# Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, Inc.

Coal and Energy Division Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes

Denver, Colorado  
February 19, 2017

### Opening:

The regular meeting of the Coal and Energy Division Executive Board was called to order at 9:01 am on February 19, 2017 at the 2017 SME Annual Conference in Denver, CO by Robert Kudlawiec.

Bob K. offered a Safety share: On behalf of AnnMarie – Homeless tend to congregate on the 16th St. mall near most of the hotels by convention. There has been a recent uptick of violence. Exercise caution when walking on mall or in the vicinity at night. Avoid walking alone and please remove the convention badge.

Introductions were made and Bob thanked all for the great turnout.

### Present:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bob Kudlawiec – Chair | Rich Wagner – Secretary | Heather Gravning – SME | Tom Novak |
| Susan Bealko | J.D. Wientjes | Steve Schafrik | Kray Luxbacher |
| Ryan Toler | Heather Trexler | Vlad Kecojevic | Manoj Mohany – Program Chair |
| Brian Shaffer | Joe Zelanko | Tathagata Gosh | Vaibhav Raj |
| Charlie Beasley | Eric Shereda | Barbara Arnold | Dan Alexander |
| Madan Singh | Michael Trevits | George Luxbacher | Ali Haghighat |
| Steve Gardner | Maoming Fan | Tom Gray | Tom Rauch |
| Bhrooz Abbasi |  |  |  |

# A. Review and Approval of Minutes

# Minutes of the mid-year meeting were distributed for review. Motion by Michael Trevits, seconded by Kray Luxbacher to approve. Motion carried. Minutes accepted as presented.

# B. Review of the Division Finances

# Division finances were presented and reviewed.

# Balance, September 30, 2016:

# C&E Endowment Fund (611): Balance - $648,102.69

# C&E General Fund (610): Balance - $65,707.58

# Motion by Mike T. seconded by Susan B. to approve. Motion carried. The report was accepted as presented.

# C. Report of the Scholarship Committee

Heather Trexler: 24 applicants from 7 schools (including international). 37% of applications were from Indian School of Mines. Scholarships were increased to a total of $35,000 this year.

No applicants from WVU or VT.

C&E scholarship top awards (1 per school) of $5,000, except Indian School of Mines award of $500

John Sydney Marshall awards ranged from $1,500 to $500.

3 applicants awarded no money.

There was some discussion centered on why the low turnout of schools applying and the mechanism for students to apply. All students get email messages if they are SME members. Manoj suspects that lack of turnout was due to department heads not being notified and suggested that this request should also go through Department chairs. Barb clarified that the call for scholarships goes through the scholarship website, not the Department chair.

Heather/Bob charged Dan Alexander (incoming Scholarship Chair) to contact faculty and department heads to encourage student participation in addition to SME contacting students independently. Rich W. suggested using YLC coal and energy liaisons to get word out to students in the Division. Mike T. asked if the money set aside was too low to garner interest. George L. stated that “we” should be looking for someone that is interested in coal and energy and the committee has been consistent. The focus is on coal and energy, no there is no interest in giving scholarships away to others. If there are only 5, then so be it.

Heather Trexler asked if SME advertise award amounts. Heather G. stated that SME does advertise this information on social media.

Susan asked when the solicitation goes out. Sept 1st (Heather G). There is only 6 weeks to apply.

Dan Alexander suggested attending student chapter meeting to convey this information. Tom R. stated that there is no substitute for marketing and the best strategy is to reach out directly to the schools, but not always effective soliciting through department chairs. Need to get to the students – find a way to market the scholarships through SME better.

# D. Report of the Program Chair

Manoj: 27 sessions. Many chairs are new and with new topics. Nikky started a mine safety session. There are also 2 international sessions (Nikky and an Indian School of Mines professor). Bob K. stated Nikky wasn’t able to make it from Australia, however; the speakers will be present and Steve Shafrik will substitute for the chair. Nikky would like to have the session again next year. The session is Tuesday morning and would need someone possibly to present her paper for her. Mike T. commended Manoj on his work with the program and communication. He also encouraged everyone to download the app since it contains the most current program. Manoj said the website is incorrect. Mike T. stated that communication with author is important, not being told if papers are accepted and what day, and deadlines. This is necessary for travel arrangements of the authors. This needs to be discussed more with Tara. Heather G., suggested programing info on a database, one source of information distributed to all channels (app pulls from, program printed from, etc.). Mike T. reminded the incoming program chair to include a best of vent symposium. George L. is concerned with so many best of papers……duplicate talks. Heather G. suggested taking a “best of” and making it a webinar if there are too many sessions.

# E. C&E Luncheon

Bob K. Dr. Jessica Kogel will be the keynote. 50/50 tickets will be sold and acknowledged George L. as last year’s champion. Bob K. asked for other help from committee members during the luncheon. Credit cards can be used. JD has offered some of his staff to help. Heather G. asked to show up a little early to get tickets ready. At the time this meeting was held, we had sold 175 tickets so far. George L. inquired about No cut-offs for selling of luncheon tickets. Heather G stated that they can only can go over 5%-10% with the justification being cost for meals and can’t handle asking for more meals (meetings department). Registering would solve that. Tom R. suggested forming an ad hoc committee focusing on how many people show up and then put together a recommendation…..more seats, etc. What level of risk is acceptable for many more seats than what we’ve had in the past? Additional attendees could be bidding on items, buying tickets, etc. We need to encourage tickets to be bought up front. Tom R. will observe how many walk-ins are turned away and count empty seats. Most are turned away at registration, not luncheon room. Brian Shaffer suggested charging a higher price for walk-ins to cover potential financial risk of extra dinners. There are multiple luncheons at same time. Are they all pulling from same vendor? Heather G. reported that sponsorships are down. The board needs to get a luncheon sponsor.

Heather G. reported that Ryan Murray will match auction donations. Please thank Ryan. Heather G. thanked those that donated items for auction. The credit card machine will be there at the start. Bob K. encouraged all to donate one item.

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

Bob K. stated that unit committee and nominations would be this afternoon. He is asking for volunteers for open positions.

Susan Bealko would like consideration. JD (Scholarship with Nikky as Co-chair). Barb A. stated that if anyone is interested in board and strategic committee, let them (Barb and George L.) know.

Bob K. announced the Incoming Exec: incoming chair (Sukumar) – secure speaker for luncheon. Bob issue that challenge to everyone too. Incoming Vice Chair (Rich W.) – incoming Secretary (Manoj). Incoming program chair (Heather Trexler).

**G. SME Photo Contest Update**

Heather G. gave an update on the 2017 SME photo contest, sponsored for $500. Winners announced. Very desperate for submissions this year. 1st and 2nd was in innovations. 3rd was your favorite photo.

Mining in motion, and people of mining are the themes to be considered for next year.

**Bob K. asked for motion to continue funding. Dan A. made the motion, seconded by Mike T. $500 funding. Motion Carried.**

Heather G. asked which theme. **Mining in Motion** was the consensus favorite.

**H. SME Webinar Program**

### Heather G. asked Manoj to share two best talks of this conference and put as webinars. These will be forwarded to Heather G. and Nikky. Steve S. asked what qualities to look for to evaluate for webinar. Heather G., technical interest is priority and that can extend to about 45 minutes in length.

**I. SME News and Updates**

Dan Alexander asked for a national hall of fame update, Heather G., no update. All they have done is paint the room. Hopefully there will be more to update at midyear.

**J. Visit from SME Leadership**

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

Tim Arnold – outgoing president spoke: Encouraged everyone to go to the meeting of members. SME had a good year. Net zero financially. SME membership is 2K down in membership, 13,200 as of Dec 31st, 2016, which is of concern. The good news is SME is growing in some areas (health and safety) and up 10% up in members under 35. That’s the future and he asked everyone to encourage them to get involved in the sessions/committee. His focus has been how to serve those that don’t make the meeting (~10k). He looked at local sections and will continue that. He hosted monthly phone calls with sections which have gone well. He then commented on International Society of Mine Safety Professionals (ISMSP) and their need of help. SME took over their assets and will now be home for safety professionals in our industry. Their division membership is about 230. Lots of membership opportunity. They gained 20 members within 24 hours the week before the conference. Great opportunity at local sections.

Dan A. asked how many sections participated on calls. Tim said that it averaged about 30-40 on the line (webex). Not sure of breakdown. Overall, it is about 80% of section participation. SME community was the savior of most of their issues.

Manoj asked how many overseas sections does SME have? Dave Kanagy answered 4 (30 student chapters).

Tim asked to review by-laws. Bob K, coal and energy has already completed this task.

Current president John Masanti said one of Strengths of the society is it progression system. There are 5 areas to focus on. 1. Health of the society (society lags the industry). SME is a service society and he doesn’t want to cut that/core functions in down years. There are several growth opportunities looking at local (not all are SME members) and international sections. 2. Educational sustainability (fund PhD grants). 3. Local sections. He recognized Heather G. for the SME community. He stated that we haven’t touched what the capability it presents. Virtual sections are also a consideration. 4. Public perception. Define what SME’s role is in that. Leverage good works, like Move Mining. 5. Safety. Infusion of new members. SME’s Health & Safety Division started with 13 members and now have about 120. Good opportunity there.

Dave Kanagy: 2018 SME Annual Conference will be in Minneapolis. Dave expects to see everyone there next year. Tim A., can go to entire meeting without going outside.

Manoj asked how many attendees in Denver. Dave replied probably around 6500 – 6800. Which is down about 1000 for previous years in Denver.

**K. New Business**

### George L. – ABET, mineral processing, we should have input in developing the criteria. Dan Alexander, SME responsible for 5 different accreditations. If anyone is interested in becoming a program evaluator, they need to sit through training, Saturdays before meeting.

* Mike T. Suggested the Woomer award nominations should be fixed for the age statement for eligibility. Look into this at Midyear.
* George L: instead of setting up conference phone for the mid-year meeting, are there alternate solutions, perhaps Skype? Heather G. said there are several options. Some require AV. She will look into this. Heather G. said that they could host a quick training session prior to meeting so call-ins know how to use interface prior to the meeting.

### Adjournment:

Bob Kudlawiec adjourned the meeting at 11:05 am.

Minutes submitted by: Richard Wagner

Approved by: Sukumar Bandopadhyay