Computer Science Chairs Meeting

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The Department Heads/Chairs of Computer Science meet annually to share ideas, discuss problems facing the community, and set directions that are in the best of interest of all Computer Science Departments across the country. Each year the venue changes to encourage those from various regions to attend the meeting even if they are challenged financially. The 2005 meeting was hosted by the University of Calgary and BIRS generously offered to host the meeting as a part of their series in Banff.

Unlike other BIRS workshops the purpose of this meeting was primarily administrative rather than being focused on addressing a particular research question. Thus, this report is intended to provide a very brief indication of the kinds of discussions undertaken at the meeting. As a result of the administrative nature of the meeting, some of the discussions were also somewhat confidential and we are unable to report details of the actual discussions undertaken.

The meeting consisted of a wide range of topics including:

- A Survey of the various Departments

- Research Challenges facing the discipline

- Graduate student funding and education

- NSERC grants and funding issues

- Software Engineering

- Computer Science Department Accreditation

- Establishing Awards for top ranked students

- Development of committees to initialize various initiatives

The details of each of these discussions are not included here but if more detail about the meetings is required interested reader can contact Gord McCalla (mccalla@cs.usask.ca) or Ken Barker (barker@cpsc.ucalgary.ca).