

**Minutes of the ASCE EWRI Education and Research Council**

19 May 2002, Roanoke, VA

**Attendees**

John Finnie (Chairman), Margaret Petersen, Rafael Quimpo, David Brandes (Secretary), Joe Orlins, Bud Viessman, Jim Groves (Rep. of Member Services EXCOM), David Watkins (Rep. of the EWR Systems Committee)

**Agenda and Minutes**

John Finnie opened the meeting at 1:50 PM (meeting commenced late due to continuation of TC meeting on Education of Future EWR Professionals). The proposed agenda prepared by John Finnie was reviewed and accepted, and the minutes of the 2001 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Membership and Officers**

The council agreed that John Finnie would remain as Chair for one additional year, and David Brandes would serve as Vice-Chair and Secretary. Rafael Quimpo shared the membership list he maintains at the Research and Education Council website ([www.engr.pitt.edu/civil/ewri/ewri.html](http://www.engr.pitt.edu/civil/ewri/ewri.html)). The membership list is modified as follows: Melanie Bengston will be deleted and Joe Orlins, Jay Fredrich, Leonard Casson, and Camilla Saviz will be added.

Prompted by a question from Bud Viessman, there was some discussion of organizational structure regarding the Education of Future EWR Professionals Task Committee, the Education and Research Council, and the Member Services Executive Committee.

There was a discussion of student chapters of EWRI, and whether student membership in EWRI is free, since the website indicates a fee of \$20. Jim Groves stated that this was a mistake that would be corrected, i.e., student membership in one institute is free.

John Finnie raised the issue of separate Environmental and Water Resources conferences in alternate years, which makes it difficult to coordinate meetings. Jim Groves stated that the current plan (starting with the June 2003 Congress in Philadelphia) is to have an annual Congress, rather than biannual.

**Budget**

John Finnie announced that the Council had a budget allocation of \$3000 for travel expenses. Since many of the members of the Council are also members of the Task Committee, which had a separate allocation of \$1500, travel will be shared by both budgets. There was some unresolved discussion of whether the Saturday overnight allowance would apply to people who drove their personal vehicle to the meeting. Jim Groves stated that the EWRI has instituted a new "just-in-

time” budgeting policy, in which Brian Parsons has the authority to approve up to \$10,000 without advance budget justification.

### **Old Business**

The following items were discussed:

- TC on Education of Future EWR Professionals: the TC is now a Standing Committee, as confirmed by Jim Groves, and is fully functional. The SC meeting preceded the Council meeting
- Virtual World Congress: the Council had previously decided to not have any direct involvement
- Possible TC on Teaching on the Web: suggested in Orlando by Otto Helweg who was not in attendance. No action taken by the Council
- Possible TC on Applications of Neural Networks: suggestion has been withdrawn
- Possible TC on Relations with Politicians: suggestion has been withdrawn
- Possible TC on Research Needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: *see New Business*
- Honorary Membership Nominations: the necessary paperwork was submitted last year through local sections for Phil Burgi (by Don Frevert) and Conrad Keyes (by Ken Renard). There was some discussion about whether these needed to be resubmitted for future consideration.
- Newsletter: John Finnie and David Brandes agreed to provide a short piece for *EWRI Currents* on the Council’s activities
- Suggested topics from Conrad Keyes (WISE, Border Water Quality Standards, EWRI/ASCE Standards Process, Rio Grande river studies, VP Selection Process, Environmental Documents Committee): After discussion, the Council agreed that none of these applied directly to the mission of the Education and Research Council.

### **New Business**

The Council conducted a brainstorming session on future directions, where a variety of ideas were discussed. These include: 1) Jay Fredrich’s second “Sons of Martha” edited volume (civil engineering readings in literature) of stories that would create interest in engineering at the secondary level (as discussed in the morning SC meeting); 2) lifelong and distance learning, keeping up to date with technology as suggested by Bud Viessman; 3) the masters degree as the professional degree in civil engineering; 4) Dave Watkins’ proposal to develop a series of environmental and water systems case studies for the classroom (including the possibility of a

special session with published proceedings or other publication – Jim Groves stated that the Publications Council would be interested in such an effort); and 5) Peggy Johnson's idea of developing a task committee and publication on research needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

After some discussion of these topics the following task items were developed:

- Jay Fredrich will solicit support for his second Sons of Martha project
- Rafael Quimpo will report back to the Council on the United Engineering Foundation Conference on frontiers in engineering education, in particular, the state-of-the-art in electronic teaching methods. In addition, Rafael will discuss research needs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century with Peggy Johnson and report back to the Council.
- David Brandes and Joe Orlins will propose two tracks for the Philadelphia EWRI Congress (2003). The first will be on new instructional methods or case studies in Water Resources Management and Design at the undergraduate level. The second would be targeted at incorporating engineering education at the K-12 level, and would encourage submissions by K-12 teachers.
- Bud Viessman will consider developing a panel discussion for the Philadelphia Congress on the value of continuing education

### **Future Meetings**

The next meeting of the Council will be held at the EWRI Philadelphia Congress in June 2003

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM

Respectfully submitted:

David Brandes  
Secretary and Vice-Chair