

SBSE Business Meeting

American Solar Energy Society Annual Conference, Denver CO, 10.10.17

Attending: Ulrike Passe, Alison Kwok, Victor Olgyay, Bruce Haglund, Alfredo Fernandez-Gonzalez, Ute Poerschke, Lisa Iulo, Marc Schiler, Eric Carbonnier, Alex Rempel (10 total; 4 board members)

Announcements:

1. Nominations are needed for 2017 elections. Nominations to date include Georg Reichard for President-Elect, Tom Collins for Treasurer, and Seth Holmes for Secretary.
2. Bylaws have now been changed to separate the Secretary / Treasurer position into one Secretary and one Treasurer, with unanimous approval of the active membership that voted.

Treasury report:

1. Annual budget for the 14 months from July 2016 to October 2017 (see spreadsheet for details)
 - a. Balance is >\$20,000.
 - b. Annual expenditures are ~\$18,000: ~\$15,500 (scholarships) + ~\$2000 fees (primarily Wild Apricot; also web hosting, the SBSE.org domain name, Paypal, wire transfers, cashier's checks) + other (PLEA Tool Day, scholarship certificates, speaker honoraria, retreat contingency)
2. Membership funds are accumulating at the rate of about \$2-3,000 per year. As a nonprofit, limits exist to the amount of cash we can have on hand. How should this remainder be spent? Options:
 - a. Matching funds for events such as the Reynolds Symposium; other single events
 - b. Additional scholarships, including those to new conferences. Suggestions included:
 - i. International Building Physics Conference (U.S. in 2018)
 - ii. North American Passive House Conference (successful this year)
 - iii. Passive and Low-Energy Architecture
 - iv. Getting to Zero Forum
 - v. Façade Tectonics
 - vi. ARCC
 - vii. Open scholarships to be used at a conference of the student's choice
 - viii. Polling the membership to understand which conferences are most popular

Education & Resources Committee report:

1. Website migration is in progress; Georg has plans for staffing.
2. Beta testing of uploading is complete.
3. Ulrike will introduce the resources portal in a talk at this conference.

Future of the Passive Conference discussion:

1. AF-G: SBSE needs more autonomy to direct the Passive Conference in ways more suitable to our interests, to see it gain strength again. We can manage technical reviews, chair sessions, engage junior faculty. Conversation with Dave Panich indicates willingness of the ASES board to consider this. We have enough dedicated faculty to run it. Timing is critical to facilitate presentation of student work: conferences in the fall, as ASES is promoting, are awkward - too soon for beginning students, but too late for those who have graduated.
 - a. EC: We have an amazing network with greater influence than realized - look at how SBSE ran PLEA in LA! All the energy exists to make it happen.

- b. BH: ASES used to run an active conference and a passive conference, and combining them was a move to save money.
 - c. VO: At one point the passive conference was bigger! Since the merger, leadership also changed and the passive conference has dwindled.
- 2. UP: Concerns with ASES consist of a lack of peer review and inaccessible publications.
- 3. MS: Money is a factor - when people sense money coming into solar photovoltaics, it takes over the board's attention. It happened in '92. In contrast, there's not a passive industry.
- 4. Organizational logistics discussion
 - a. LI: Intention at Penn State was to have a conference within a conference. ASES was ultimately organizing it, which presented some difficulties. More detail available.
 - b. MS: PLEA conference was scheduled almost 1.5 years in advance and yet ASES picked the exact same three days. BH: ...and we had greatest SBSE attendance at a business meeting ever, at PLEA.
 - c. AFG: Could it reclaim the previous synergy of back-to-back conference + retreat combinations?
 - i. LI: It helps enormously to have retreat adjacent to another event.
 - ii. AK: True, but in practice, it just doesn't work because of limited venue space and scheduling conflicts.
 - d. VO: The Passive Conference was once an extraordinary event. It could be that way again. We could have peer reviewed, high-quality publications and create something that's really great. It's a LOT of work. If we did take over & reshape the Passive Conference, how would we ensure that it's something unique and valuable? We should emphasize our building science perspective that's not found in other places.
 - e. AK: If we rotate around 3 or so places, and it's just a cycle, that would help enormously.
- 5. AFG: The next steps are to talk to Carly, Dave, and Paulette, and to share thoughts for and against a stronger SBSE role in the Passive Conference. We either need the freedom to do it right, or to look for other venues.
- 6. AFG: Propose a survey to gauge interest with respect to timing, type. BH will help create the survey.

Summer 2018 retreat:

- 1. Honey Creek Resort in Iowa, July 15-18, organized by UP.
- 2. Theme: Cycles.
- 3. Retreat team needs additional collaborators to join James Leach and Kris Nelson.
- 4. Summer 2019 retreat: To be organized by Ryan Smith in Utah or Wyoming

Adjourned