4C20 SIGWROC Meeting Proposal

Co-Leaders: Antonio Byrd, Brandee Easter, and Chris Lindgren

What: Special Interest Group on the Writing and Rhetorics of Code

When: Thursday evening SIG session, 6:30pm-7:30pm

Where: Room with space for 15-25, including a screen and projector

Exigence of the Special Interest Group on the Writing and Rhetorics of Code

For over 30 years, writing and rhetoric scholars have explored the relationships between programming, writing, and rhetoric. This body of work has built from the premise that *code is writing*—it has dynamic purposes, authors, and audiences both human and machine. Out of this legacy, a growing number of scholars are actively conducting research and developing pedagogies rooted in understanding the communicative and rhetorical dimensions of computer programming.

In 2017, the first Writing and Rhetorics of Code SIG meeting was held in Portland, Oregon. This inaugural meeting focused on building future collaborations and intellectual relationships. Attendees shared interests for collaboration and discussed publishing opportunities in upcoming special issues. The second half of the meeting turned to discussing challenges for incorporating writing and rhetorics of code into existing curricula. Participants left with opportunities to publish, new connections in the field, and ideas for assignments and lesson plans. In 2018, the group's main coordinator at the time (Chris Lindgren) was unable to attend 4C18 and organize a subsequent meeting, but he asked Antonio Byrd to offer an informal meeting during the conference in Kansas City. Antonio messaged faculty and graduate students on the participants' list to arrange this informal meeting. Attendees would help establish roles and procedures for the SIG as well as continue building intellectual relationships. Many faculty and graduate students expressed interest in meeting in-person, while others who could not attend the conference expressed their excitement and support for the SIG. However, due to scheduling conflicts, a shared time could not be established for all interested parties.

In 2020, we respond to the CCCC's call around the importance of *commonplaces* to build a structure for sustained community at each year's convention and beyond. Despite no formalized meetings in 2018 or 2019, our commonplaces persisted. During these prior years, the convention hosted over 100 panels and workshops exploring what it means to compose and persuade through digital modes, genres, and platforms that are built and shaped *in code.* This also included several of presentations specifically on programming languages, machine learning, and two panels dedicated to algorithms. As a means to sustain this

community, we request the above spatial needs and propose the agenda items below, so we can define clear roles and spaces for our scholarly work.

SIGWROC Meeting Agenda

During our 60-minute meeting, we will conduct the following activities in pursuit of 2 goals:

1. **SIG Roles**: Additionally, we will define clear organizational roles for invested members. We will review core executive positions and their respective terms (see below list). Nominations will collected over the subsequent week. Then, elections will be held.

   - Chair: 2 year term
   - Associate Chair: 2 year term
   - Communication Officer: 2 year term
   - At-Large Member: 2 year term
   - Graduate Student: 1 year term

2. **Collaboration**: We will offer scholars time for collaboration by breaking into groups to pitch and solicit feedback on existing research and pedagogical projects. This time will also be use to propose a SG panel or roundtable, which we will include in the potential SG proposal.

Finally, we will publish the meeting notes to WROC's publishing space on Github.com (https://github.com/SIGWROC).

From all of the co-leaders, we sincerely appreciate the conference reviewers for their invested time and consideration of our proposal.

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