

Liberal Education/Engineering and Society Division Business Meeting
Monday, June 27, 2011 12:30--2:00p.m.
Vancouver Convention Center, Room 11

2010--2011 Officers

Division Chair, Donna Riley, Smith College
Division Chair--Elect, Joseph Herkert, Arizona State University
Program Chair, Michael Alley, Pennsylvania State University
Program Chair--Elect, Judith Norback, Georgia Tech
Secretary/Treasurer, Erin Cech, University of California, San Diego
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Steven H. VanderLeest, Calvin College

1. Division Chair's Report—Donna Riley

A. 2010-2011 was a busy year with several initiatives, including the division name committee and arranging a town hall meeting to work on interdivisional collaboration. The LED (now LEES) division currently has 244 members and 230 people on our listserv. This is only a slight increase over the last decade; we had 204 members and were ranked 37th most populous division ten years ago.

2. Report on the PIC II meeting—Joe Herkert

A. Joe attended the PIC III meeting earlier in the week, led by Jenna Carpenter the outgoing PIC III chair and Joe Rencis, the incoming PIC III chair. Both Jenna and Joe joined the meeting later, but Joe Herkert reported on the following topics:

- 1) The PICs are working on a new best paper rubric at the upper level, but the divisions can use it if we wish. We are allowed to designate as many best papers as we wish in the division, but can only forward one paper on to the PIC chair for the conference award. (A best paper is selected from each PIC, and one of those papers wins the overall conference best paper.) They are thinking about having all five of the PIC best papers in a specially session that would run parallel to the special lecture sessions in the ASEE program.
- 2) The PIC III chair are happy with the performance of Monolith, the new paper submission management system. 80% of the paper submissions came within the last six hours of the submission window and Monolith had no major issues. They are, however, seeking feedback on suggested improvements to Monolith. Anyone can submit suggestions for changes to the PIC chair (see his contact information below).
- 3) The PICs are thinking about initiating a "Work in Progress" paper status starting in 2013. This is something that is used for the Frontiers in Education (FIE) conference.
- 4) Divisions can request up to \$500 for a special event that is aimed at boosting membership. Please let Joe Herkert or Erin Cech know if you have a suggestion for using these funds. (As clarified below in the presentation by Jenna Carpenter, these funds have to be matched by the division)
- 5) The meeting this year had almost 3700 registrants as of the first day of the conference. There was a record high number of papers and abstracts submitted (see more detailed information below).
- 6) Call for papers due July 15th; when submitting the call for papers; the PIC chair recommends that we make sure to confirm that it was received and double-check that it was posted.

3. Announcements

- A. Liberal Education/ Engineering and Society Division Dinner: 6:45pm dinner at Sanafir (1026 Grandville street). If people are interested in walking over, meet at 6:30pm in front of the Olympic torch to walk over to the restaurant. Nelson is the cross-street.
- B. The Town hall meeting to discuss interdivisional collaboration (lead by Atsushi Akera) held on Monday at 4:30pm
- C. Judith Norback announced a capstone design conference to be held in a few weeks—IEEE conference in October at University of Cincinnati, poster competition.

4. Secretary/Treasurer's Report—Erin Cech

A. We have two accounts: The BASS (Baking and Accounting Service System) account and an operating account. The division receives \$1/year from division fees. These funds are flexible and roll over from year to year. The division receives about \$1/per member in our Operating account, which has tighter restrictions, and zeros out at the end of each year. After looking over the reports from this quarter, Erin thought that there might be a mistake in how an honorarium from last year was posted to the division accounts. However, after reviewing the records and contacting the accountant, there was not a mistake after all and the division accounts have been appropriately balanced. We currently have \$835.21 in the BASS account. After taking care of reimbursements, approximately \$781 will roll over into next fiscal year.

4. Program Chair's report—Michael Alley

A. Michael's goal last year was that we have very strong papers this year, and he felt that we achieved that goal. He thanked those who submitted papers and who agreed to be reviewers. Two LEES sessions—Myths about Gender and Race and the Town Hall for interdivisional collaboration—were highlighted in the ASEE highlights e-mail that morning, and he hoped that exposure would increase attendance at those sessions as well as other LEES sessions.

B. Michael handed out a list of all LEES sessions.

C. Meeting attendees recognized Michael for his great work as program chair.

5. Presentation of Sterling Olmstead Award—Joe Herkert

The Sterling Olmstead 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.

The nominating committee (Joe Herkert, chair; Sarah Pfatteicher, Bruce Seely, and Rachelle Hollander) is pleased to present the award to this year's recipient – Taft Broome, Professor of Civil Engineering at Howard University.

For four decades, Dr. Broome's career has embodied the spirit and goals of the Liberal Education Division. As he summarizes his own life's work:

To remain free in the 21st century, our society requires a citizenry capable of effectively engaging our prolific knowledge base and our diverse, globalizing culture. To remain navigable, our learned heritage already requires the kind of stewardship that only card-carrying members of the most disparate of disciplines, and thus fellow travelers of all disciplines, can enable.

Dr. Broome's own education and scholarship demonstrates this commitment to interdisciplinarity and liberal education. Nearly two decades after receiving his Bachelor's from Howard and his Sc.D. from GWU in Civil Engineering, he returned to RPI for a master's degree in science and technology studies, focusing on engineering ethics. He co-founded with Joel Moses the first world Workshop on Philosophy & Engineering. In addition to technical scholarship on large space structures, in his writings he has addressed engineering ethics, philosophy of engineering, expanding opportunities for women and minorities in engineering, and engineering and liberal education. His work is strong in its breadth of perspective, for example incorporating social and historical context into the work on ethics, and incorporating a consideration of the whole student in liberal education.

Dr. Broome's scholarship and service to the profession have indeed been distinguished. He has helped shape the field of engineering ethics through his scholarly work and through service on the editorial and/or advisory boards of *Science, Technology and Human Values*, *Science and Engineering Ethics*, and most recently *Engineering Studies*. He has served national professional societies including the National Association for Science, Technology & Society, Student Pugwash USA, WEPAN, AAUP, NAE boards and committees on engineering education and technological literacy, and of course ASEE. He has received numerous awards for teaching and scholarship, including being honored as a fellow of the AAAS.

Please join us in recognizing and applauding Dr. Broome for his work furthering the goals of liberal education for engineers.

Dr. Broome said he was highly honored to receive the award. He knew Sterling Olmstead personally and he joined the division in 1979. Dr. Broome read his poem called “Engineers of Ideas.”

6. Report from the Division Name Committee—Gary Downey

A. Gary Downey, the chair of the division name committee, reported on the name change vote. Last year, the division voted for whether or not to change the name from Liberal Education to Liberal Education/Engineering and Society. A majority of voters expressed interest in changing the name, but we did not reach the required 2/3. (Total of 59 voters.) At last year’s business meeting, members convened a new committee to facilitate a discussion about the meanings of the terms and about the name change, and to conduct a vote. We now have a vote. The name “Liberal Education Division/Engineering and Society” passed by 73% (83 voters). The board approved the name change the day before the business meeting, so the new name is now official. Thanks to Brent Jesiek for helping to set up the online vote.

B. One concern is that 22 people voted against the name change, and the division needs to make sure that we maintain open dialog.

C. The current bylaws are now out of step with the new name. Gary suggested that a new committee be developed to bring the bylaws into compliance with the new name, which will include a revised definition of the division.

D. The work of the division name committee is now complete.

E. Jerry Gravander and Gary Downey will co-chair the committee to propose a revision to the bylaws.

7. Report on the Facilitation of a Town Hall Meeting—Atsushi Akera

A. Atsushi agreed at last year’s meeting to facilitate a conversation about interdivisional collaboration and cooperation. Atsushi Akera, Judith Norback, Donna, Riley, Steve VanderLeest, and Sarah Pfatteicherv facilitated 10 days of conversation about interdivisional collaboration. 28 people participated in the exchange, representing 16 divisions.

B. Considerable consensus emerged on several items:

1) PIC re-alignment so that divisions similar to one another are in the same PIC.

2) The importance of fostering collaboration across the divisions.

3) A town hall was proposed as an opportunity for all divisions to attend.

C. 14 divisions will participate in the town hall. It is designed to be a networking and collaboration opportunity. Everyone will start with a brief introduction of themselves and share their idea about best practices across divisions. Then, attendees will break into 4 sessions: (1) Sharing past experiences of working across divisions; (2) New organizational structures for interdivisional collaboration; (3) How Monolith might be modified to facilitate interdivisional collaboration; (4) Need for PIC reorganization

8. Election of Officers

A. Donna clarified that division members elect certain officers (secretary/treasurers and the newsletter editor and webmaster for two years), and others are appointed by the division chair (the program chair and the program chair-elect). Up for appointment this year: the chair and the chair-elect. We followed the practice of passing on the chair position to the chair-elect and the chair-elect position to the program chair.

B. The election Committee (Donna Rile, Gary Downey and Brent Jesick) nominated as the new division chair, the current division chair-elect, Joe Herkert. The committee also suggested Michael Alley as the new division-chair elect.

C. Judith is promoted by appointment of the chair to program chair, and Atsushi is appointed as program chair-elect.

D. New officers:

Division Chair: Joseph Herkert, Arizona State University

Division Chair-Elect: Michael Alley, Pennsylvania State University

Program Chair: Judith Norback, Georgia Tech

Program Chair-Elect: Atsushi Akera, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Secretary/Treasurer, Erin Cech, Stanford University

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

9. Other New Business

A. Discussion of the idea of “Work in Progress” papers: Currently, we have no minimum length requirement. The work in progress designation may be helpful for reviewers, who then know it is not

completed work. Copyright issues also play a part—one is required to get permission from ASEE and from journal that is looking to publish it. Work in progress papers would still be copyrighted and would still require a double permission process, but they would be more likely to be substantially re-written. Members agreed that a work in progress paper can appear in any session, not just a work-in-progress session.

- B. Last year, we did suggest 2-3 page papers, but did not receive papers of that length. We need to make sure that it is clear in the call for papers that papers of that length are accepted and encouraged.
- C. Ideas for next year from Judith (next year's program chair): Would like to emphasize good papers, and would like people to initiate their own sessions and bring together people in their own areas. She has the long-term goal of making it possible for people to communicate with others in different disciplines. She welcomes input and would like the programming to be an interactive effort.

10. Report from PIC III Chair and Chair-Elect: Jenna Carpenter and Joe Rencis

- A. We have a new ASEE Executive Director –Norman Fortenberry (50 people were interviewed, 5 finalists). He has been onboard for several weeks and is looking at membership and services, and developing healthier finances.
- B. Monolith: new paper management system, as well as a revised member registration and website. ASEE conducted about 18 months of planning and testing of the modular pieces to monolith. The PIC chairs are compiling a list of suggestions and ideas. Jenna passed around a notepad where meeting attendees could write their suggestions and ideas along with their contact information. The IT people will make the most critical changes in the next year, and make more minor changes in the following years.
- C. Best paper selection: Each division in ASEE gets to pick several best papers; only one of those, however, gets forwarded to the PIC chair. Each nominated paper is reviewed, and then each PIC selects one paper. The rubric was not distributed previously. A subcommittee of PIC members is developing a rubric for best papers, which will be available in the call for papers and on the web. Division members can make suggestions for changes in the rubric if they wish. Divisions can also adopt the rubric to decide on division best papers if they wish.
- D. Special projects fund: After re-allocating funds to the BASS accounts for each division, there was \$3000 left over. The PIC decided to use this as a special funds project. Division members can submit a proposal for up to \$500, which will be matched by the division, for a special event. It cannot be used to pay ASEE registration directly, but can be dispersed as an honorarium. This year they had five proposals, including one for a round table, one sponsoring new members, and another with targeted marketing before the conference. The proposals are one-page long and will be due in October.
- E. The best paper from PIC III this year is out of the First Year Programs Division (paper 1285).
- F. The Vancouver venue has been very successful: ASEE had a record number of abstracts and papers. Just under 3000 abstracts were submitted (700 more than we have ever had) and about 1700 papers were published-- 320 more than we have ever had. Over 3700 people are attending, and there are over 300 sessions. Membership has been down the last few years, but rebounded some from previous years. We have 8703 professional members and about 1000 student members. 13000 members total, including industry memberships.
- G. PIC III Chair-Elect: Joe Rencis, University of Arkansas (jjrencis@uark.edu)
- H. Smart phone application—an iPad app is currently being piloted, and might have an application as early as next year.