

## Structuring of Future SIGIR Program Committee Meetings

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As the membership of SIGIR grows and the annual SIGIR Conference continues to expand in terms of the number of submissions, reviewers, and presenters, it is important that our community ensure the established quality of our conference as the top-ranked international IR conference. One of the key stages in the review process has long been the in-person Technical Program Committee Meeting, at which the senior level reviewers convene and discuss the details of the submitted papers, with the bulk of the time spent on those papers on which there are significant differences of opinion on the part of the reviewers, and those papers that are neither obvious accepts nor obvious rejects, based on first and second tier reviewing.

Over the last few years, the Technical Program Committee Meetings have experienced what can be most accurately described as growing pains, caused by the increase in the number of papers submitted and the resulting need to add many new reviewers so that each reviewer is asked to critique only a reasonable number of papers, changes in the paper assignment software, time pressures from an increasingly busy reviewing season for our field, and naturally occurring, unavoidable personal circumstances. The Executive Committee, the Conference Chairs from last year's, this year's, and next year's conferences have been discussing via email how to ensure that the highest quality reviewing continues to be the hallmark of SIGIR.

We will open up these discussions to the full community at the Business Meeting held at the Annual Meeting in Singapore this July. Topics that will be discussed include: 1) methods to improve face-to-face meetings; 2) various multiple phasings of face-to-face meetings, and; 3) a range of possible structures for virtual PC meetings. Time allotted to other informational topics typically presented at the business meeting will be shortened and that information conveyed via other means in order to ensure that we have time to discuss this vital topic.

I realize that not all members of SIGIR will be able to attend the annual meeting, so if you would like to submit comments, questions, or suggestions, please feel free to send your thoughts to me at [chair.SIGIR@acm.org](mailto:chair.SIGIR@acm.org) They will then be shared at the business meeting with those in attendance.

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