

Liberal Education Division Business Meeting
Monday, June 21 12:30---2:00p.m.
Convention Center 210

2009---2010 Officers

Division Chair, Gary Downey, Virginia Tech

Division Chair---Elect, Donna Riley, Smith College

Program Chair, Joseph Herkert, Arizona State University

Program Chair---Elect, Michael Alley, Pennsylvania State University

Secretary/Treasurer, Jameson Wetmore, Arizona State University

Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Steven H. VanderLeest, Calvin College

1. Division Chair's Report-----Gary Downey

a. Report from the PIC III meeting:

- Overall attendance at ASEE conference: 1805 (2,200 was the peak around 2007)
- The paper submission program, Smoothpaper, is being replaced by a program called "Monolith" that was developed in-house. It will be launched in the next few months
- The changes in our bylaws put forward in the last LED meeting were approved by Pic III.
- Funds for LED: LED receives \$1 per member. We have 235 members currently. This money goes into the operating account which disappears at the end of every fiscal year. Bass accounts live beyond a year. LED might not be using our bass account and it might be accumulating. ASEE is going through a recalibration of the price/per member. We may see a slight change in our funds next year.

b. Announcements:

- LED dinner, Tuesday at 6:30pm at the "Blind Pig," 1076 E. Washington.
- Sarah Pfatteicher, the winner of last year's Olmstead award, will present this year's distinguished lecture on Wednesday, 10:30-noon.
- Nominees for Pic III best paper from LED: Ari Epstein, Joellen Easton, Rekha Murthy and Emily Davidson for "Helping Engineering and Science Students find their Voice: Radio Production as a Way to Enhance Students' Communication Skills and their Competence at Placing Engineering and Science in a Broader Societal Context" and Erin Cech for "Trained to Disengage? A Longitudinal Study of Social Consciousness and Public Engagement among Engineering Students."

2. Report from PIC III Chair-----Jenna Carpenter

- Monolith is the in-house replacement for smoothpaper. Introduction to Monolith at 2:30pm on Tuesday. It should go live in September.

- Generally, the ASEE conference breaks even, but the conference lost money last year (likely due to the lower turn-out caused by tough economy). Events such as the picnic are heavily subsidized by corporate sponsors.
- Jenna noted the re-calibration of price per member, which happens every two years. We should not see much of a change.
- We cannot provide money to travel to ASEE conferences for people who give distinguished lectures, but, as a work-around, we can provide them an honorarium in any amount we wish. Meeting attendees agreed that we could use whatever is left over in the BASS account for an honorarium for the distinguished lecturer.
- Pic III will put out an RPF for requests for extra funds to support special efforts that aren't part of the usual LED program (e.g. workshops).
- Jenna explained how the arrangement of divisions occurred: Older divisions are in Pic I and II, the newer divisions are in Pic III and IV. All new divisions are designated to Pic IV.
- Because of a lawsuit, papers submitted by a program chair to his or her own division will go through the peer-review process, but the PIC chair will read through the reviews and determine whether the paper is allowed to be part of the division's program.
- Jenna's contact information: jenna@latech.edu

3. Secretary/Treasurer's notes—Jamey Wetmore

a. The LED has 2 accounts. Our BASS (Banking and Accounting Service System) account comes from the \$1/year fee we charge all members. It is currently around \$500 and through the yearly fee we get about \$300 /year added to it. That money is pretty flexible. We can use it for just about anything and whatever we don't use gets rolled over into the next year.

We also have an Operating account. We currently get \$300/year in our Operating account from ASEE. This money has a number of strings attached to it. First of all, if we don't use the money in a given year (which begins and ends in October) we lose the money. The Operating account also has restrictions on what it can be used for. For instance, it used to be you could only really use the money for mailings and other direct ASEE LED business things. Recently we've found out that the rules aren't as strict as first described, and can be used to pay for awards and honoraria - two of our most frequently recurring expenses.

ASEE has recently implemented a new policy to the Operating account. Instead of automatically depositing \$300/year in this account, it will give us \$1/member. We have had roughly 300 members so it is likely that the amount we receive in this account won't change much, but such changes are possible now.

4. Program Chair's report—Joseph Herkert
 - a. 40 abstracts submitted this year; 26 papers in the final program.
 - b. Nearly 90% of those asked to review abstracts and papers agreed to do so.

5. Presentation of Sterling Olmsted Award—Donna Riley
 - a. Julia Williams, Professor of English and Executive Director of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment at at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology is this year's winner of the Sterling Olmstead award. See <http://www.calvin.edu/academic/engineering/aseeled/olmsted/2010.htm> for a bio that chronicles Dr. Williams's accomplishments.

6. Report from Division Name Committee—Gary Downey and Hillary Hart
 - a. The division name committee conducted an initial vote, asking members to choose between one of 4 names. Two names emerged from this process: LED (no name change) and "Engineering and Society." LED members were polled for a second time. The bylaws require a 2/3 majority for a name change. "Engineering and Society" received 63% of the vote, 3 votes shy of a 2/3 majority. Gary and Hillary opened the floor for discussion, allowing all present members to share their ideas about how to proceed. Some believed that proper procedures had been followed and no further action should be taken. Other believed that since the vote was so close, the issue should be reintroduced for discussion.
 - b. Donna Riley made a motion to convene a new Division Name Committee. Members directed the Division Name Committee to do three things:
 - 1) Develop a working definition of the terms "engineering and society" and "liberal education"
 - 2) Facilitate discussion within the division about the results of the last year's voting and the meanings of the terms "engineering and society" and "liberal education"
 - 3) Conduct a directed yes/no vote on renaming ourselves the Liberal Education/Engineering and Society Division

7. Election of 2010---2011 Officers
 - a. Division Chair, Donna Riley, Smith College
 - b. Division Chair--Elect, Joseph Herkert, Arizona State University
 - c. Program Chair, Michael Alley, Pennsylvania State University
 - d. Program Chair---Elect, Judith Norback, Georgia Tech
 - e. Secretary/Treasurer, Erin Cech, UC San Diego
 - f. Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Steven H. VanderLeest, Calvin College

8. Other new business
 - a. Atsushi Akera will chair a committee (members appointed by Division Chair Gary Downey) to discuss possibilities of PIC reorganization. The work of the committee may include approaching other divisions to convene a workshop at the 2011 ASEE conference to further address the issue.

9. Discussion of 2011 program—Michael Alley

a. Michael Alley will be the new program chair. He offered three things he would like to focus on in the coming year:

1. Continued diversity of the content in LED sessions,
2. Continued high quality of that content in the sessions, and
3. Increased number of attendees for those sessions.

b. To maintain that diversity and quality of program content, he requested that we consider asking researchers in LED disciplines who live in the Northwest to participate in next year's conference. Also, ask other LED members who have not participated in a while to consider proposing a paper for the conference in Vancouver.

c. Finally, consider proposing a session for next year's program. No matter what type of session that is proposed, include arguments for why the content of the session will be high quality and why ASEE members from across the disciplines will attend.