# Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, Inc.

Coal and Energy Division Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes

Phoenix, Arizona  
February 21, 2016

### Opening:

The regular meeting of the Coal and Energy Division Executive Board was called to order at 8:00 am on February 21, 2016 at the 2016 SME Annual Conference in Phoenix, AZ by Tom Novak.

Dave Kanagy, Tim Arnold, and Steven Gardner arrived to give an overview of critical issues, priorities and programs in the SME.

Bob K. offered a safety share re: rest and hydration for travelers, and to watch for traffic in the city.

Introductions were made.

### Present:

# Tom Novak, Rich Wagner, Stephanie Conrad, Paul Conrad, Mike Myers, Heather Trexler, Steven Schafrik, Barbara Arnold, David Cliff, Madan M. Singh, George Luxbacher, Sukumar Bandopadhyay, Michael Trevits, Tom Gray, Nikky LaBranche, J.D. Wientjes, Josh Nolke, Matt Furniss, Tathagata Gosh, Nikhil Gupta, Aanand Nandula, Y. Chugh, Brian Schaffer, Neel Gupta, Vaibhav Raj, Dan Alexander, Tuncel Yegulalp, Brijes Mishra, Vlad Kecojevic, Jhon Silva, Yuting Xu, Steve Tadolini, Kyle Perry, Manoj Mohanty, Robert Kudlawiec, Keith Heasley, Jürgen Brune, Joe Zelanko, Nahdi Kajaee, Heather Gravning (by phone).

# A. Review and Approval of Minutes

# Dr. Novak requested a spelling change in the mid-year minutes. He noted that Mike Duncan is the luncheon speaker.

# A motion was made to approve the minutes with the spelling change (“Craft” is spelled with a C not a K) of the mid-year meeting held in Lexington in September 2015 by Barb Arnold. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

# B. Review of the Division Finances

# Heather Gravning noted that table sponsorships are not shown, as they were transferred to the scholarship fund. This mistake will be corrected. It was noted that with the coal industry business down there were fewer sponsorships, but Murray Energy sponsored a table, and Agapito Associates is a luncheon sponsor.

# There was a question regarding a $500 bad debt at the recent meeting; it was apparently due to a sponsorship that was not paid. Ms. Gravning indicated that she is working on tracking this down.

# Dr. Arnold mentioned that it is important to track Woomer statues, which are considered an asset, and so the division can consider casting more.

# George Luxbacher asked why the Eavenson Fund transfer increased by $5000.00. Further examination showed that the Eavenson expenditures did not appear to be correct. Dr. G. Luxbacher offered to follow up.

# A motion was made to approve the financial report by Dr. Arnold. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

# C. Report of the Scholarship Committee

Heather Trexler indicated that the applicant pool was excellent and that the web review was effective. The Division distributed scholarships to 14 worthy students. Awards were divided based on a scoring system, and one scholarship was awarded to a PhD candidate. Additionally, 10 awards were allocated for the John S. Marshall scholarship. Ms. Trexler noted that some schools only had one applicant, and encouraged professors to see that more students apply.

There was discussion as to whether graduate students should be eligible for Division scholarships. The intent was to fund undergraduate students, but this is not clear in the scholarship guidelines. Dan Alexander suggested that this item be deferred to the committee, to review the guidelines and suggest changes as necessary. Ms. Gravning indicated the guidelines should be finalized prior to June 1, 2016. The scholarship committee will make recommendations to the executive board, who will then vote electronically. Dr. G. Luxbacher suggested that the guidelines clearly say, “ABET accredited programs”.

Manoj Mohanty requested clarification of the scholarship scoring. Ms. Trexler and Nikky LaBranche reviewed the scoring guidelines. There was also discussion as to whether students should apply for and be awarded scholarships from more than one division.

Dr. Alexander requested that we discuss international fundraising since we are giving international scholarships. Discussion ensued. It was ultimately determined that the Division may solicit international funds.

Dr. Mohanty asked about the status of the Dr. Chris Bise scholarship fund. Dr. Novak indicated that it was previously decided that Dr. Bandopadhyay would solicit funds. Dr. Bandopadhyay is following up and has money allocated. It must be at least $40,000 to generate a $3,000 scholarship. There was some discussion as to whether it should only be limited to students at schools Dr. Bise was affiliated with: Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, and Penn State University until multiple scholarships could be generated from a fund allocated specifically for Dr. Bise. Kray Luxbacher motioned that the scholarship may be awarded to any eligible student, once the fund is populated; and this year, one of the students from WVU being awarded the Division scholarship will receive the scholarship in Dr. Bise’s honor.

# D. Report of the Program Chair

Rich Wagner indicated that 21 total sessions with 128 papers and 41 preprint papers are being presented at this meeting, which is a tie with Health and Safety. He is satisfied with the program and extends his thanks. We should consider going forward that we concentrate on the Energy area. Vlad Kecojevic indicated that many people have submitted abstracts and won’t be coming; this should be checked just ahead of the meeting. There was discussion as to how to administer the sessions more efficiently. Dr. Mohanty is the 2017 program chair and is working with Mr. Wagner.

# E. C&E Luncheon

Dr. Novak indicated that a 50-50 raffle rather than a silent auction will be conducted at the luncheon. Ms. Gravning indicated that approximately 210 tickets were sold, which is slightly down.

Discussion of open positions on various committees within the Division.

Mr. Kudlawiec reviewed current chairs for award committees. Discussion was tabled for the nominating committee at 3:00 pm today. Dr. Arnold indicated that nominations for strategic committees and the board are also needed. Dr. Kecojevic brought up the point that we do have representation for the C&E division in the board of directors. Dr. Arnold and Dr. G. Luxbacher indicated that she would be happy to nominate members.

# F. Discussion of the C&E Bylaws and Handbook Updates

Dr. G. Luxbacher reviewed proposed changes, which he, Dr. Mohanty, and Dr. Alexander undertook. They added a section defining the section with additional energy areas. He recommends that technical committees be removed from the bylaws to allow for more flexibility in the arrangement and name of technical committees.

Dr. Mohanty indicated that he looked at sessions and attempted to map back to committees; he reviewed this work. Joe Zelanko suggested that the Division may want to review the M&E Division bylaws for some ideas.

Dr. G. Luxbacher motioned that the technical committees be removed from the bylaws, Article 6, section 2, with the exception of underground ventilation, a joint committee with the M&E Division. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**G. SME Photo Contest Update**

Ms. Gravning indicated that the photo contest was successful. She does not yet know the theme for next year. The C&E Division sponsored this year’s contest. The images are displayed in the slideshow and in the registration area.

**H. SME Webinar Program**

The Division has an option to host a webinar. Ms. Gravning encourages the committee to consider this. It could certainly be a revenue source. Dr. G. Luxbacher indicated that PDHs associated with webinars would be a value add.

**I. SME News and Updates**

Ms. Gravning indicated that there is an item on SME Store for the Ventilation Scholarship, so people can donate there. The structure of the bluebook will be changing.

**J. New Business**

* The National Mining Hall of Fame is asking for a donation of $5,300 for a collection of photographs. It was generally agreed that until we hear how these funds were used this topic will be tabled.
* The UVC/SME will be organizing the 16th North American Mine Ventilation Symposium hosted by the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO from June 17-22, 2017. Abstracts are due on May 1, 2016, and Divisions members are encouraged to submit abstracts.
* Dr. Alexander passed around a mineral kit that is being given out to schools.
* Dr. G. Luxbacher mentioned that the Erskine Ramsey award is being given to John Murphy this year, and that we should consider giving recipients his biography which is very interesting.
* Paul Conrad reviewed Montana Tech’s Mining Camp, offered to Junior and Senior High School students.
* Mr. Zelanko spoke about standards development. One example is valuation. Should we be looking at global standards? Good reasons to do it and some concerns. Asking for a person from C&E to get involved. Joe created a blog to inform about the progress but would like some support from Heather. Please get in touch with Joe to get involved. Standards can be published for another source of revenue. Dr. G. Luxbacher indicated that UCA already does this for tunneling and are accepted internationally. SME already has a division that does this.
* Ms. Gravning indicated that SME Community is re-launched, and includes everyone who is active. Contact her for help. She encourages use of the community.
* Ms. Gravning also asked the Division membership support the mentor program and that members consider joining the program at the mentor meeting place this afternoon.

### Adjournment:

Dr. Arnold moved that the meeting be adjourned; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Dr. Novak adjourned the meeting at 1:57 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Kray Luxbacher

Approved by: Robert Kudlawiec