

CCC Council Call Notes  
May 8, 2020

Attending: Khari Douglas, Ann Schwartz Drobni, Helen Wright, Maddy Hunter, Mark Hill, Maria Gini, Liz Bradley, Melanie Mitchell, Tom Conte, Dan Lopresti, Katie Siek, Andy Bernat, Jennifer Rexford, Sujata Banerjee, Nadya Bliss, Odest Chadwicke, Elisa Bertino, Ben Zorn

Agenda:

- General Updates
- Upcoming Projects
- Visioning Proposal Discussion

Mark: I'll hand it to Liz to discuss the new members

Liz: Ann, you sent the announcement around yes?

Ann: the blog went out yesterday

Liz: New Council Members

- [Kathleen Fisher, Tufts University](#)
- [William D. Gropp, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign](#)
- [Brian LaMacchia, Microsoft Research](#)
- [Melanie Moses, University of New Mexico](#)
- [Helen Nissenbaum, Cornell Tech](#)
- [Holly Yanco, UMass Lowell](#)

I want to thank various people for getting these people on board. Especially Suresh and Nadya. And thank you to the nominations committee for all the hard work!

Mark: Thank you to Liz. She has been betting 1,000 for the past two years with nominations. Who all is it?

Liz: Dan, Ronitt. Others and Dan get to run this next year. We need to do some strategic planning, we have some staff and leadership. We were scheduled to meet in Madison but obviously that isn't happening. We are going virtual and will fill you in after that.

Ann: everyone should have received an impact survey from CERP. It can be daunting but even if you can think of one thing CCC does that has impact, that would be helpful

Mark: especially any specific anecdotes. Next is responses to COVID blogs

Ann: Helen why don't you give a quick update

Helen: Thank you all for your help with blogs. The blogs have gotten a lot of hits. One last week got 150 more than average hits. There are a few pings.. Katie did you still want to do the contact tracing. Shwetak is writing one on a COVID safe app and Katie wanted to do one on contact tracing and accessibility if you can hear us. We were also thinking about education in COVID and how it's evolving or tips. I know Ann reached out to Fisher. I know Tom reached out to Rich about online instruction.. Have you heard from him?

Tom: I have not.

Helen: Well if anything comes up or there something you want to do, ping me and I can help you create a blog.

Ann I think what's really important about these blogs is reminding the community that computing is important in this fight and it is a nice political resource to collect and have. Our blog post on contact tracing was cited on the senate floor. Shwetak has been involved with working with a senator. I think it's important to create this accessible, apolitical resource. Khari did you want to give a podcast update?

Khari: If anyone wants to do a podcast I can still do that remotely if you have good cell surface, you can reach out.

Liz: I just finished done with him and it was great. Really fun.

Ann: Workshop around robotics and the pandemic, working in this space. National Academy Members event so they have the seal onthat. CCC is going to help with minimal funding and organizing. It's coming and will probably be our first zoom workshop. Chad and Maria I might be in touch real soon.

Mark: This is a good thing to do and we have been continually pushed to create synergistic relationships with sister organizations. One of the most exciting developments is a CIFellow 2020 program, similar to the one we did in the last economic downturn. It's not quite ready for public announcement but you can expect that next week. Don't tell people publicly but next week when it comes out forward it to anybody and everybody so we can get the best pool of applicants. We might be trying to lean on you to do application reviews, in mid to late june. This is exciting and we are making a difference. The Cra was able to do a quick survey of chairs to get hard evidence in the decline of open positions in academics.

Liz: This was a real fire drill. It had to come together very quickly but they put in a lot of work and did a great job

Sujata: How many fellowships will be awarded and how can industry get involved?

Andy: The budget isn't completely settled so I don't have numbers but for industry smaller research focused companies did have participation.

Mark: did you mean by participation being a fellow, reviewing, donating money

Sujata: Any of these.. I was asking for further action internally

Mark: Let's check wording so industry postdocs are included. This is not at the time saving researchers for industry but to save academics. But it is a great field

Andy: on the question of funding support, it is out of our support. NSF folks are interested and aware of this

Liz: still might be worth mentioning Sujata's comment to NSF. i can say the number will be in two digits

Mark: we hope you will know the number by middle of next week

Ann: It is a balancing game. NSF is looking at multiple sources for funding and its possible they could get more if they had a couple more weeks but we've decided it's important to get this out as soon as possible because people who had job offers rescinded are really struggling.

Sujata: we've seen uptick in people going into academic postdoc. The numbers have gone up because of the same reasons you just mentioned.

Mark: How does industry anticipate handling post docs?

Sujata: The program for postdocs is pretty robust but even the numbers going up so quickly, I'm sure ben is seeing the same thing

Ben: There is a lot of economic uncertainty so hiring becomes a challenge. We have a postdoc program but I certainly think the notion of supporting NSF in the process is definitely something we would consider

Juliana: You are right, doing this quickly sends a strong message. What numbers did you collect on that survey?

Andy: The data went back to all departments that responded.

Juliana: How many departments froze hiring.

Andy: It was the beginning of April and things have gotten worse. There isn't a lot of freezing but concerns. I'm sure that's changed since but you can look up the numbers of freezes online.

Mark: The bottom line number early was 100 positions lost but that was early and has gone up alot.

Andy: There are freezes but also departments don't want to hire people they've never met and vise versa.

Ann: People have already reached out to see if we are doing something like this again but when the blast goes out take time to go over the website because you will probably get questions as council members. It is similar to last time but we are not requiring people to move to different institutions. But it is a focus on a career enhancing move, we will encourage new mentors and new connections which you have to demonstrate how you will do that in your application. One way to do that is go to mentors in other departments and focus on interdisciplinary areas

Dan:I think an area that will apply a lot is people graduating next year

Ann:One other thing is the way the eligibility is worded is to finish your phd form 2018-2020. We're saying that realizing people who finished in 2018 did a post doc because that's what was required but now they're coming out in the middle of this. Another thing we are requiring is them verifying they were on the job market

Mark: I can send the number to you once it's finalized, it won't be posted anywhere

Katie: It happened last time, the CRA has best practices for post doc. Is there anything we are expecting from universities in terms of resources etc.

Liz: Lots of mentoring and cohorting activities. We don't specifically ask if the institution has a postdoc mentoring program but that they have a plan and the mentoring plan has a lot of thought. It will be a heavy part of the review

Mark: We don't want this to be a holding move. In the meeting in 5 weeks we will do a lot deeper task force updates because that signals the end of the year in CCC.Task force updates? I'm trying to do a blog post for my organization and examples from my field. If that goes well, that could be a template for other areas. Do others have any?

Ben: I finished the first draft of the future and computing enterprise document that we will discuss in the meeting later today but heads up it will probably circulate to everyone else for comments next week. Thank you to everyone that helped.

Nadya: I am increasingly noticing my DOD departments are not using Zoom. Has anyone else seen this from their federal partners? Is there any concerns coming out of NSF or any recommendations to advise up to UTO and broadly to the agency? Or should we just go away from video?

Mark: My university doesn't sanction Zoom

Ben: With screen sharing people have access to any processes on the system so that's a fundamental challenge.

Nadya: Do we have any thoughts with this?

Mark: Why doesn't windows offer process isolation. I thought it was only what process is on the screen?

Ben: No, it's all processes in the system.

Sujata: So if not Zoom what is being suggested as an alternative.

Nadya: All the work I do is open and unclassified; it's just with the DOD. They go to the phone. We will suggest Microsoft Teams. There's concerns with encryption, data being routed to non US servers and the way the companies are funded it's not obvious, there is discretion. So any thoughts on this I would welcome.