing vitality of the TCDE. I would urge you to think about whom you would like to have in this office and to vote in this election.

Bulletin Editors

The most important part of my job as editor-in-chief of the Bulletin occurs regularly every two years. This is the appointment of new editors. It is these editors who are responsible for the content of the bulletin. It is their efforts that ensure the continued high quality and usefulness of the papers that appear in the bulletin. Appointing quality editors is not only essential for me but also a source of great pride. The people who are willing to take on this job have outstanding research reputations and exploit their knowledge of the field to ensure that each issue of the bulletin becomes a great resource for our community.

Thus, I am very proud to announce that Juliana Freire of the Polytechnic Institute of NYU, Paul Larson of Microsoft Research, Sharad Mehrotra from UC Irvine, and S. Sudarshan from IIT Bombay have agreed to be the next set of editors. Each of them will be responsible for two issues over the coming two years. I want to thank them for agreeing to take on this job, and look forward to working with them.

Simultaneous with the appointment of new editors, the terms of the current editors expire. Over the past two plus years, we have had outstanding Bulletin issue on some of the most important and high visibility areas within the database technology world. These issues were brought to you via the efforts of editors Peter Boncz, Brian Cooper, Mohamed Mokbel, and Wang-Chiew Tan. Once again, I am in awe of the wonderful work done by Bulletin editors. Thank you Peter, Brian, Mohamed, and Wang-Chiew, for your talented and successful efforts over the past two years in keeping the Bulletin such a valuable resource to our community.

The Current Issue

Data management is a term that we use when we do not want to be confined to speaking only about more or less standard database systems. The fact is that data management goes almost ubiquitously. Some of that will very comfortably and effectively rely on database management systems as we currently understand them. But data is incredibly diverse, and so are the applications that use it. So regardless of how you may feel about the "one size does not fit all" characterization of DBMSs, in the broader data management, it is irrefutable that multiple approaches are needed.

With this in mind, Juliana Freire, one of our new editors, has brought to the bulletin a sample of some of the applications that are driving the evolution of data management. Many of these applications are technical in

nature, but not all of them. I am truly impressed by the variety of applications and the diversity of their data management needs. The issue topics range from journalism to bio-image data- and these are just the end points in the table of contents. This is not a spectrum, this is a scatter chart of important things happening in a rich and high dimensional application world.

This issue can serve as source material when looking for new data management problems, and can also serve as a way to validate whether a system, perhaps your research system, can deal effectively with requirements from real applications. I want to thank Juliana for producing the issue and can strongly recommend it to Bulletin readers.