

Liberal Education Division Business Meeting
Tuesday, June 16, 12:30-2:00pm
Neal Kocurek Memorial Austin Convention Center, ML 7
Minutes

Roberta Harvey, Division Chair calls to order

Attendees:

Roberta Harvey
Gary Downey, Virginia Tech
Donna Riley, Smith College
Sarah Pfatteicher, Wisconsin
Joe Herkert, Arizona State University
Jamey Wetmore, Arizona State University
Dean Nieuwsma, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Judith Norback, Georgia Tech
Julia Williams, Rose-Hullman
Caroline Carville, Rose-Hullman
Christy Moore, University of Texas, Austin
Hillary Hart, University of Texas, Austin
John Brocato, Mississippi State University
Steve VanderLeest, Calvin College
Jerry Gravander, Clarkson
Bill Hornfeck – Lafayette College
Erin Cech, University of California, San Diego
Tom Waidzunas, University of California, San Diego

Division Chair Report – Roberta Harvey

Harvey - LED dinner will be held this evening at Manuel's on the corner of Congress and 3rd. 310 Congress. The reception, sponsored by Rowan University, Virginia Tech, and Smith College, will be held from 6:45-7:30. Then dinner will begin.

Downey - Report from the PIC III Meeting. Most important thing was that the winner of the PIC III best paper was announced and it is from LED. Erin Cech and Tom Waidzunas's paper "Engineers who happen to be Gay: Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Student Experiences in Engineering" was awarded the prize. This is especially notable because they were first turned down by two other divisions and it is the first LGBT related paper ever presented at ASEE. They thanked LED for finding a place for their paper:

It was reported at the PIC III meeting that attendance at the conference is down by 300, about 10%, less than they expected. Reduction is lower than expected. Number of papers is up by 30. Membership is down 1.2%, a smaller decrease than prediction.

The ASEE Board has defined 3 strategic areas – 1. diversity; 2. international activities; and 3. developing a culture for scholarly and systemic engineering innovation and education. There is a fourth one being pushed by the president on sustainability.... We have a 1999 policy around the issue of sustainable development education, but it was decided that it's time to update this and give it new visibility. LED was not included in these conversations. A taskforce will be formed for it. Divisions are allowed input on these. If anyone is interested in helping, let Gary know.

Some “incremental” changes to Smoothpaper submitting were made last year. These changes caused it to blow up. A lot of people couldn’t even access it this year. The plan was to redesign it and fix it for next year. The proposal submitted to make fix was 700,000 dollars. Because of lack of funds they will delay the fix for a year. In the meantime they’re removing the “improvements” put in place for this year.

The ASEE leadership had a question on the relationship between section meetings and national meetings. There was some concern that the section meetings took away from the national meeting. A study was done to determine how to maximize membership. The study concluded that section meetings increase attendance at ASEE meetings by 50%. Section/regional meetings function to extend umbrella of ASEE. Current structure therefore continues.

Downey – each division needs to revise bylaws every 10 years. Ours were last done in 2003. We’re fine. other divisions are not.

Gravander – Asked why it is that the Engineering Ethics Division and LED are in different PICs.

This question led to a broad conversation about how the PICs were set up, what the benefits would be to changing PICs, whether or not we’re being adequately represented to the board, whether it would be worthwhile to link up with other divisions to create or revise a PIC that would be mutually beneficial, and a question as to what the process of changing would be.

Harvey – Reported positively on her recent trip to Union College as an invited speaker at its Symposium on Engineering and the Liberal Arts. She thanked Borjana Mikic for making contact with Union College and it looks like the project may continue.

Erin Cech and Tom Waidzunas, winners of this year’s PIC III best paper award, entered the meeting to a round of applause.

Harvey – The Olmstead Award Committee requested a slight change to the wording of Olmstead Award Criteria:

Current language: The sterling Olmsted award is the highest award given by the Liberal Education division of the ASEE. It is given to those making significant and innovative contributions in the teaching and administering of liberal arts in engineering education.

Proposed new language: The Sterling Olmsted award honors those who have made distinguished contributions to the development and teaching of liberal arts in engineering education. It is the highest award given by the Liberal Education Division of the ASEE.

Gravander – moved to vote on this measure

Julia Williams – seconded it.

Measure passed unanimous.

Harvey – ASEE has asked LED to make some changes to its constitution and by-laws as a normal part of refining operating procedures. Upon reviewing the constitution and By-laws Roberta Harvey found some additional things to tinker with. The changes and additions being requested are shown in italics:

Article II. Membership and Meetings

Section 2. An annual business meeting of the unit shall be held during the annual conference of the Society. All meetings of the unit are open to all interested persons. However, only members of the division are eligible to vote on division matters, including the election of officers. Those members present at the meeting shall constitute a quorum.

The business meeting shall include at least:

- a) Reports from the incumbent officers on the unit's activities for the preceding year, membership, and finances.*
- b) Election of officers for the following year.*
- c) Presentation of the Olmstead Award.*
- d) Discussion of additional division business as needed.*

Article VII. Amendment of Constitution and By-Laws

Section 4. Amendments approved by the division membership shall be submitted through the PIC III Chair for approval by majority vote of the ASEE Board of Directors and shall take effect only upon such approval.

Article IX. Other Provisions

Section 1. Any provision of these by-laws shall be deemed invalid if it contravenes the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society or of the Professional Interest Council (PIC) to which the unit belongs.

Section 2. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern this unit in all matters of parliamentary authority to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society and the By-Laws of this unit. In all other matters, the Constitution of the Society shall govern.

Carville – moved to vote on this measure
Williams – seconded the motion
Measure passed unanimously

Treasurer report – Jameson Wetmore

Wetmore reported that while the LED bank account has lowered in the past three years, it did not go into the red. Currently the LED has \$242.37 in its BASS account. There is an additional \$300 in the Operating Account but the use of these funds is limited by the ASEE and LED rarely can draw on them.

Downey noted that at the PIC chairs meeting they were advised that the Operating Account funds would be reallocated based on new membership level statistics. It's likely that LED will see little change.

Program Chair Report – Donna Riley

Riley – Reported that the number of abstracts submitted was slightly down from a normal of about 50 to 40. Of the papers that were accepted, one third dropped out. There was some concern that this was because of ASEE's new "publish to present" policy, but anecdotal evidence shows that it's more likely a result of economic issues (i.e. lack of funding for travel). The final number of papers presented was 31. Because we were able to keep the same number of sessions despite the decrease, most sessions had only three papers.

The low number of papers per session was widely praised by those at the meeting.

Riley – Noted that many social scientists do not get credit for conference proceedings and that once their work is published in a conference proceedings it cannot be published in a place where they would get credit. There is general concern that this could dissuade them from presenting at ASEE. Riley explained, however, that ASEE does not have a minimum page limit for the papers published in the proceedings and thus scholars are welcome to publish extended abstracts in the proceedings, thereby leaving them able to publish in other places after the conference.

Riley also noted that the LED proposed distinguished lecturer, Bill Sullivan of the Carnegie Foundation, could not come because of travel fund issues.

Downey asked whether it was possible to institute some institutional memory on the fact that two submitting two page papers to the proceedings is acceptable.

It was decided that a note to such effect be placed in the call for papers as well as in the instructions for reviewers.

Report from the (outgoing) PIC III chair – Jennifer Kadlowec

Kadlowec confirmed that PIC chairs are voting board members.

Downey asked Kadlowec what the process would be for changing PICs.

Kadlowec noted that the PIC chairs have been talking about this. Some are much larger than others and it makes logistics difficult.

Downey note the concern that the EED and LED are closely aligned, but in different PICs and therefore those voices could be diluted.

Kadlowec noted that there might be some concern for “peripheral” divisions.

Williams corrected Kadlowec that “peripheral is not the right word.”

Kadlowec explained that there will be a group next year tasked with discussing the reallocation of divisions within different PICs. But also noted that there could be benefits to having divisions with mutual interests in different PICs as they could possible mobilize more than one PIC chair to work together to advance specific policy proposals.

Downey asked about whether or not the restrictions on ASEE operating account funds.

Kadlowec argued that there were very few restrictions on such funds – primarily that dues, registration, and fees cannot be paid using them. She believed that awards, lunches, and invited speaker travel could be paid for using the funds. She suggested asking the new PIC chair: Jenna Carpenter to double check.

Norback asked whether it would be possible for LED to identify all the presentations that link to communication and then list them in the Conference program to promote cross-fertilization.

Garvander noted that Smoothpaper doesn't have a keyword search.

Kadlowec – contended that some of those features could be added in two years. It would not be possible in the next year as Smoothpaper will not have added features for next year's conference.

Award presentation

On behalf of the 2009 Award Committee (Gary Downey, Caroline Carville, and Joe Herkert), Downey presented the Sterling Olmsted Award to Sarah Pfatteicher.

Harvey gave Gary Downey the plaque for the Olmsted award he was awarded at the 2008 meeting.

Harvey – Per LED tradition the division chair elect ascends to division chair and the program chair ascends to division chair elect. She called for a motion that a vote be made on making Gary Downey the new division chair and Donna Riley the division chair elect.

Moved and seconded
Passed unanimously.

Joe Herkert was introduced as the program chair for the 2010 Annual Meeting. Herkert announced that Michael Alley of Penn State University has agreed to serve as the program chair elect. Herkert issued a call for ideas and themes for the 2010 meeting. The call is due July 1st, 2009.

Gary Downey opened the meeting up for general discussion on the possibility of changing the name of the Liberal Education Division. He noted that there might be advantages in not changing the name but is concerned that the meaning of the name is not well understood by people outside the LED.

Downey moved to have a vote to allow the LED to discuss these ideas online and then present the findings to the board in February.

Hart moved to give Downey Permission to organize email discussion of name change.
Garvander seconds
Votes: unanimous approval.

meeting adjourned at 2:05pm