

**American Society for Engineering Education**  
**Liberal Education Division**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
**Minutes**

**held at the Westmoreland Room of the Westin Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA**  
**24 June 2008**

- I. Borjana Mikic, Division Chair, welcomed all attendees and opened the meeting with a round of introductions.
- II. Borjana expressed thanks on behalf of the division to Smith College, Virginia Tech, and Rowan for providing funds for wine and cheese at the LED dinner. She thanked Gary Downey for serving as our program chair and Jerry Gravander for serving as our Nominating Committee chair. She thanked the awards committee: Heinz Luegenbiehl (chair), Bruce Seely, Kay Neeley, and Barbara Olds.
- III. Borjana discussed items from the Professional Interest Council (PIC) III business meeting.
  - a. Starting next year, all divisions must use Publish-to-Present (in the past, LED has been abstract-only, so this affects our division). It was noted that panel sessions are an exception to the publish-to-present rule. This year the conference paper statistics were as follows: 2400 of 2700 abstracts accepted, 1500 of 1600 papers accepted, 1400 papers published.
  - b. A proposal was received from the current and past ASEE president titled "Strengthening the Performance of Engineering and Technology Educators Across the Disciplines" regarding a certification program for junior faculty on topics such as pedagogy, theories of learning, and so forth. Comments to the authors are welcomed.
  - c. Our PIC III chair, Jennifer Kadowec, joined us and gathered comments to bring back to the board.
  - d. Program Chair Gary Downey noted that it was difficult to identify sessions to co-sponsor with other divisions. Could this be made more visible in SmoothPaper? Perhaps sessions could be made searchable by key words?
- IV. The 2008 Olmsted Award was made to Gary Downey. Congratulations! Gary made some remarks in receiving the award, emphasizing the essential context that the liberal arts bring to engineering.
- V. Joe Herkert and Sarah Pfatteicher gave a tribute in memory of Brian O'Connell, who passed away on 21 May 2008.
- VI. Program Chair Elect, Donna Riley, led a discussion on ideas for the 2009 LED program at the Austin conference. A Call for Papers will be issued later this summer. All members should be thinking of ideas for a Distinguished Lecture.
- VII. Borjana presented the slate of new officers: Roberta Harvey for Division Chair and Gary Downey for Division Chair Elect. The slate was approved by a voice vote. Borjana noted that Joe Herkert had been appointed as Program Chair Elect.

- VIII. Proposed Changes to the Bylaws of the Liberal Education Division. Under Article IV - Committees, change current Section 4 to Section 5 and insert new Section 4 as follows: "Section 4. An Awards Committee shall be appointed by the Division Chair-Elect, who will chair the committee. The Awards Committee will normally be composed of three Division members who are past recipients of the Olmsted Award. In the event that three prior Award recipients are unavailable to serve, the Committee Chair will select from the Division at large." Under the description of responsibilities for the Division Chair-Elect (BYLAWS B. Division Chair-Elect), add: "3. Appoint and Chair the Awards Committee in accordance with Article IV, Section 4."  
The proposed changes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.
- IX. Borjana reported on a Symposium held at Union College on May 9-10 titled "Engineering and Liberal Education."
- X. Open Discussion on a variety of topics
- a. Bruce Seely suggested LED members pursue a set of papers or a report looking at general education requirements beyond the 1945 Harvard report "General Education in a Free Society", which no longer has relevance.
  - b. The name of the division was discussed. Some wondered whether LED work has been marginalized. Others noted the extensive professional networks that some of us have that can be used to make connections to LED. Donna suggested making buttons for next year with slogans such as "LE: Engineering in Context" or "LE: Holistic Engineering"
  - c. Sarah reported on the ASEE "Engineering Education for the Global Economy (EEGE)" project. More information can be found at <http://www.asee.org/about/EEGE-Committee.cfm>. It was suggested that the LED officers send a letter indicating that the LED would like to participate.
- XI. Meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven H. VanderLeest  
Secretary Pro Tem