NAACL 2015
Business Meeting
3 June 2015

we do more than just reject your papers
Hal Daumé III (chair)
Michael White (secretary)
Joel Tetreault (treasurer)
Emily Bender
Eduard Hovy
Matt Post
Fei Xia
Chris Callison-Burch (past chair)
Graeme Hirst (ACL treasurer)

Agenda

1. Result of last year's initiatives

2. $: how much we got & who we give it to!

3. Current NAACL exec initiatives
   a. Central and South America outreach
   b. Review of reviewing procedures
   c. Softconf (start) backend and publications

4. Open floor for discussion
Result of last year's initiatives (1/2)

- Continued video recording of NAACL 2015
- Three scholarships for summer school ($2k)
  - Keith Herbert (USA)
  - Alberto Manuel Orozco Camacho (MEX)
  - Roxana Lafuente (ARG)
- Two requests for funding with the emerging regions fund, both supported ($3k):
  - Undergraduate student travel to a student workshop at STIL
  - Funding for a NA invited speaker at STIL
- Support for NACLO ($5k)
Result of last year's initiatives (2/2)

- Reinstated 2yr rotating terms for pubs chairs
- Lots of effort on local/startup funding
- Paper policies:
  - NAACL requires supplementary materials to be anonymous & encourages ACL to follow suit
  - Adopted ACL's policy on preprints (eg arxiv)
  - Guaranteed best papers and runners up
  - Authors should see all scores at response time
  - "Best reviewer" list will always be made & pub'd
- Last year instituted anti-harassment policy
  - Edits based on community feedback
  - Strongly supported in ACL 2014 post-conf survey
NAACL Treasurer Report

● Last two years: austerity

● Now better able to fund important organizations and events

● NAACL 2012 and 2013 had a surplus of $17k and $23k respectively

● Cautiously optimistic about ACL14 and NAACL15 surpluses
NAACL Budget Balance

The graph shows the budget balance from 2012 to 2015. There is a sharp decline from 2012 to 2013, followed by a gradual increase until 2015.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NACLO</th>
<th>ERF</th>
<th>SumWS</th>
<th>LSA</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5k</td>
<td>1.5k</td>
<td>10k</td>
<td>10k</td>
<td>26.5k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5k</td>
<td>1.5k</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6.5k</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>5k</td>
<td>1.5k</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>5k</td>
<td>3k</td>
<td>6k</td>
<td>4.8k</td>
<td>18.8k</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ways to Improve

● Need more sponsorship!
  ○ Get creative with other companies getting into NLP (finance, gaming, health, etc.)
  ○ Get creative with emerging regions

● Conference merging
  ○ could we gain by co-located with Machine Learning and Linguistics conferences.

Pt of Contact: Joel Tetreault <tetreaul@gmail.com>
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Central & South America outreach

● NAACL is charged with service CA+SA members until they form their own *ACL

● Several years of support via Emerging Regions Fund

● Big question on the table:
  Should the conference be held in CA/SA?
  ○ When joint with ACL (eg 2017, 2020, ...)?
  ○ When not-joint with ACL (eg 2018, 2019, ...)?
  ○ If so, where?

Pt of Contact: Fei Xia <fxia@uw.edu>
Review of Reviewing Policies

- Feedback about review quality?
  - From authors? From ACs?
  - What metrics (thoroughness, constructiveness, etc.)?
  - Privacy issues?

- Use(ful|less)ness of author response?

- Making more information/data public?
  - Reviews (partial or entirely) public after publication?
  - Submitted versions public along side?

- Other ideas?

Pt of Contact: Michael White <mwhite@ling.osu.edu>
Making softconf/START better!

- Anyone with thoughts, complaints, praises, bug reports, UI/UX ideas should email us
- These can be from the perspective of submitting, reviewing, area chairing, or general conference management
- Please share your experiences!

Pt of Contact: Matt Post <post@cs.jhu.edu>, CCB
Open Floor

aka "We're open to suggestions from people who would like to volunteer!"
Already on the table...

- Accessibility chair for the conference (+papers)
- Best paper -> best of with more awards
- Roommate board for students
- Minimum review length (+general quality control)
- Remove limit on # of references
- Comments on or updates of papers in anthology
- Countdown timer for submission deadline
- NAACL in the springtime?

Pt of Contact: Hal Daumé III <me@hal3.name>