

**Biological and Agricultural Engineering Division**  
American Society for Engineering Education  
**Meeting Minutes**  
Monday, June 19, 2000  
Saint Louis, Missouri  
Adam's Mark Directors Row 43

Mark Casada, BAED Chair, called the business meeting to order at 7:06 am

**Welcome and Introductions**

Past chair: Brahm Verma

Chair: Mark Casada

Vice Chair / Program Chair: Paul Schreuders

Secretary: Ann Christy

Treasurer: Lalit Verma

Newsletter editor: Marybeth Lima

Fourteen members were present: M. Casada, A. Christy, D. Davis, J. DeShazer, C. Engler, R. Gustafson, G. Hoffman, L. Huggins, A. Johnson, A. Kenimer, M. Lima, P. Schreuders, E. Tollner, and L. Verma.

**Approval of minutes:** *Paul Schreuders, Previous Secretary*

One correction was suggested to include the full title of the teaching award, the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Award for Excellence in Teaching Materials and Methods in Biological and Agricultural Engineering. Glen Hoffman moved to accept the minutes as amended. Lalit Verma seconded the motion. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** *Lalit Verma, Treasurer*

The treasurer's report was distributed. No activity had occurred until this St. Louis meeting which will be reflected in next year's report. The Teaching Materials and Methods Award will come out of the BASS account (\$500 plus plaque). It was suggested that the operating account be used for stamps, mailings, student hourly assistance, or any other expenses related to newsletter. This money disappears after July each year, and has not been tapped in recent years.

**Program chair report:** *Paul Schreuders, Vice Chair*

Paul Schreuders reported that we brought in speakers from related divisions to fill out the BAED program and, in part, to see if we could get them to join our division. Three sessions are scheduled: "BAE & ABET: Preparations & Postmortems", "Web-Based and Distance Education", and "Trends in BAE Education", plus Denny Davis' 5-hr workshop "Assessing Engineering Design for ABET."

It was reported that the new electronic paper submission system had some glitches this year. Most of the staff who designed the new computer system left before the system went on-line. Improvements are planned for the upcoming year.

**Report on PIC 1:** *Mark Casada, Chair*

No news was reported beyond numerous complaints about the paper submission system. We have the option to submit up to 10% of our papers to the ASEE Best Paper award. We also have the option to give a Best Paper Award in the BAED in addition to sending up our nominations.

Judging criteria were just formalized this year. A poll on meeting location and costs is currently being taken; please pass along your comments to Mark Casada. Discussion ensued about high registration fees plus added workshop fees (which don't get passed on to presenters). Attendance in workshops this year has plummeted; they were hard to find on ASEE's webpage and in the on-site program.

### **By-laws revision**

It is reported that a 30-day advance notice is required for voting. We will ballot in 2 weeks via e-mail to vote on the by-laws revision.

### **Division teaching award**

We will present an award today at 12:30pm at the beginning of the first BAED technical session. This will be our division's 1<sup>st</sup> award in 6 or 7 years. The awards committee is comprised of the last 3 past chairs plus the previous year's winner. Art comments that we need to publicize the award both in our newsletter and in Prism, including judging criteria. We should also advertise directly to the membership. Nonetheless, we received several nominations this year without advertising.

### **Newsletter & website update**

This year the newsletter was published on the web at Louisiana State University's (LSU) website via the BAE publications link. Mark Casada expressed thanks to Marybeth Lima, newsletter editor. The newsletter is good for division and is a difficult job. It was reported that Vangie Alocilja is in charge of updating our division website. Art suggests periodic reminders of the URL and/or send it as an attachment to email to all division members then archive it at the LSU website. Paul Schreuders suggests linking the two websites.

### **Nominations / elections**

The officer nominations were made for the upcoming year. They were:

- David Gaddy for secretary
- Marybeth Lima for newsletter editor
- Ann Christy for vice-chair
- Paul Schreuders for chair

No further nominations were made. Nominations were therefore closed. It was agreed by consensus to vote on them as a slate. The slate passed unanimously. Under the proposed new bylaws, we would nominate for secretary and newsletter editor only, with the other officer positions to be filled in a 3-year rotation: secretary becomes vice-chair becomes chair.

### **Session suggestions for 2001**

We decide to request three sessions again for next year. We brainstorm session topics:

- Teaching textbooks and other reference materials to cover the many various areas in BAE: We could perhaps publish these abstracts on our webpage. The session's chair might check with all major publisher editors (e.g., Bob Stearn at Lewis) and with our own BAED authors: Susan Blanchard, Art Johnson, others.
- Novel teaching methods (include distance ed.)
- Trends in education
- Educational objectives for EC2000

Perhaps in some later year, we may want to explore the new ABET definition of BE, providing a forum for all engineering/ biology educators (e.g., BAE, biomedical, biochemical,

bioenvironmental) to get together and discuss common approaches and differences to ABET criteria.

### **Old business**

It was announced that the World Congress for Medical Biophysics will be held in July in Chicago.

The vote on whether to charge BAED dues was tallied. The final vote was 54 to 6 in favor of dues (out of 300+ members). The PIC chair was fairly confident it will pass this week in their St. Louis meeting.

The proposed bylaws change was discussed. It was suggested that we break up the bylaw ballot so that members can vote for and against specific portions of the proposed by-laws.

Mark Casada will look into BAED Paper awards and bring a proposal to our next meeting.

Discussion ensued over whether to have a breakfast or lunch division business meeting next year. Concerns over costs were raised and a suggestion was made that we schedule the meeting someplace else at a local restaurant.

### **New business**

Lalit read the draft ABET Program Criteria developed by the ASAE P-204/210 committee yesterday:

PROGRAM CRITERIA FOR  
BIOLOGICAL  
AND SIMILARLY NAMED ENGINEERING PROGRAMS  
Submitted by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers

These program criteria apply to engineering programs including "agricultural", "biological", "biological resources", "biological systems", "bioresources", "biosystems", "food", "forest" and similar modifiers in their titles.

#### 1. Curriculum

Programs must demonstrate that graduates have proficiency in mathematics through differential equations, and biological and engineering sciences consistent with the program educational objectives. Competence must be demonstrated in the application of engineering to agriculture, aquaculture, food, forestry, humans, natural resources or other biological systems.

The EAC will meet to consider this new program criteria statement during the week following ASAE's annual meeting in Milwaukee. Comments or suggestions should be sent to your P204 rep or to the chair (Lalit).

Glen recommends that we should include alumni and industry in the process early on, that we should have dept heads send it to their IPAG committees and alumni (via departmental newsletters). We will have a year comment period. Glen suggests a Feature article in Resource (and possibly later in Prism) addressing issues. Reprints could be sent to departments to distribute with their newsletters. Jim Dooley, Lalit, and Loren are working on putting together a presentation that summarizes the rationale and potential benefits.

Extended discussion ensued. Larry expressed concern that we maintain a stance of inclusivity, that now is not the time to raise the target of AgE vs. BE. The consensus was that this could be a potential minefield but also a great opportunity. We must bring traditional ASAE membership along in this, while being aware of nuances and avoiding divisiveness.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23am

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann D. Christy