SIGSIM Annual Report

July 2002 - June 2003
Submitted by: John Tufarolo, Chair

Mission:

The ACM Special Interest Group on Simulation (SIGSIM) is advancing the state-of-the-art in simulation and modeling through a world-wide membership of cross-disciplinary professionals.

Services:

SIGSIM is a conference-only SIG providing the following services and publications in exchange for its membership fees.

Proceedings:

- Proceedings of the Annual Winter Simulation Conference (CD-ROM version)
- Proceedings of the Annual Parallel and Distributed Simulation Workshop

Electronic Groups:

- ACM SIGSIM Web Site: http://www.acm.org/sigsim
- ACM SIGSIM Mailing List: sigsim@acm.org
- USENET News Group: comp.simulation

Online Distinguished Lectureship Series http://www.acm.org/sigsim

- Historic and leading-edge material
- Multimedia presentations
- Hosted on SIGSIM web site (members-only)
- Three completed
  - Phil Kiviat
  - Paul Fishwick
  - Roger Smith

ACM Digital Library Content Access:

- SIGSIM members are granted full access to the SIGSIM-sponsored portions of the ACM digital library, including full-text access to all or portions of the following:

    - ACM SIGSIM NEWSLETTER
        - Simulation and Modeling
    - PROCEEDING SERIES
        - ANSS: Annual Simulation Symposium
        - MSWiM: International Workshop on Modeling Analysis and Simulation of Wireless and Mobile Systems
        - PADS: Workshop on Parallel and Distributed Simulation
        - SCN: Simulation of Computer Networks
        - SIGMETRICS: Joint International Conference on Measurement and Modeling of Computer Systems
        - WSC: Winter Simulation Conference

Conferences:

SIGSIM co-sponsors the following two conferences.

Topic: Winter Simulation Conference
Quality: The premiere discrete event simulation conference in the world
Attendance: ≈ 600 (Dec 2002)

Topic: Parallel and Distributed Simulation Workshop (part of FCRC Multi-Conference)
Quality: The number one parallel simulation workshop in the world
Attendance: ≈ 50 (May 2003)

SIGSIM Membership:

At the end (June) of FY '03 SIGSIM had 449 total members in the following categories:

Professional	373
Student	60
Affiliate	14
Inst	2
TOTAL	**449**
Subscribers	13

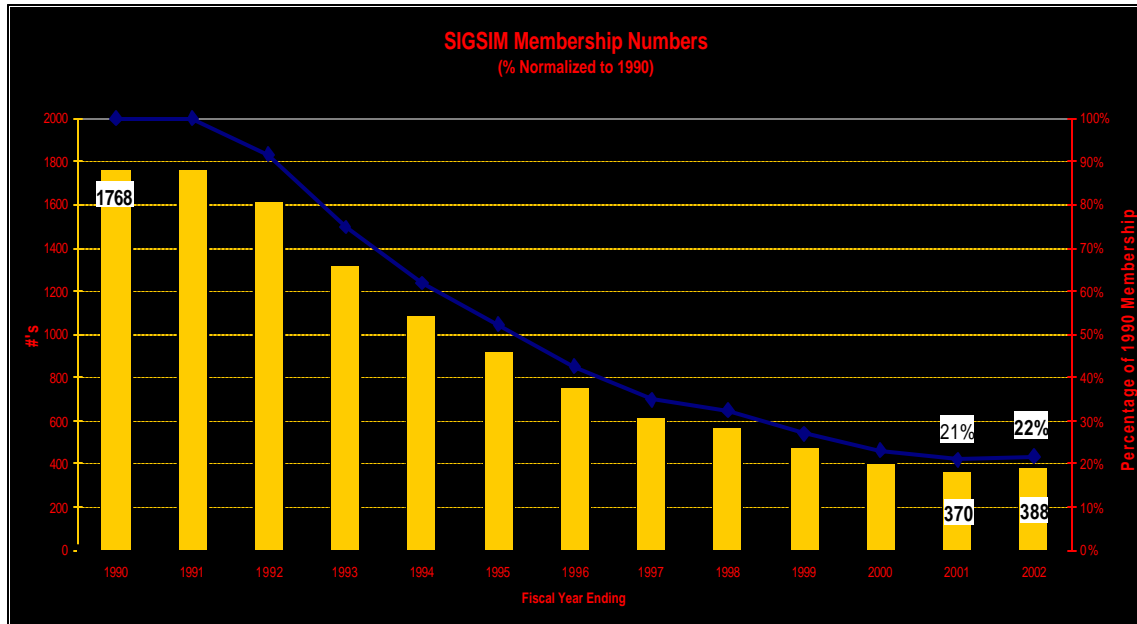SIGSIM's membership history roughly tracks with the general trend of all ACM SIGs.

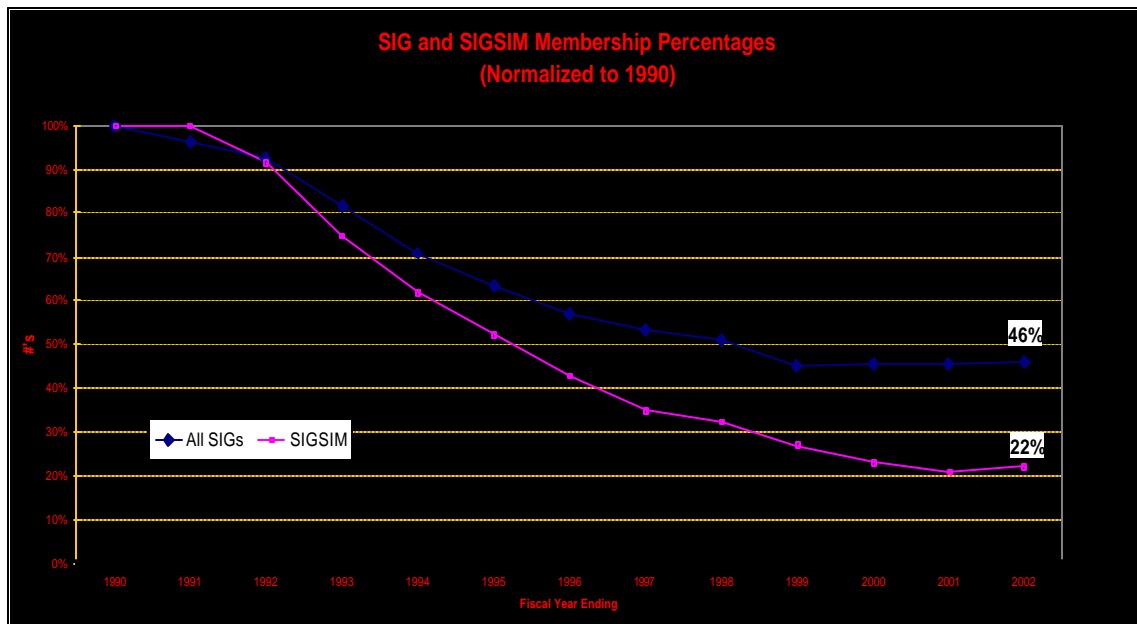**Figure 1: SIGSIM Membership numbers appear to be reaching steady-state**

Figure 2: SIGSIM Membership numbers follow the general trend for all SIGs

Management:

The last SIGSIM election was held in 1999. With the transition to a conference-only SIG, elections are no longer held. Chair positions are selected by the current chair, and other positions are appointed by the selected chair.

Beginning July 2003, the following are the current SIGSIM officers:

Chair:	John Tufarolo, chair_SIGSIM@acm.org
Vice-chair:	Rick McKenzie, vc_SIGSIM@acm.org
Secretary/Treasurer:	John Tufarolo (acting), treasurer_SIGSIM@acm.org
Information Director:	Simon Taylor, infodir_SIGSIM@acm.org

Finances:

SIGSIM is facing an ever challenging financial situation.

SIGSIM's fund balance has in the past remained very stable. Spring 2001, the ACM SIG Board changed the model used to charge SIGS for a portion of the ACM SIG general operating expenses. As a replacement for a then-existing revenue-based model, the mechanism was changed to an expense-based model, with a minimum $15K charge per SIG. This change has since its inception, had a significant, negative impact on the SIGSIM fund balance (reduced to $24K by Feb 2003). Projections based on this rate of expense charges forecast a quick insolvency for SIGIM without a change. This is illustrated in the following chart.
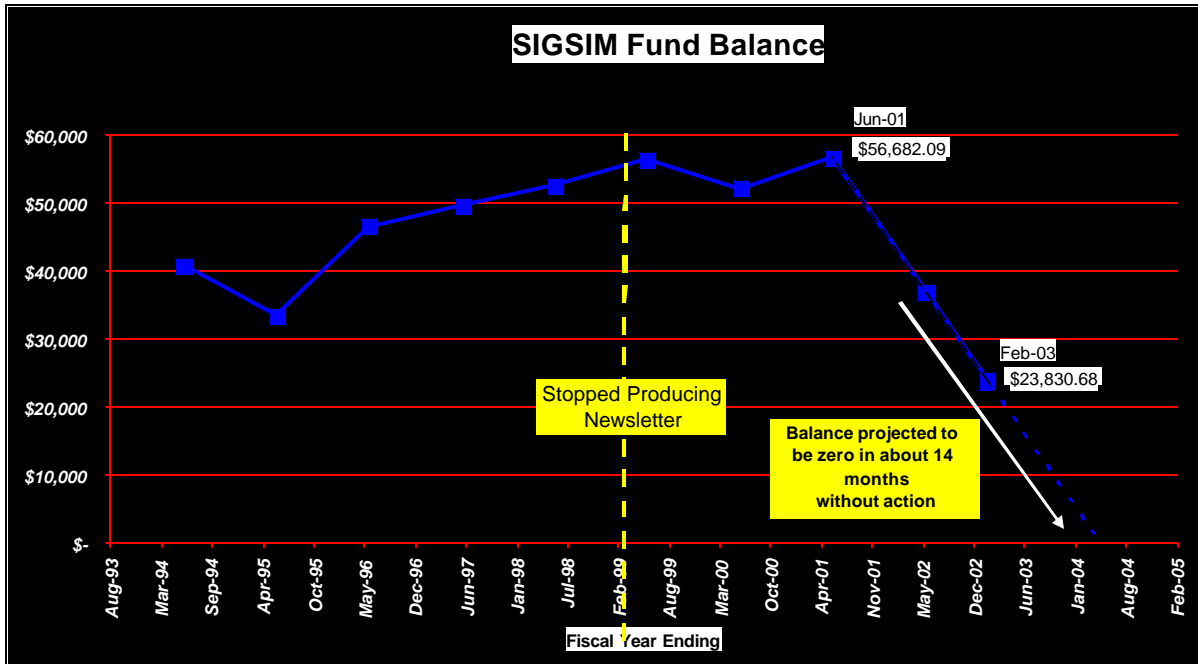

Figure 3: SIGSIM Fund Balance severely impacted by the change to the SIG Allocation Charging Model

The primary mechanism for SIGs to pay/recover allocation costs are through existing revenue streams, which are:

- Membership fees
- Publications (Digital Library Revenue, sale of proceedings)
- Conferences

Many SIGs can cover these expenses by taxing the ACM services they use to conduct their conferences. These taxes are included in conference budgets, and the sponsoring SIG can recover a significant portion of the allocation expense.

Unfortunately, this method does not fit SIGSIM's situation. SIGSIM is one of eight co-sponsors of our primary conference (WSC). WSC is governed by a board that independently selects where to obtain conference services. While this board solicits ACM for competitive bids on conference execution, they have typically used another organization for conference management. As a result, SIGSIM cannot recover these expense charges from our primary conference sponsorship.

Fortunately, the addition of the ACM Digital Library (DL) service introduced a new, significant revenue stream. During recent SIG board meetings, a method was devised and approved for distributing the ACM DL revenue across the SIGS (who are primarily responsible for DL content). The basis for distribution was in relation to the accessing/downloading of digital library content associated with a SIG. For SIGSIM, this apportionment greatly offsets the allocation charges and thereby breathes life back into our fund balance. This does not solve our problem, but lengthens the period we have to devise a solution.

As a small, conference-only SIG with little to no utilization of ACM conference services, we still believe a minimum $15K allocation charge is somewhat excessive. We will continue to work with the SIG board to address and hopefully improve this situation.

Technical Program Goals and Milestones:

SIGSIM is the leading simulation professional group in the world. We support two of the leading conferences in the field - WSC and PADS. We would like to increase our value to our membership, and will strive towards the following goals:

- Work towards a better allocation model for SIGS that operate as does SIGSIM
- Continue to support leading simulation conferences
- Improve communications between ACM and SIGSIM leaders
- Improve communications between SIGSIM leaders and SIGSIM members
- Learn how to better serve the SIGSIM membership