

NASIG Newsletter

Vol. 25, no. 4

December 2010

eISSN 1542-3417

Other NASIG News

Committee Updates

Program Planning Committee

Fall Board Report: November 2010

Committee Chairs:

Anne Mitchell, University of Houston, Chair
Michael Hanson, Lafayette College, Vice Chair

Committee Members:

Michael Arthur, University of Central Florida
Morag Boyd, Ohio State University
Rubye Cross, Georgia Institute of Technology
Karen Davidson, Mississippi State University
Cris Ferguson, Furman University
Chandra Jackson, University of Georgia
Jean Sibley, College of William & Mary
Danielle Williams, University of Evansville
Paoshan Yue, University of Nevada, Reno

Board Liaison:

Steve Kelley

Narrative of Activities Since Last Report

2010 Conference Related Activities

1) Thank-You Letters

The 2010 and incoming 2011 chairs sent thank-you letters to the speakers, poster session presenters, and

discussion group volunteers. All letters went out by the end of June.

2) E&A Report

The co-chairs examined the conference evaluations for the 2010 conference for suggestions. In particular, we pulled out suggestions for vision speakers. We also looked closely at comments about the schedule, session formats, and any themes of particular interest for the membership. One recurring theme, which we also heard in person at the conference, was that there were too many programs in some time slots and, for attendees not participating in the committee or business meetings, a long stretch of time on Saturday that held little interest.

2011 Program Related Activities

3) Theme for 2011 Conference

The theme for the 2011 conference in St. Louis, MO will be "Gateway to Collaboration." In the past, PPC has been solicited for input into the theme and logo. This appears not to be the case any longer, and in the future PPC will rely on CPC to provide information about the conference theme.

4) Call for Proposals

The call for proposals was distributed on August 18 to all active individuals in the NASIG database and all lists, and was provided to the NASIG Publicist for national

and international distribution. The first call for proposals closed September 17 from which we received twenty-seven. A second call for proposals was distributed September 27 and closed October 22. An additional nineteen proposals were received from the second call, for a total of forty-six. The committee typically aims for 25-30 programs (9-12 strategy and 15-20 tactics) on the final slate.

Some minor changes were made to the call for proposals this year to reduce the number of programs that are suggested by someone other than the prospective speaker. We rephrased using the "proposals and ideas" concept to indicate that we were willing to accept informal proposals still in preliminary development. This change seemed to be largely successful.

The committee will be meeting by conference call on November 8 to discuss proposals and should have a provisional slate ready for the Board's review in advance of the November 15 board meeting.

5) Conference Schedule

The 2011 draft conference schedule accompanies this report. This schedule has been approved by the board but is subject to change.

6) Vision Speakers

Based on committee input and board feedback, we have approached two potential vision speakers with whom we are currently in negotiation.

7) Preconferences

Preconference ideas currently under consideration include: RDA, troubleshooting, linked data, and internal budgeting. At this time we have allocated time in the schedule for one full-day Wednesday preconference and one half-day Thursday preconference, but this could be expanded if necessary. We welcome feedback from the board on these or other ideas.

8) Programming Changes

At the board's request, vision sessions will be held Friday and Saturday only. This decision reflects dwindling Sunday attendance and the need for strategic allocation of speaker costs. In the absence of a Sunday plenary session, we will need to take particular care to promote the Sunday morning speakers.

Based on feedback from attendees both in person and via conference evaluations, the 2011 schedule will include two additional tactics timeslots to reduce programming conflicts. We anticipate a similar number of programs as in previous years, but spread over more timeslots.

NASIG business functions (business and committee meetings) are now scheduled for late Friday and Saturday afternoon to allow more time for programming.

This spring, PPC plans to experiment with a less formal approach to discussion groups. Groups will be solicited online and attendees will have the opportunity to vote on their preferred sessions. Rooms will be assigned based on anticipated popularity of the session.

Other activities

9) Budget Request

We submitted a budget request on November 5 that includes funding the vice chair visit to the conference site prior to the conference and conference calls for the committee.

10) PPC Manual

The PPC manual requires substantive revision to correct outdated procedures and program components. Revisions will be ongoing throughout the year.

For Future Action by the Board:

Once formulated, the slate of programs will be submitted to the board for approval via email. We hope to have this available prior to the November 15 board meeting for any discussion.

As agreements with vision and preconference speakers are negotiated, these speakers will be submitted to the board for approval via email.

Questions for the Board:

- Will wireless internet be available throughout the conference site again this year?

- How many preconferences should we plan on this year? We typically approach potential instructors in December.
- Does 10 remain the minimum preconference registration?

Recommendations to the Board:

Ubiquitous internet access was a popular and useful addition to last year's conference, and PPC is in favor of having it available at future conferences.

Respectfully submitted by
Anne Mitchell and Michael Hanson