CCC Council Meeting, November 3, 2009

Sun Microsystems, Menlo Park, CA

Peter Lee spoke about the changes DARPA is undergoing with an eye towards re-engaging with academic researchers.

- CCC should be involved in having researchers visit with DARPA PMs.
- CCC should help DARPA get the word out; we need a set of concrete activities that we can publicize.
- DARPA is interested in hosting a series of small, focused meetings on emerging research themes of importance to DoD. We brainstormed on some possible topics:
    - Fab labs
    - IT aspects of nanoscale systems
    - Telepresence
    - Integration of sensor data & simulations
    - Brain-level interfaces
    - Different models of collective intelligence
    - What are 10 top challenges for autonomous and semi-autonomous behavior?
    - Follow on to fab infrastructure (like MOSIS)
    - Social networks
    - Surprises

****

CIFellows discussion including Peter Lee
Separate out two issues:
1. What to do with remaining funding in current award
2. Proposing a new award

Council consensus:
1. Funds from current award should go to second year renewals
2. If a new grant is received, it should be balanced between second year renewals for current fellows and new awards, with the anticipation that most of the new awardees would get second year renewals

Renewal application process for current Fellows:
We agreed that we should seek information from the current Fellows, for several reasons: to establish at least a minimal "bar" for renewal, to stimulate thinking about career plans, and to gather information of use to us in planning.

1) Questions to ask:
 a) What has been the impact on your research and career been thus far?
 b) Provide comments on program
 c) What is your current research plan and how does it connect with your mentor; any changes?

    d) What is your transition plan to a career beyond CIFellows?
    e) Mentors need to be a part of this - ask mentors if they wish to
continue with fellow

Notify current fellows:
1. Currently have funding for 25 renewals
2. We are asking for additional funding to include a total of 80% renewals (48)
3. Please send relevant information (above) and we will use this information if we have to make choices on who is given a second year

Evaluation:
1. Contact Fellows and Mentors to see if there are any issues

New Award:
1. Worry about taper in new program
2. Need more robust mechanism to handle declinations -- we can expect a greater proportion of "turndowns" and will need to efficiently identify next-in-line.
3. Include renewal selection process
4. The Max-2 limit was discussed. Peter was strongly in favor of it. Fred is strongly in favor of Max-2 for source but Max-N for sink as this benefits the institutions that the Fellows eventually end up at. Anita made the case that this program is essentially a stimulus activity and therefore should be spread around, meaning Max-2. Additionally, it was noted that we have have at most 3/4'ths as many Fellows in the second cohort, which is effectively the same as an expansion of Max-2 in terms of the proportion of Fellows that can come from or go to a single institution. Consensus was to stick with Max-2 for both source and sink.

Editorial Note - CCC is building leadership by involving a group of people to step and be reviewers, which they did.

****

Health & IT
1) Focused on important game changing computer science that would
impact health
2) Goal is to try and get various agencies to work together

See http://www.cra.org/ccc/healthit.php for more information.
****

Ed working on Potential breakthrough contributions by students in the
last 10 years for Jeannette. Starting point is ACM's Distinguished
Dissertation series. Help welcomed.
****

CCC's NetSE Advisory Committee is disbanded. Chip is working on a GPO

Science Advisory Committee.

****

Undergraduates
Ran is interested in increasing the pool of undergraduates who look towards a research career. They need to know what a research career is all about. Some get this in REUs, but many more do not explore even this option.
This could be an avenue for CRA-E to explore.
He welcomes suggestions on how to move this forward.
****

RFP
Council needs to be more activist about pushing areas that are ripe for exploration.
  IT & Health
  IT & Energy
We need for our activities to touch more PMs in CISE; we should send leaders of visioning activities to CISE to talk about their efforts.
****

Eric Horvitz gave a fascinating talk