

Amsterdam, June 1, 2012

Dear SIGART and SIGCHI members,

This message is regarding the IUI conference series that is sponsored jointly by ACM SIGART and SIGCHI (each at 50%) and is therefore under our purview.

You may be aware of the situation that some volunteers in the IUI community have been discussing alternative views for the future governance for the conference. The conference has been very well organized to date with a long series of successful annual events that have created a vibrant research community. At the same time, some are proposing a new approach to the governance of the conference. A vote was conducted, and although it carries no authority it deserves consideration.

As elected SIGCHI and SIGART chairs, we have a responsibility to our membership to oversee the conference. IUI is an ACM conference, with ACM being financially responsible for the meetings and with the ACM Digital Library being the main publisher of its proceedings. Many members of our SIGs care deeply about the conference, including ourselves. Our intention is to work with the community to ensure that IUI has a solid organization and a stable future.

Given the questions that have been raised by members of the IUI community, we have decided to appoint an "Oversight Committee" composed of 3 people trusted in the IUI community (Henry Lieberman, Elisabeth Andre, and Nuria Oliver Ramirez) and chaired by Alain Chesnais, president of ACM. Alain has graciously agreed to assist in this matter, highlighting the importance of this matter to all of us. In addition to bringing the perspective of ACM to this matter, he is an "outsider" to the IUI community and provides a more independent perspective.

The charge of the Oversight Committee will be, with full support of ACM, to make recommendations to the SIGART and SIGCHI leadership on how best to evolve the structure of IUI to help it continue to be a strong and successful conference. We have tasked the Oversight Committee to make a recommendation to SIGART and SIGCHI for approval that should consist of 1) a IUI Steering Committee that will oversee the conference activities, and 2) a governance for the IUI Steering Committee including policies for membership in the committee.

None of these activities and discussions should affect IUI 2013, which already has its own Organizing Committee and is well on its way to a successful edition of the conference. IUI will be held on March 19-22, 2013 in Los Angeles, California. Details about the conference including the open call for submissions are at <http://www.iuiconf.org>.

We appreciate very much the work that many volunteers have invested in forming a vibrant community around the IUI conference. We hope that everyone will work with the Oversight Committee in the coming weeks. We look forward to many more years of successful IUI events!

With warm regards,

Gerrit van der Veer, President SIGCHI  
Yolanda Gil, Chair of SIGART