

Christian Engineering Society Business Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 7/9/2020 from 12:00 – 1:30 pm via Google Meet

- I. Attendees: Manuela Ayee, Gayle Ermer, Bill Jordan, Stanley Ng, Mark Nowak, Melani Plett, Derek Schuurman, Ted Song, Steve VanderLeest, Justin Vander Werff, Nolan Van Gaalen
- II. Meeting was brought to order by Steve VanderLeest (SVL)
- III. Opening prayer was offered by Justin Vander Werff (JVW)
- IV. Attendees briefly introduced themselves.
- V. Minutes from previous meeting (7/12/2019) were presented and approved.
- VI. Introduction of current board members, officers, and volunteers (effective through this meeting).
 - Board Member: Steve VanderLeest (president)
 - Board Member: Bill Jordan (treasurer)
 - Board Member: Gayle Ermer (GE) (secretary)
 - Board Member: Melani Plett (MP) (at large)
 - Board Member: Justin Vander Werff (at large)
 - Board Member and Newsletter Editor: Ted Song (TS) (at large)
 - Website Managers: Mike Foster, SVL
- VII. President's Report
 - Membership Statistics: 89 individual members, 26 institutional members (2019 was 60 individual members, 2018 was 56)
 - Facebook: 165 (2019 was 140), LinkedIn: 232 (2019 was 210)
 - **BJ to contact institutional members to identify individuals for free memberships**
- VIII. Marketing
 - GE noted the decision to transfer the booth purchase for the 2020 ASEE Expo to the 2021 ASEE Expo.
 - GE reported on the results of the Calvin student teams who completed a marketing analysis for our organization.
 - **Motion** to approve \$600 from CES funds for use as prize money for a student logo design competition: **passed unanimously**
 - Designs to be submitted by Dec. 1
 - **Board to draft rules for contest (e.g. file format)**
 - **Announcement to appear in next newsletter**
 - Observations/Suggestions
 - JVW emphasized the results of the student survey of engineers which concluded that "When searching for a job, there are other needs that come to their mind first than finding an engineering job with faith-based values." Even at faith-based institutions, we still struggle to get Christian engineers to live out their faith commitments in their careers.
 - MP suggested that a value-add product for CES could be support for graduating seniors and networking for job placement.

- JWV noted that the student research indicates that cost does not seem to be a barrier for membership.
- IX. Communication: Newsletter
- TS has been doing a great job assembling quarterly newsletters. Suggestions for content to include and processes to encourage contributions were solicited.
 - MP suggested that each institutional member contribute a profile over the course of a year (deadlines for specific contributions would help to encourage participation).
 - TS suggested that all of us use the LinkedIn platform to post and increase activity. These contributions could then be assembled periodically into the newsletters.
- X. Membership Matters
- a. Plans for CES 2021 (joint with ACMS)
- The conferences will overlap, with ACMS scheduled from Wednesday, June 23, 2020 through Saturday, June 26, 2020 and CES from Friday, June 25, 2021 through Saturday, June 26, 2021 at Azusa Pacific University.
 - BJ noted that this is the week before the ASEE conference in Long Beach, CA.
 - Derek Schuurman (DS) reported that ACMS has identified a shared keynote speaker (Jason Thacker).
 - CES needs to identify a keynote speaker by the end of the summer. Suggestions should be forwarded to SVL or DS.
 - COVID-19 restrictions may still be in place next July. Preference is to have a virtual conference if the in-person conference needs to be cancelled.
 - CES needs to recruit a steering committee, ideally including a general conference chair, a program chair, and a local conference coordinator. Suggestions can be sent to SVL or BJ. Candidates for the first two of these roles should have attended at least two previous conferences. SVL will check notes from previous conferences to see if anyone has indicated interest.
 - The following names came up as potential contacts to help with conference planning: Leslie Wickman (now at Azusa Pacific), Jose Oomen, faculty at California Baptist University (Anthony Donaldson), possible connections at Biola University.
- b. Plans for Journal
- BJ noted that the CES journal is nearly ready to go public with a request for submissions.
 - The hope is to have an edition ready for publication by the end of the year.
 - Additional editors and reviewers will be needed.
- c. Dues and Member Benefits
- **Motion** to offer a student membership option for \$5: **passed**
- XI. Officer Elections
- a. The following nominations for board officers were offered.
- President: Bill Jordan
 - Vice-President: Ted Song
 - Secretary: Gayle Ermer

- Treasurer: Justin Vander Werff
 - b. **Motion** to elect this slate of officers: **passed unanimously**
- XII. Treasurer's Report
- a. The treasurer's report provided by BJ was presented and reviewed.
 - b. TS suggested that we continue and expand the amounts dedicated to student scholarships for conference attendance.
 - c. Stanley Ng suggested using a student poster session to attract to students to the conference. JVW noted that the poster format was offered at the last two conferences and seemed to be successful but should be promoted more.
 - d. DS suggested that the ACMS practice of offering early career workshops directed at new faculty prior to the conference can be helpful in increasing participation.
- XIII. Discussion Period
- a. Due to lack of time, discussion of COVID-19 response ideas was postponed.
 - b. BJ requested that a board meeting be scheduled in the next 3 weeks to finalize plans for the journal.
- XIV. BJ closed the meeting in prayer.

Note: the online Chat from the meeting is available in a separate document.

Respectfully submitted by Gayle Ermer, CES Secretary