# Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration, Inc.

Coal and Energy Division Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes

Phoenix, Arizona

February 23, 2019

### Opening:

The annual meeting of the Coal and Energy Division Executive Board was called to order at 9:00 am on February 23, 2020 at the 2020 Annual Conference in Phoenix, AZ by Manoj Mohanty.

Manoj offered a safety share and introductions were made.

### Officers Present: Manoj Mohanty, Heather Trexler, Susan Bealko, Tathagata Ghosh, Tom Gray, Vaibhav Raj, Brian Shaffer, Sekhar Bhattacharyya, Steven Schafrik, John Geffereth, Brijes Mishra, (2021) Michael Trevits, (2021) Ray Donelick, Heather Gravning *(SME Staff Liaison)*

Guest Dr. Susan Hamm gave a report on geothermal research activities of the US DOE.

# A. Review and Approval of Minutes

# Minutes of the mid-year meeting were distributed for review. Motion by Ghosh, seconded by Brian Schaffer to approve. Motion carried. Minutes accepted as presented.

# B. Review of the Division Finances

# Division finances from year-end were presented by Heather G.

# Balance as of September 30, 2019:

# C&E General Fund (610): Balance - $59,539.12

# C&E Endowment Fund (611): Balance - $864,578.46

* Underground Ventilation Division Scholarship Fun (612): Balance - $102,770.37

An additional $1,000 was rolled over from last year for the C&E scholarships. The John Sydney Scholarships are not included in the finances and are kept separate.

As approved via email before the meeting, there was an approval to transfer the Eavenson fund.

* Eavenson Fund Distribution
* Mining Engineering (C&E page), $1,200
* Eavenson Award, $3,000 cash award + $500 for award costs = total of $3,500
* Stefanko Best Paper Award, $1,000 cash award + $500 for award costs = total of $1,500
* Woomer Award, $1,000 cash award + $500 for award costs = total of $1,500
* Coal and Energy Division Scholarship Endowment Fund, $9,127 (remainder of the distribution)

There is a funding shortage in the ventilation scholarship fund. Per the guidelines, the scholarship is to be up to $5,000 per year. Last year, the committee also gave an award (two awards were ordered). The scholarship endowment does not cover the additional expenses of the full $5,000 plus an award. The ventilation scholarship committee needs to reduce the next scholarship or increase funding. A motion was made by Bob K to fund $234.64 for the purchase of the awards. Seconded by Susan. **The motion carried.**

# C. Report of the Scholarship Committee

Raj Vaibhav reported there were 65 total applicants, of those 25 were ineligible due to being graduates, sophomores, or not ABET accredited school. Of those eligible, there were 5 US schools and 2 international schools.

C&E – 7 awards, 1 per school

John Sydney Marshall – 11 awards, primarily WVU and schools in India

It was requested that those from the ‘Energy’ industry also be considered.

Discussion about awarding scholarships to international students without receiving funding for the Division from international companies. There is a benefit to fund international students since those could be hired by US companies with an international presence.

It was requested to reach out to international companies for support of the scholarships. The SME executives agreed that the Division could solicit for money, but request coordination with SME prior to solicitation.

Manoj proposed an ad-hoc committee focused on soliciting for international funds. Current volunteers – Manoj, Heather T, Ray

It was discussed to encourage more applicants, possibly awarding more than 1 C&E scholarship to school. No vote.

# D. Report of the Membership Committee

Manoj reported that the membership in the Division is down ~ 8%, however, student membership has increased.

# E. Report of the Program Chair

Susan Bealko reported that there are 18 C&E sessions, ~91 presentations, and the division again has the highest pre-prints.

It is thought that there is no longer an award to the Division with the highest pre-prints. It was suggested Heather G speak to One Mine who relies on papers about re-starting the award to encourage papers.

# F. C&E Luncheon

The luncheon speaker will be Dan Connell of CONSOL Energy.

There are two lunch sponsors – Burns & McDonald and CONSOL Energy

# G. Discussion Open Positions

The Division is looking for volunteers for open positions.

The handbook will be uploaded to the Community page. It is to be a living document and updated each year.

**H. Photo Contest**

It was discussed if the Division should continue to fund $500 for the award, since the Division is not getting as much publicity as expected.

Susan made a motion to stop funding the photo contest. Seconded by Steve. The motion was approved.

Steve made a motion for the executive committee to review all photos submitted for the contest and to select 1st, 2nd, 3rd place for photos related to Coal and Energy.

1st - $250, 2nd - $150, 3rd - $100

Seconded by Brian. **The motion was approved.**

**I. Visit from SME Leadership**

Dave Kanagy, Hugh Miller, and Bob Schafer arrived to give an overview of critical issues, priorities and programs in the SME.

The 2019 initiative has been strategic plan development, which included changing strategic committees. The 2020 initiative is to implement the plan. New committees:

* Workforce - career enhancement
* Stewardship - environmental and community
* Innovation
* Association growth – add members, partner with other organizations

New ad hoc committees: Diversity & Inclusion and also tailings ponds

A new website will roll out June/July

The mid-year meeting for 2020 will be held in Las Vegas with the Mine Expo.

**J. New Business**

* Manoj proposed a Division Recognition Award, to be based on recent service. Does not need to be awarded every year, at the discretion of the Chair and the executive committee. Michael suggested that description of the qualifications of the award be prepared.
* Steve will submit a request for the Division to donate up to $500 per school for collegiate Mine Rescue teams. Suggest that the donations are to all coal schools, not just eastern schools. Suggest local section match.

### Adjournment:

Manoj adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

Minutes submitted by: Heather Trexler

Approved by: Manoj Mohanty