**DEBRIEFING MEETING NOTES – 2015 Conference, Hyatt Cambridge – July 23, 2015**

**Plenary sessions:** Khalid asked about the plenary sessions – New faces, invited, not usual suspects? How did that go?

Comments - 3 plenary sessions were the ‘same’ topic

Worked well. Could have been risky. Good idea new faces/teams on appealing topics

**Poster sessions**: New poster format held during coffee breaks, fewer posters – seemed everyone liked it

Khalid stated that the people enjoyed the posters – had extended discussions

New poster format helped newcomers

Comment “missed” Poster Session as an event, not clear in schedule

**Dance** – Do every year

**Questions/Suggestions from attendees:**

An attendee asked “Why workshops only on last days?” and asked the program organizers to consider having workshops throughout the conference.

Suggestions to have a trade the banquet event for lunches every day.

**PhD Colloquium**

There are a number of students who attend the conference without SD advisors (at their university)

The students are working at different stages and engage students and entire audience

Posters – new “angle advisors”

* + Angle advising – high energy- all good feedback, lasting relationships
  + To advance the social-ese of poster session

2016 organizers identified

Non-student PhD Colloquium attendees should be able to add lunch at own cost

Have something else going on, on Sunday for PhD colloquium walk-ins

**Discussion about Hotel venue vs University based**

Hotel based is too similar, no spirit

Question asked, was this conference too expensive? Half the people raised hand: no scale of accommodations

**About the Hyatt this year:**

Compared with 2 years ago, this year at the Hyatt Cambridge was better x2

Food is too far away, isolated

Cold

2nd time was easier to use facility and services due to familiarity

Lines were better, not so long to wait in line

Liked free internet in lobby

Meeting Room technology just OK

Needs conversation spaces

**Reducing reviews to authors**

Have red, yellow, green reviews

Define the review form to say “3 lines for this… and then a ½ page for that.”

“Is it relevant to Conference audience?”

Have an Outstanding Reviewer Award

**Bring back the “Model Slam” or something similar.**