

Agenda: Liberal Education/Engineering & Society Business Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 16, 2014: 12:30–2:00 p.m.
Indiana Convention Center 240
Indianapolis, Indiana

2013–2014 Officers

Division Chair: Judith Norback, Georgia Tech

Division Chair–Elect: Atsushi Akera, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Past Chair: Michael Alley, Penn State University

Program Chair: Steven H. VanderLeest, Calvin College

Program Chair–Elect: Dean Nieusma, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Secretary/Treasurer: Erin Cech, Rice University

Webmaster & Newsletter Editor: John Brocato, Mississippi State University

1. Introductions

Judith Norback called the meeting to order at 12:36, after which attendees introduced themselves. Judith mentioned that Erin Cech could not attend this year and that John Brocato would take minutes in her place. Judith then announced the LEES reception on Tuesday, 7-9pm, at the J.W. Marriott's High Velocity Lounge.

2. Report from PIC III Chair Joe Rencis and Chair-Elect Sheryl Sorby (this was moved up in the meeting so Joe and Sheryl could get to a concurrent meeting)

Joe said he and Sheryl need the division's officer list and financial statements; Atsushi said he has them. Joe then mentioned the Program Chair orientation along with the upcoming meeting with PIC III chairs on Wednesday afternoon of the conference. He also announced/reminded the group about two event changes this year: (1) the traditional Wednesday-night awards banquet will now be a Monday-afternoon awards ceremony; and (2) the official leadership change for officers will occur as part of the President's Reception on Wednesday afternoon (no cost to attendees for either new event). The Tuesday Plenary Session will recognize last year's best papers and also award best zone papers. This year's papers will be awarded in the Monday awards ceremony. Atsushi said the divisions might want to look at their bylaws to coincide with the board's three meetings per year with respect to changing bylaws, specifically adding awards. For example, a change made at this business meeting today could go before the board at their Wednesday meeting, but a bylaw change often takes a month due to proper routing (excepting minor changes). Joe recommended more division awards; the board will look at financial statements to see what the division can afford, where membership numbers are, etc. The standard is apparently to consider bylaw revision every 10 years – LEES last did so in 2012. Joe also announced/reminded us that ASEE's new logo has been adopted; old letterhead can be used until it's gone. He also mentioned ASEE's recent website glitches. Sheryl discussed ASEE's forthcoming Year of Action on Diversity and announced Safe Zones at each paper. She also said ASEE is recommending online membership, which is less expensive largely based on *Prism* print v. *Prism* online. Joe then solicited feedback from us. Joe Herkert raised the issue that calling online membership "online" creates the impression that it's a lower-tier membership and that perhaps another name would be better. Sheryl said only about 500 out of 12,000 have selected online membership. Another attendee praised the online scheduler this year, saying it was vastly superior to last year's. Another attendee critiqued the choice of a university president as plenary

speaker, saying Mitch Daniels's talk was essentially an ad for Purdue and that perhaps more "in-the-trenches" speakers would be more suitable choices.

3. Approval of 2013 Minutes

John Brocato noted two minor edits for the 2013 minutes, and they were then approved unanimously.

4. Division Chair's Report: Judith Norback

- a. Statistical Report: Judith reported that LEES currently has 276 members and noted the expanded number of sessions by coordinating with other divisions.
- b. Website update (**John Brocato**) – John reported that there are no issues with the website other than occasional file-size issues with the LEES email address that require posting larger files on the site and then directing members there via email. At present, this process is not onerous.

5. Election and Appointment of 2014–2015 Officers: Joe Herkert (for Michael Alley, who could not attend ASEE this year)

Joe Herkert recapped the process for selecting new officers. Judith announced that we needed to elect a new Program Chair-Elect and announced that John Brocato was the willing nominee. She asked for other nominations and received none, at which time nominations were moved closed and seconded. John was elected unanimously. This move left an opening at Webmaster/Newsletter Editor; Judith appointed Justin Hess of Purdue University (who had earlier volunteered) to fill this position. Judith also announced that Erin Cech had agreed to continue as Secretary/Treasurer for another year. Thus, the 2014-2015 LEES officers are as follows:

- a. Division Chair, Atsushi Akera, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- b. Division Chair–Elect, Steven H. VanderLeest, Calvin College
- c. Program Chair, Dean Nieusma, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- d. Program Chair–Elect, John Brocato, Mississippi State University
- e. Secretary/Treasurer, Erin Cech, Rice University (to continue)
- f. Webmaster & Newsletter Editor, Justin Hess, Purdue University
- g. Division Past Chair, Judith Norback, Georgia Tech

6. Presentation of Sterling Olmsted Award: Atsushi Akera

The 2014 Olmsted Award goes to Cherrice Traver (David Falk and Elynor Rudnick-Falk Professor of Engineering and Chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Union College) and J. Douglass Klein (Kenneth B. Sharpe Professor of Economics and Director of the Environmental Science, Policy and Engineering Programs at Union College) for their work in establishing the Union College Symposium on Engineering and Liberal Education. The Symposium was first held in May of 2008.

When Stephen C. Ainlay stepped up to serve as the 18th President of Union in 2006, he put forth a new vision for Union that would develop the synergies between engineering and the liberal arts. He charged Traver and Klein, then Union's Dean of Engineering and Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies, respectively, to help realize this vision. With initial support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and later from IBM, Traver and Klein responded by creating the Symposium to bring together, on an annual basis, a diverse group of faculty experimenting with different ways to integrate engineering and the liberal arts.

Now in its 7th year, Union's Symposium on Engineering and Liberal Education continues to attract people working on engineering ethics, technological literacy, art and technology, creativity and

innovation, leadership and professional development, and the social and humanistic study of engineering. The Symposium has not only demonstrated the diverse possibilities for integration, but has created a strong network of committed teachers and scholars working to advance an integrative vision, both at Union, and on the national scene. Traver and Klein have created an invaluable network for many of us who are striving to do good work in this area. For their efforts, we award them the 2014 Olmsted Award, the highest award issued by the Liberal Education / Engineering & Society Division of the American Society for Engineering Education.

7. Secretary/Treasurer's report: Judith Norback (for Erin Cech, who could not attend this year's conference)

(Here is the report Erin sent post-conference.) We have two accounts: The BASS (Banking 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. As of the end of fiscal year 2013, we had \$1422 in our BASS account. While we have not yet received the report for the first quarter of fiscal year 2014, but based on prior years' experience, I estimate we currently have \$250 in our operating account and approximately \$1,900 in the BASS account. After reimbursements, I estimate that approximately \$900 of BASS account funds will roll over into the next fiscal year. I will edit these figures with the correct numbers in the revised version of the business meeting minutes once I receive and updated accounts report for FY2014. If you have receipts to be reimbursed, please scan and email them to me at ecech@rice.edu, or send them via mail to: Erin Cech, Department of Sociology –MS28, Rice University, 6100 Main St., Houston, TX 77006.

8. Presentation of Best Paper and Program Chair's report for 2014 program: Steven VanderLeest
2014 Program Overview

The program this year is delightfully diverse and thought-provoking. We received 54 abstract submissions, with 37 appearing in final program (5 in the poster session). A couple abstracts were transferred to another division, a couple were rejected, and a handful of authors withdrew their papers before making it to the final stage.

The LEES division is associated with more sessions this year than any year in recent history, including:

- 8 technical sessions
- 2 panel sessions:
 - “The Role of Peer Review in the Development of Engineering Education Research” led by Kacey Beddoes of Oregon State, Elliot Douglas of U of Florida, and Amy Bumbaco of U of Florida
 - “Broadening the Conversation on the Grand Challenges: Addressing the Contextual Dimensions of Technological Innovation” organized by Atsushi Akera of Rensselaer Poly and Frazier Benya from the NAE, moderated by Randy Atkins of the NAE, with panelists Joe Herkert, Jenna Carpenter, Donna Riley, and Tom Katsouleas
- Business meeting and social
- Sunday Workshop: “Engineering Positive Space: Promoting Inclusivity” led by Susan McCahan and Peter Weiss from University of Toronto. We secured two division co-sponsors of:
 - Women In Engineering
 - Minorities in Engineering
- Distinguished Lecture: “Learning from China” by Carl Mitcham of Colorado School of Mines. We secured funding from the PIC III special project fund and several division co-sponsors:
 - International

- Multidisciplinary Engineering
- Engineering Ethics
- Engineering and Public Policy
- Technological Literacy
- Poster session with 5 authors
- We co-sponsored a session with the Multidisciplinary Engineering division on “Integration of Engineering and Other Disciplines (including Liberal Arts)”
- We hosted two conference-wide meetings, organized by Atsushi Akera:
 - Meeting for Incoming/Current Program Chairs & Division Chairs
 - Interdivisional Town Hall Meeting: “Why is change so difficult to sustain in engineering education?” (28 listed division co-sponsors!)

Comments on Process

- The monolith online system worked significantly better than the last time I was a program chair a few years ago.
- I fielded emails from some authors disappointed to be relegated to the poster session.

Best Paper Award

“Engineering and Engineering Education as Spiritual Vocations” by Julia D Thompson, Cole H Joslyn, and Mel Chua, all of Purdue University. Their paper will be presented on Wednesday at 2:15pm as the 2nd paper in session W548B “Engineering as a Professional Calling.”

9. Discussion of 2015 Program: Dean Nieusma

Dean affirmed that our bias was to accept papers whose quality was acceptable and that he would invite both research and practice papers as well as invite papers of varying length. He noted that he would follow on the success of Steven effort to promote cross-divisional listings of papers (once abstracts have been submitted).

2015 Program Review

- Call for Papers will be circulated as soon as available.
- At that point, input on proposed themes will be sought.
- Current proposed theme: Non-canonical canons of ethics (Donna Riley, Joseph Herkert)
- Current proposed initiative: Cross-divisional “Communications” session, perhaps pecha kucha style (Judith Norback).
- Proposed initiative: LEES participation in plenary proposal for “Year of Action on Diversity” (Nieusma, Slaton, Riley).
- Other proposals/thoughts to be invited.

10. General Discussion, New Business, and Updates from Members

None.