

OFA XWG Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2017
11am Mountain

1. Roll Call:

Board Members: (* means present)

Broadcom / Eddie Wai *
Cray/Paul Grun *
HPE / Zarka Cvetanovic
Huawei / Daqi Ren
IBM / Bernard Metzler *
Intel / Jim Pappas *
Jump Trading / Christoph Lameter
LANL / Susan Coulter *
LLNL / Matt Leininger *
Mellanox / Gilad Shainer *
NetApp / David Dale
Oak Ridge / Scott Atchley
Oracle / David Brean *
Sandia / Chris Beggio
Unisys / Lilia Weber

Also present:

Parks

2. Approval of minutes from meeting on 2/9 - skipped

3. Intel funding / Special Projects / Executive Director

- The history of how we got here was discussed. (Susan)
- The relevance of the title Executive Director was discussed, along with a possible change in title to Special Projects Coordinator. (Susan)
- Intel funding was based on Jim Ryan being the person funded. This was because Jim Ryan was the only person who could provide the background and history to insure a smooth transition. (Susan)
- The distinction between “someone who makes sense” versus “it must be Jim Ryan” was clarified. The former being Intel’s position with respect to the funding. (JimP)
- Both Susan and Paul stated that performing in our current roles would not be possible without the help and support of Jim Ryan.
- Susan stated that Jim has not exhibited any desire to unduly influence the direction of the OFA. If any such behavior would occur, that behavior would be called out and not tolerated.
- The fact that the OFA lawyer reviewed the SOW with Intel and approved it as being within legal bounds as it was written was discussed. This review was completed in August 2016. (Susan)
- It was stated that this funding was and is intended as a bridge and will end 2018-1-1. (Susan & Paul)
- It was stated that having one member contribute 10x more to the organization than any other member is simply wrong. (Gilad)

- It was stated that we are delaying a discussion that will need to be held later this year, so perhaps better to solve this problem now. (Parks)
- The OFA Board's role is to insure the relevance and solvency of the OFA as an organization. To that end we need to clearly define and articulate what the purpose of the OFA is, what our priorities are, and then let that inform the budget we will design for 2018. (Susan)
- The finances of the OFA were discussed
 - The 2017 OFA budget shows that with Intel funding through the end of the year, we have a \$36k surplus. Without it we would have a deficit of ~\$100k
 - The OFA has ~\$270k in the bank.
 - The 2018 OFA budget discussion could include a modification to the current contract between the OFA and Jim Ryan with respect to hours and/or hourly rate.
 - Revenues, (i.e. membership fees), could be increased
- It was noted that Promoter dues increased from \$5k to \$10k some years ago. It would be good to know when that happened and whether we lost any members due to the increase. (Parks/Susan)
- It was stated that member organizations pay for their employees to participate in and contribute to the OFA. In particular, roughly half of Jim Ryan's time – when employed by Intel – was to contribute to the OFA. That could be seen as equivalent to actual monetary funding. (JimP)
- There was disagreement about time spent as an employee and direct monetary funding being equivalent – in fact they are not. (Gilad)
- It was stated that various members put in varying amounts of time, given other roles and responsibilities. (Susan)
- It was stated that the OFA has not been operating in accordance with its bylaws for many years. That is being addressed currently, but it is a process that will need time to come to fruition. (Gilad / Susan)
- Proposed Path Forward
 - Motion to approve the 2017 budget will be put on the March 16 Board meeting. Modifications can be made after approval if necessary.
 - Continue the discussion about our purpose and priorities. This will begin next Thursday at the XWG, and likely will continue.
 - First agenda item will be discussing and approving the proposed process for nominating and voting for the at-large Director positions – which needs to be settled before the workshop.
 - A larger discussion with the broader community will be held at the workshop in Austin.
 - Immediately following the workshop, this information will be used to build a budget for 2018.
- Some concern about what other items might get overlooked or delayed while discussing the larger issue of OFA purpose was expressed. We agreed to start the meetings with any critical business, and then move to the larger discussion.

4. At-large member nomination and voting process - skipped