

**Minutes: Liberal Education/Engineering and Society Business Meeting**  
**Monday, June 11, 2012: 12:30–2:00 p.m.**  
**San Antonio Convention Center 008A**  
**San Antonio, Texas**

2011–2012 Officers

Division Chair, Joseph Herkert, Arizona State University  
Division Chair–Elect, Michael Alley, Pennsylvania State University  
Past Chair, Donna Riley, Smith College  
Program Chair, Judith Norback, Georgia Tech  
Program Chair–Elect, Atsushi Akiera, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Secretary/Treasurer, Erin Cech, Rice University  
Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Steven H. VanderLeest, Calvin College

1. Attendance at Meeting

Twenty-five people attended the LEES meeting—see list of attending members in the Appendix. As shown in the Appendix, the institutions represented at the meeting spanned a wide geographic range, from the University of San Diego to the University of British Columbia to Mississippi State University to Clarkson University to Chalmers University in Sweden.

2. Approval of 2011 Minutes

The 2011 minutes were approved.

3. Division Chair’s Report: Joe Herkert

a. Statistical Report:

- LEES has 248 members—that maintains the significant increase that occurred over the decade. In 2001, there were only 204 members.
- Funds for LEES: LEES receives \$1 per member into the Bank Accounting Services (BASS) account—therefore, we had \$248 added to this account in this year.

b. Announcements:

- This year, we used division funds from the BASS account for a make-your-own-sandwich lunch at the business meeting. Atsushi and Donna brought in cold cuts, cheeses, breads, and such for this lunch. Those attending agreed that having this food was convenient.
- Atsushi reported that at the Division Mixer on Sunday evening, the LEES table was one of the best, as far as providing information. During the mixer, Atsushi visited about one-third of the tables. He suggested that all officers join in visiting tables next year in Atlanta. Among the business meeting participants, agreement existed that the food and ability to socialize at the mixer was better than for picnics held at previous ASEE meetings (and the admission was free).
- LEES reception and dinner was to occur on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Guadalajara Grill, which is at 301 S. Alamo. For this recommendation, thanks go to LEES members Mark Clark and Laura Grossenbacher, who are from this region of the country.

- LEES is an affiliate sponsor of the 2012 Forum on Philosophy, Engineering & Technology to be held in Beijing in November.

#### 4. Report from PIC III Chair: Joe Rencis, Dean of Engineering at Tennessee Tech

- 2012 ASEE Conference attendance: 2200 fully paid registrations, a number that Rencis cited as being comparable to previous years.
- Proposal is on the table to increase membership fee which has not increased in twenty years. In the proposal, a discount would be available for members choosing to receive their publications electronically.
- Proposal is on the table to raise the early member conference registration from \$500 to \$600. Rencis stipulated that the Board does not have to approve this move, but wanted us to be aware that it is under consideration by ASEE HQ staff. The Board has requested additional justification for the increase. We asked Rencis if any study had been done to relate the conference registration fee to attendance, and Rencis said it had not, but that the PIC Chairs had raised the same question. He said that the dominating factor for attendance appears to be location, with large attendances having occurred at Hawaii and Vancouver.
- Rencis noted that \$3000 exists for \$500 awards to be distributed to divisions for specific initiatives such as payment for a Distinguished Speaker, expenses for the Division Mixer, etc. This year the PIC Chairs received 6 such proposals from different divisions and made 4 awards.
- Rencis stated that he received only 4 nominations for best paper from PIC III divisions. Atsushi noted that making such nominations were difficult on Monolith, and that program chairs might have thought they had done so, when in fact they had not. The nominated paper needs to be submitted by the Program Chair to the PIC Chair.
- Rencis strongly recommended that our division consider adding a Best Paper Award. Several divisions have this award, and it is highly sought after by the division members. Discussion occurred among several members about this idea, and the members voted by general assent to establish such an award. Atsushi was tasked with proposing by-laws changes to be voted on at next year's LEES Business Meeting.

#### 5. Secretary/Treasurer's report: Joe Herkert substituting for Erin Cech

- a. The Bank Accounting Services account (BASS), which rolls over each year, has \$1221.81
- b. The operating account, which does not roll over each year (in other words, use it or lose it), is \$230. We were applying the funds in the operating account to the LEES reception on Tuesday evening. The remainder of the cost of the reception was being covered by the Chair, Chair-Elect, Program Chair, and Program Chair-Elect or their home institutions.
- c. Requests for reimbursements, for such things as the Olmsted Award plaque, need to be mailed to Erin Cech. Receipts should be included.

#### 6. Program Chair's report: Atsushi Akiera substituting for Judith Norback

- a. Judith Norback was not able to attend because of an illness. However, Joe Herkert recognized her effort to put together such a strong program this year. A round of applause was given for Judith.

- b. This year, 50 abstracts were submitted, and 26 papers made it to the final program. The attrition includes several papers accepted abstracts in which the papers were not submitted.
- b. A better way needs to be developed to identify reviewers. One measure was using this business meeting to identify those who would agree to be reviewers. Twenty people at this meeting volunteered to be reviewers for the 2013 conference.

#### 7. Presentation of Sterling Olmsted Award: Michael Alley

- a. This year was a special year for the awarding on Sterling Olmsted Award, because Olmsted passed away this past November at the age of 96. Born in 1915, Olmsted's passing signaled the end of an era in liberal engineering education. Olmsted's obituary can be found at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/troyrecord/obituary.aspx?n=sterling-pitkin-olmsted&pid=154532553>.
- b. In attendance for the presentation of the award were three former Sterling Olmsted winners: Jerry Gravander, Joseph Herkert, and Julia Williams.
- c. This year's award went to **Donna Riley**, who is an associate professor of engineering at Smith College. Author of two books and winner of an NSF Career Award, Donna implements strategies of liberation in her classroom. Donna graciously received the award and related a story that revealed a wonderful intersection of her work with Sterling Olmsted's.

#### 8. Election and Appointment of 2012–2013 Officers:

- a. Division Chair, Michael Alley, Pennsylvania State University (elected by members present at the meeting)
- b. Division Chair–Elect, Judith Norback, Georgia Tech (elected by members present at the meeting)
- c. Program Chair, Atsushi Akiera, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (appointed by Division Chair)
- d. Program Chair–Elect, Steve Vanderleest (appointed by Division Chair)
- e. Secretary/Treasurer, Erin Cech, Rice University (elected by members present at the meeting, 2-year term)
- f. Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Steven H. VanderLeest, Calvin College and John Brocato, Mississippi State University (appointed by Division Chair)
- g. Division Past Chair. Joe Herkert, Arizona State University

#### 9. Approval of Changes to By-Laws and Division Description: Jerry Gravander

- a. With the change in the division's name from Liberal Education Division to Liberal Education/Engineering and Society arose the need for changes in the by-laws.
- b. The name change spawned several small changes in the By-Laws. In addition, the description of the division was expanded (Section II.2). The members at the meeting approved these changes with one dissenting vote.
- c. A change in Article IV, Section 4, was also proposed for the selection of the recipient of the Sterling Olmsted Award to preserve continuity on the committee, by having a rotation of the committee such that two of the three members remain on the committee. As before, the chair-elect is to assemble this committee and select the new member to rotate on. The members at the meeting approved these changes with one dissenting vote.
- d. A correction to the by-laws in Article IV, Section 2, was suggested with regards to the Nominating Committee. While the by-laws currently state that there should be "one Division Member at Large who is currently serving in any elected or appointed office," it should read

- that the Division Member at Large should “*not* serving in any elected or appointed office.”  
The members at the meeting unanimously approved this change to the by-laws..
- e. A change in the description of the division that is used at the ASEE web-site also required revision because of the division’s name change. The members at the meeting approved this revision with one dissenting vote.
  - f. Donna noted an apparent misstatement in the section on selecting the nominating committee. The members at the meeting approved this revision with one dissenting vote.

#### 9. Discussion of 2013 program: Atsushi Akiera

- a. Atsushi Akiera will be the new program chair for Atlanta.
- b. Atsushi requested nominations for sessions. Julia Williams suggested something with the Grand Challenges. Michael Alley suggested a joint session with the new Engineering Ambassadors Network for recruiting women and other under-represented groups into engineering.
- c. Atsushi asked for member input regarding selectivity during the abstract review process.
- d. He also mentioned that next year LEES would be going in with several divisions on a town hall meeting that builds on the town hall meeting of Vancouver.
- e. Finally, Atsushi invited all LED members to email him with ideas in the coming months and to consider strongly submitting an abstract to LEES for the 2013 Conference in Atlanta.

## Appendix A: Attendees of 2012 LEES Business Meeting in San Antonio

1. Akiera, Atsushi	RPI
2. Alley, Michael	Pennsylvania State University
3. Beddoes, Kacey	Purdue University
4. Brocato, John	Mississippi State University
5. Eddington, Stacie	University of Michigan
6. Frezza, Steve	Gannon University
7. Gravander, Jerry	Clarkson University
8. Gunn, Craig	Michigan State University
9. Herkert, Joe	Arizona State University
10. Hook, S. Ratnajeevan	Michigan State
11. House, Richard	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
12. Jesiek, Brent	Purdue University
13. Kabo, Jens	Chalmers University (Sweden)
14. Labun, Carolyn	University of British Columbia
15. Marr, Junko Munakata	Colorado School of Mines
16. Neebel, Danial	Loras College
17. Olson, Rick	University of San Diego
18. Riley, Donna	Smith College
19. Roth, Mary	Lafayette College
20. Sabnis, Gajanan	Howard University
21. Slaton, Amy	Drexel University
22. Webb, Darlene	British Columbia Institute of Technology
23. Wikoff, Katherine	Milwaukee School of Engineering
24. Williams, Julia	Rose-Hulman
25. Zoghi, Ben	Texas A&M