



Minutes
WAAIME Executive Committee Meeting
2016 SME Annual Meeting

Monday February 22, 2016

Executive Committee Meeting WAAIME

Attendees:

Jean Davin, Chair
Barb Filas, Western Representative, Chair-Elect
Blanche Blattner, International Representative
Lydia Hull, Eastern Representative-Elect
Kathryn Dew, Scholarship Chair
Beth Price, 100th Anniversary Chair
Winnell Burt
Iris Whinnen-Owen
Barbara Martinez
Staff: Genny Homyack, SME Liaison to WAAIME

Opening of Meeting and Introduction of Participants

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. September 10-11, 2015
 - b. December 22, 2015
 - c. January 25, 2016

Motion: The minutes of the meetings listed above were moved, seconded and approved.

2. Review of Approved Scholarship Candidates for 2016-2017 Academic Year

It was noted that:

- There were about 140 applicants
- A total of \$187,250 will be awarded
- Some students were eliminated due to ineligibility, usually because they are graduating in Spring 2016; WAAIME scholarships are for the academic year Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

Ms. Filas suggested that the Scholarship Committee should recommend the scholarship amounts to the Executive Committee for each student rather than receiving dollar-amount recommendations from the reviewers. She suggested that the reviewers only recommend that a particular student receive no scholarship or a below average, average, above average or extraordinary scholarship amount; leaving it to the Scholarship Committee to determine what those amounts should be based on the budget available. Changes and protocol will be discussed later.

3. Recommendations from Ad Hoc Committee on Student Competition

Ms. Davin recommended to set aside this project until after the 100th year celebration. Ms. Filas briefly described this competition as being similar to the television show “Shark Tank”.

4. Pins for Various Circumstances: 100th Anniversary, Longevity Membership, etc.

Ms. Davin passed around examples of pins. It was noted that the pins will be a lot cheaper to produce in Latin America. It was agreed to produce magnet style pins.

5. Section News and Updates

Ms. Blattner described ongoing legal issues to retrieving the funds out of the closed Cajamarca section. She requested the power of attorney to get through the process. The funds are supposed to be transferred to the Lima Section. The fund is approximately \$54,000.

Ms. Filas noted that Bill Warfield, SME Board Member and Chair of the SME Structure and Governance Strategic Committee is leading a committee that is working on standardizing guidelines for SME local sections. She suggested that the Peruvian WAAIMES may wish to contribute some “lessons learned” to this committee based on the experiences of the Cajamarca section.

The Spokane Washington Section will fold after one last meeting this summer.

Ms. Davin noted that the International Sections must present a report to the Executive Committee by or before the mid-year meeting (end of September) on how the WAAIME funds provided to them have been spent. These reports should include basic information on the dispersal of the funds, including as a minimum 1) name of student, 2) major, and 3) amount funded. Photographs of scholarship awardees with WAAIME representatives are encouraged.

A proposal was made to reduce the international section funding from \$12,000 back to \$10,000 annually in order to match the reduction in U.S. scholarships from \$250,000 to \$200,000. This amounts to about a 20% reduction for both U.S. and international scholarships.

Motion: The above proposal was moved, seconded and approved.

Ms. Dew added that further reductions should be considered to help fund the 100th Anniversary Celebration. It is believed that the cost would be around \$100,000. It was further stated that it will be very important to create budget and then determine what needs to be requested in sponsorships. Also, a timeline should be determined along with specific assignments. Finally, she suggested that it would be good to approach universities that are attending the conference.

6. Proposed Bylaws

Ms. Davin provided the background for why the Executive Committee had embarked on a new set of bylaws for the WAAIME Division. Ms. Filas noted that the WAAIME Division functions under the Plan of Merger dated March 31, 2008 which was crafted to define the specific terms of agreement when WAAIME merged into SME. The Plan of Merger establishes the autonomy of WAAIME to manage and distribute its funds without interference from SME. However, it puts limitations on certain WAAIME programs that the Executive Committee believes are now obsolete. Such limitations include what WAAIME can spend its monies on (which limits flexibility) and it does not allow for new local sections (which limits growth). The draft bylaws currently under consideration are similar to other SME division bylaws and will give the

WAAIME Division more leadership continuity, operating flexibility, and a broader scope intended to help attract new membership.

The draft bylaws currently oblige new WAAIME Division members to become members of SME. There was a discussion and concerns were raised about the cost of membership. Ms. Filas noted that, in order to oblige membership in SME to be a member of WAAIME, it would be necessary for SME to create a special membership category which would be at a reduced cost and benefit level (e.g., WAAIME members would not receive monthly copies of Mining Engineering Magazine). This category would allow individuals who have a “non-traditional SME” focus to be SME members, but who may not meet the traditional SME membership requirements. It was noted that the bylaws provide that individuals who are WAAIME members prior to the approval of the bylaws would be “grandfathered” for WAAIME membership; only new members would be required to join SME. It was clarified that WAAIME would not directly receive any membership dues but like the other SME divisions, these fees would roll into the general budget. It was suggested that a membership fee of around \$25 might be reasonable for this membership category.

Ms. Davin reviewed the proposed officer positions and terms of the draft bylaws stating that there is a need to create a system that encourages continuity. She explained that the Executive Committee under the draft bylaws would be comprised of four individuals instead of the current three, thus extending the officer commitment from three to four years. She advised that the international representative position on the Executive Committee is eliminated in the draft bylaws since some international representatives have been uncomfortable chairing the Division in the past. The international sections would instead be represented by the International Committee, a standing committee of the Division. It was noted that nothing would preclude an international representative from being on the Executive Committee or chairing the Division if nominated and accepted by that representative. The draft bylaws also allow WAAIME a standing position on the SME Strategic Finance Committee.

Ms. Davin proposed that the “protective covenant” clause contained in the Plan of Merger be carried over into the proposed bylaws. Ms. Filas stated that WAAIME is legally a part of SME and that it would not be logical to include provisions to sue SME (i.e., itself). She also stated that it is doubtful that the SME Structure and Governance Strategic Committee or the SME Board of Directors would approve such a clause in any division bylaws. Further discussion resulted in a motion that was seconded and approved that the “protection covenant” clause should be retained in the bylaws (this was not a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee).

The draft bylaws were tabled. Consequently, the motion regarding the “protection covenant” is irrelevant since no action was taken to approve the draft bylaws.

7. Other – SME Foundation Proposal

Ms. Filas opened the discussion, explaining that she had been informally approached by the SME Foundation (SMEF) with a request that WAAIME consider donating to the SMEF Ph.D. and Career Grand Development programs. She noted that the preliminary SMEF request was that WAAIME sponsor one Ph.D. candidate for a \$60,000 scholarship, which scholarship would carry the WAAIME name and which would be prominently recognized in SMEF promotions and at its gala dinner. Ms. Filas asked SMEF to hold off on presenting a formal request to WAAIME until it had a better understanding of the program. Consequently, she invited Dr. Hugh Miller, the professor at the Colorado School of Mines who chaired the SME ad hoc committee appointed by 2014 SME President John Marsden to assess the sustainability of mining and mineral processing faculty positions going forward and to come up with a plan for curbing the

diminishing numbers and encourage more students and young academicians to make a career as a faculty member in mining and mineral process engineering.

Dr. Miller said that the committee was tasked with addressing the diminishing number of PhD candidates, and particularly those with industry experience, who move into academia. He explained that the wage gap between industry and academia is so significant that the vast majority of PhDs are recruited by industry. He also explained the challenges and that young academics have in gaining tenure. Based on these basic issues, the ad hoc committee (all committee members were from academia) recommended a program that they believed would have the most impact to reverse the trend of declining faculty in mining and mineral processing programs.

Dr. Miller explained that the Ph.D. and Career Grand Development programs were designed to have a big impact on the success of individuals by directly giving them a significant scholarship. The amounts given included calculations for the cost of living, tuition and fees, insurance and the peripheral costs of doing research. The candidates are vetted carefully through an in-depth interview of them, their advisors and references. Recipients must reapply each year. The program is underway, with several major monetary supporters, including Freeport McMoRan and SME. Thus far, 3 Ph.D. and 2 career grant scholarships have been started through the program.

Ms. Dew noted that a similar program is in place at her university where students receive a partial stipend and a tuition waiver or reduction.

Ms. Filas noted that the WAAIME Executive Committee had just approved over \$67,000 for Ph.D. candidates for the 2016-17 academic year at an average scholarship amount of about \$1500 per student. She pointed out that WAAIME is currently funding scholarships to Ph.D. candidates in the same monetary range as the initial SMEF proposal, but the scholarships are much smaller and impact a greater number of students. It was noted that WAAIME has historically supported many students with smaller scholarships rather than giving fewer, larger amounts. Ms. Davin noted that WAAIME is aware of the need for more Ph.D.'s and has already been providing support since 2004 to help fill professorships.

Ms. Filas noted that she would encourage the SMEF to submit their request so that WAAIME could formally consider the proposal at its mid-year meeting.