

# Liberal Education/Engineering Society Business Meeting Minutes

ASEE Conference, New Orleans Convention Center, Rm 254

11:30am-1pm, June 27, 2016

## 2016-2017 Officers

Division Chair-Elect: John Brocato, Mississippi State University

Past Chair: Steven H. VanderLeest, Calvin College

Program Chair: Shane Cotter, Union College

Program Chair-Elect: Kay Neeley, University of Virginia

Secretary/Treasurer: Genine Apidone, Case Western Reserve University

Webmaster and Newsletter Editor: Justin Hess, IUPUI

**Meeting called to order at 5pm.**

### PIC III Chair's Report, Sheryl Sorby

Sheryl announced the incoming PIC III Chair, PK Imbrie ([imbriepk@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:imbriepk@ucmail.uc.edu)).

**Conference Stats:** Last year was a recording breaking year for LEES. This year is close but slightly below.

	2016	2017	2017 Sessions		
Division	Papers	Papers	Technical	P/session	Other
LEES	58	47	11	4.27	9

**Membership:** LEES is growing each year!

PIC III Divisions: Membership	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017
LEES	272	310	329	343

**Bylaws:** LEES is set with our bylaws for now, but ASEE would like bylaws revised/updated every 5 or so years.

PIC III Divisions: Bylaws revision dates	Last Revision
LEES	2012

### **Financials:**

ASEE's Jessalyn Vermillion is our new accountant. BASS accounts will be reconciled by Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 2017. Sheryl showed a slide which indicated the LEES account balance to be \$1,052. She said that we should check to make sure this number is accurate because other divisions have reported errors. Genine mentioned that this number was incorrect but already had been corrected by Jessalyn earlier that day in an accounting meeting with Genine, Dean, and John.

### **Conference Schedule Changes for 2017:**

Workshops were moved from Sunday to Wednesday. There is now a full day of technical sessions on Sunday. HQ wanted to make Wednesday more meaningful so people don't just go home. HQ added a special 1-hour slot on Tuesday just for business meetings. Email PIC-III Chair, PK Imbrie ([imbriepk@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:imbriepk@ucmail.uc.edu)), our feedback on the changes.

### **Best PIC Awards:**

Best paper of PIC III was from LEES: "The Theatre of Humanitarian Engineering" by DiBiasio et al.

**Important announcements/deadlines:** Please see updated Program Chairs' Kit online for exact dates!

July: Updated officer information must be submitted to ASEE

July: Division 2018 Call for Papers due to ASEE

September: Workshops, Distinguished Lectures preparations

October: Abstracts due, Special Projects Fund applications due

November: Workshops/Distinguished Lectures due; Abstract decisions; Session requests (*PICs decide sessions, etc.*)

January: Papers due (*Feb Board meeting; Bylaws/Award due >1 month beforehand*)

April/May: Finalize sessions; Final papers submitted (*June Board meeting; Bylaws/Award due >1 month beforehand*)

### **Introductions Offered by Officers and Other Attendees**

Attendees list appended.

### **Division Chair's Report, Dean Nieuwma**

- Called for approval of the 2016 business meeting minutes. Unanimous approval.
- Offered gratitude to John, Steve, and Shane for picking up slack in his absence and stepping up to make sure everything got done in a timely manner. John ensured all preparations were in place for meeting.

### **Division Chair-Elect's Report, John Brocato**

Sheryl covered most of the statistics. We are experiencing modest and consistent growth.

LEES Historic Membership	June 2013	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017
	265	272	310	329	342

### **Diversity Committee Liaison's Report, Donna Riley**

Donna is current LEES liaison to the Diversity Committee and serves on that committee's policy/letter writing taskforce. LEES can send a rep liaison to the diversity committee, since diversity is in our bylaws. Donna asked if anyone is interested in taking over her position. It is a formal position. Responsibilities include: Volunteering on working groups, attending a meeting the Saturday before the conference each year, and numerous conference calls throughout the year. You can volunteer based on your interest. Lisa Marshall from NC State declared her interest and volunteered to talk with Donna after the meeting to learn more about the position.

### **Election and Appointment of 2017–2018 Officers, Dean Nieuwma**

2017-2018 LEES Nominations:

Division Chair Nominee: John Brocato

Division Chair-Elect Nominee: Shane Cotter

Program Chair Appointee: Kay Neeley (appointed to fill Brad Henderson's role, since he had to step down)

Program Chair-Elect Appointee: Amy Slaton, Drexel University

Treasurer/Secretary Nominee (2017-2019): Genine Apidone

Webmaster and Newsletter Editor Appointee (continuing term: 2016-2018): Justin Hess

Division Past Chair (by succession): Dean Nieuwma

A motion to accept the entire slate of candidates was offered. The entire slate of officers was approved unanimously, with no objections.

### **Treasurer's Report, Genine Apidone**

The LEES balance Sheryl showed was incorrect, but this was already reconciled with Jessalyn earlier in the day. Actual balance is: \$2,333.93. Joselyn sent Genine an email to confirm the corrected balance.

### LEES 2017 Reception, Dean Nieuwma/John Brocato

The LEES social was announced to follow the Business Meeting at 7pm. Credit to John for organizing the event.

### Program Chair's Report, Shane Cotter

Provided highlights of the LEES program. Thanked Kay and Amy for being next in line as new LEES officers.

It's a lot of work to get the program together. 4 papers were rejected based on reviewers' feedback. (Shane noted that it's unusual for us to reject a paper.) There were no panels this year. There were 4-5 papers per session. Does anyone have any feedback about this? 4 seems ideal. 6 seems too much. Recommend including panels recommendations and submissions in the call for papers. Comment directed to Kay: The call has to say to contact Kay directly. Defined a panel: A panel is an opportunity for presenters to speak without having to have the papers published. Members suggested to make sure presenters don't go over time allocated to speak, focus on highlights only and leave a few minutes for questions. A member moved a note of appreciation for Shane for putting everything together. Unanimous approval.

LEES 2017 program by the numbers:

Abstracts submitted to LEES	77	Compared to 85 (2016), 64 (2015)
Transfers	8	5 inbound, 3 outbound
Abstracts to papers	51	18 no shows/withdrawals
Rejections	4	
Paper phase withdrawals	15	28 withdrawals total (13 no shows)
Panel sessions	0	
Posters	0	
Total	47	Compared to 54 (2016), 41 (2015)

ASEE HQ originally allocated LEES 10 technical sessions. Based on the number of abstracts, Shane immediately requested 5 more sessions, which they granted, though that resulted in some overlapping sessions. Due to withdrawals and rejections, 11 technical sessions were enough and no overlapping sessions were required.

### Awards Committee Chair's Report, John Brocato

The Awards Committee included Erin Cech, Atsushi Akera, Cherrice Travers, and Juan Lucena [in addition to John as Committee Chair]. Erin and Atsushi recused themselves for voting on the best paper due to conflicts.

LEES 2017 Best Paper: "The Theatre of Humanitarian Engineering" by David DiBiasio, Paula Quinn, Kristin Boudreau, Laura A. Robinson, John M. Sullivan Jr, John Bergendahl, and Leslie Dodson, all of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. (As noted above, the LEES 2017 Best Paper also won the PIC-III 2017 Best Paper Award as well.)

2017 Sterling Olmsted Award: The Committee's unanimous choice was Amy Slaton of Drexel University. John will make the formal presentation at the LEES Reception following the Business Meeting.

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/Engineering and Society Division of the ASEE.

The LEES nominating committee is pleased to present the 2017 Sterling Olmsted Award to **Amy E. Slaton**, professor of history at Drexel University. Amy holds a PhD in the History and Sociology of Science from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on the history of technical expertise and work, seen through the lens of historical ideas of human difference. Her most recent book, *Race, Rigor and Selectivity in U.S. Engineering: The History of an Occupational Color Line* (Harvard University Press, 2010), follows racial ideologies in engineering higher education since the 1940s. Her current book project, *All Good People: Diversity, Difference and Opportunity in High-Tech America*, to be published by MIT, describes the limits of American commitments to equity around race, gender, LGBTQ and disabilities as those are expressed in the training of the nation's industrial workforce. She is co-editor with Tiago Saraiva of the journal *History & Technology*.

Amy's areas of interest include the following:

- Social relations of Industrial labor including workplace distributions of skill and knowledge, managerial methods, and social character of mechanization and automation
- Workforce planning and technical education
- Metrology, instrumentation and standards in engineering and the physical sciences
- Intersectional understandings of identity, including race, ethnicity, gender, LGBTQ
- Identities and physical and intellectual disability

Please join me in congratulating Amy on an award richly deserved.

### **Program Chair-Elect's Report, Kay Neeley**

Commented on next year's program. She was the LEES Program Chair 25 years ago. She has participated in other divisions over the last 3 years and there is a lot of overlap. This is a big issue, and an issue of identity for LEES.

### **Other Business/Matters Arising**

#### **• Communications Across the Divisions, Atsushi Akera**

There was a communication proposal to the ASEE Board. Judith and Kay previously worked on the "Communications Across the Divisions" initiative. Two years ago, there was a lot of work done. This year nothing. This is an ongoing problem. Someone should do an analysis and create a more inclusive discussion about the goals of LEES. According to Atsushi's assessment, 24 divisions have overlap with us.

#### **• LEES Officers Transitions, Dean Nieuwma**

Brad Henderson indicated that he had to step out of his leadership role for professional reasons.

Steve VanderLeest indicated that he had to miss the conference due to a career transition. Dean thanked Brad for his service. Dean moved to recognize Steve's tremendous contributions to LEES over the past 4 years. The motion was unanimously approved, and the group applauded Steve's service in his absence.

#### **• Status of 2016 LEES Bylaws Revision**

A member posed a question: Was there a proposal to make a change in the bylaws? A change in officer positions? Dean indicated that the 2016 revision was not reflected on the ASEE Divisions webpage, but that he would look into the status of the revision.

#### **• LEES Board of Advisors, Atsushi Akera**

Atsushi proposed a measure to strengthen LEES's governmental structure by including a board of advisors in addition to the officers. This would help to keep knowledge retained when chairs rotate out of their position. This was an initial discussion. Atsushi indicated a need for 2-5 volunteers. Atsushi also indicated the proposed change would require a change to the bylaws. The officers agreed to discuss the proposal, which could go up for a vote next year. There was discussion on the name of the new group: Advisory Board, Board of Directors, etc.

#### **• LEES Shared Drive, Dean Nieuwma**

Dean mentioned he is starting a Google Drive to supplement the Google Doc summarizing LEES Officers' Responsibilities.

#### **• Matters Arising, Dean Nieuwma**

Dean asked if there was anything else for inclusion in the minutes or moving forward. No one responded. Dean reminded everyone to attend the LEES reception following the meeting at the Guild House, 624 High Street, where the LEES awards would be formally announced by John.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:02pm**