

From Rick Hirsch – 9/11/26

Josh, et al:

Maggie Mulvihill and I are co-chairs of the Academic Committee. Here is our progress report:

- To streamline Academic Committee efforts for the coming year, we pared the subcommittees from five to three and encouraged each group to focus on a tighter list of goals that actually can be accomplished. Our sense is that the subcommittees last year were good at brainstorming ambitious ideas but less successful at landing them.
- We tapped our three subcommittee chairs, confirmed them, and assigned volunteers for each (who have also been contacted and confirmed).
- We met with our subcommittee chairs Sept. 11 as well as some of the subcommittee members. The chairs will now get to work with their teams.
- We scheduled an Access Fest session on how to start student chapters. Jodie and Maggie will lead the session.
- We all plan to drive students/faculty to Access Fest through our own networks.
- We will meet again with subcommittee chairs in mid-October for progress reports.

Here's a look at our subcommittees, chairs and goals:

- **Student Chapters** (Jodie Fleischer, chair) Maggie will be a key part of this group and has assembled materials to move it forward in recruiting new chapters and energizing existing ones.
- **Professional Development/Conferences** (Charlie Roth, chair): This is a combination of two subcommittees from last year, one focused on faculty and one on students. It will seek to attract more students and instructors to Access Fest, NICAR and if possible, the June IRE conference. It would also build on Charlie's successful effort last year bringing students to newsrooms in the NICAR host city.
- **Student Recognition / Resources / Web Presence** (Nausheen Husain, chair): This group will focus on how we recognize excellent student work and build out a section on the website that features that work as well as useful tools for students and faculty.

Rick and Maggie