



WAAIME Division Finance and Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, February 23, 2025

8:30A - 12 Noon Mountain Time

Hyatt Regency Denver Convention Center
Mineral Hall E Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

1. Attendees:

- Executive Committee: Margaret Mansanti (MM), Barbara Filas (BF), Lydia Hull (LH), Susana Palomino (SP). Jackie Herrera was absent.
- UBS: Ryan Smith
- SME Staff: Michelle Hegarty, Joe Mow, Melanie Penoyar-Perez, Rachel Grimes (via phone)
- Guests: Pamela Swendseid, Scholarship Committee Co-Vice-Chair, Karen Jass, Kat Tew, Jean Davin
- Guests present for select parts of the meeting: Marc Herpfer - 2024 SME President, Bill Hancock - 2025 SME President, David Kanagy - SME Executive Director and CEO, Barbara Arnold – Penn State, Jerry Downey – Montana Tech (via phone)

2. Call To Order/ Introductions/ Safety Share

MM Called the meeting to order. A sign-in sheet was circulated and introductions were made. The safety share was focused on being aware of your surroundings both in general and especially at MXC

3. Financial Presentation

a. UBS Presentation

- i. Ryan Smith distributed UBS' Quarterly review and outlook for 4Q24 into 1Q25 booklet and led the attendees through its contents. Main messages were
 - Position or lower interest rates
 - Seize the AI opportunity
 - Time for real estate
 - More to go in stocks
 - Invest in power and resources
 - Go for gold
 - Steady growth
 - Future looking at inflation and interest rates
 - Volatility with new President – pro-growth in US, reduced international (tariffs, taxes, regulations)
- ii. WAAIME portfolio currently stands at \$10.1 million
 - 1.8% in cash
 - 41.6% in domestic fixed income

- 2.9% in international fixed income
 - 42.1% in domestic equity
 - 6.8 in international equity
 - 4.8 in non-traditional commodities
 - iii. \$263K in expected cash flow
- b. SME Presentation
 - i. Michelle Hegarty presented the SME financial report for FY2024 and 1Q25. Highlights included
 - 2024 was a great year for WAAIME, up \$1.1 million
 - A discussion about the accounting of Alexander Douglas' PhD loan. He earned his PhD in 2021 and the loan commitment will be fully retired this year.
 - BF initiated a discussion on making the financials more granular so it is clear where the money is going. This was deferred for discussion in the Tuesday EC meeting.
 - BF requested that the summary report include the range of WAAIME spend allotments of 5.5%, 6.0%, 6.5% based on the 3-year rolling portfolio average so that all are using the same numbers regarding allowable spending guidance.
 - It was clarified that "facilities cost" is allocated based on overall SME administrative costs to all divisions

4. **High School Outreach Initiatives** (*Careers That Rock!* test concepts)

- a. Montana Tech Program – Jerry Downey, Department Head, Metallurgical & Materials Engineering Department presented (via phone)
 - i. Dr. Downey provided a PowerPoint slide deck to the EC prior to the meeting, from which he gave his presentation.
 - ii. 2023 Program: 23 participants, 11 enrolled at Montana Tech (110% yield from rising seniors).
 - iii. 2024 Program: 30 participants; 11 accepted so far to start in Fall 2025.
 - iv. 2025 Program: Applications opened on February 3, participants capped at 30 students; the program will run June 15–20, 2025.
 - v. Program cost: ~\$1k per student
- b. Penn State Program – Barbara Arnold, Department Head, Mining Engineering Department presented
 - i. 7 students participated in 2024, of which two were girls
 - ii. Received donations from industry and alumni sponsors
 - iii. Fixed University costs drive program costs
 - iv. For 2025, the maximum number of students will be 20
 - v. Looking to charge students \$500 to bridge some of the financial shortfall
- c. BF noted that both Montana Tech and Penn State will need to complete an application if they wish to be considered for WAAIME funding in 2025.

5. WAAIME Year in Review

- MM presented a synopsis of the activities and accomplishments of the WAAIME Division. She thanked the EC, SME staff and WAAIME members for a good year and highlighted WAAIME's resilience in adjusting to change: Michelle Kroeger's leaving and Rachel Grimes becoming WAAIME's SME Staff Liaison and Rebecca Siwale's passing and JH willingness to join the EC to fulfill Rebecca's term. She also highlighted some key accomplishments, including
 - i. Giving the first Rebecca Siwale Memorial Scholarship to her daughter Natasha.
 - ii. BF's authoring the WAAIME Operations Handbook and securing sponsorships for the Student Networking Reception in 2024 and 2025.
 - iii. LH's 17 years of service as Scholarship Chair.
 - iv. Jean Davin for leading the Pennsylvania Western Section for 30+ years.
 - v. SP for her leadership in the innovative programs (e.g., coaching, capacity building, industry engagement) in the international sections.
 - vi. JH and Allison Coppel for launching the WAAIME LinkedIn page.

6. International Section Presentation

- a. SP distributed her International Sections Report 2024 that summarized the year in review. Main achievements included establishing strong communications with local section leaders, assisting sections to secure training from industry volunteers for scholarship recipients, coordinated money transfers with SME's finance department, collected all local section financial reports and timely provided them to SME, and contributed to and provided translations for the WAAIME Newsletters during the year.
- b. A total of \$50,000 in scholarships were given to 55 international students: 18 from Mexico, 20 from Peru and 17 from Chile.
- c. SP noted that the Cajamarca section is closing and all the scholarships for that region are being handled by the Lima section.

7. WAAIME Chair Gift Presentation

- a. BF presented MM with a gift as a token of WAAIME's appreciation of MM's spirit and tireless hard work throughout the year.

8. Adjournment – The open meeting was adjourned at 11:50A

**Closed Session EC Meeting
12 Noon to 12:45P**

9. FY25 Forecast and Scholarship Allocation

- a. EC Attendees: MM, BF, LH, SP
- b. Invited Attendee: Pamela Swendseid, Scholarship Committee Co-Vice-Chair
- c. Aligning Scholarship Allocations with Budget Constraints
 - i. There was a record number of scholarship applications this year. This was likely due to the extended deadline for application submission and the launch of the LinkedIn site advertising the scholarship program.
 - ii. MM explained that the \$350K in the approved FY 2025 budget for domestic scholarships had been increased to \$360K by reallocating other budgeted items. It was agreed that the total domestic scholarship allocation would target \$360K. LH indicated that this would require some significant cuts in the currently allotted scholarship amounts based on reviewer recommendations.
 - iii. There was a detailed discussion around when scholarship support is most needed and where WAAIME's scholarship focus should be. There was also a detailed discussion on ways to reduce the total scholarship amount down to the \$360K budget without losing the need prioritization that has already been integrated into the current Committee recommendations.
 - iv. It was agreed that interviews are the primary way for WAAIME to determine the need of each applicant.
 - v. Some EC members view freshmen and sophomores as the priority for the scholarship program since they are just entering the industry and a scholarship may be the difference between their continuing to pursue their selected extractive industry majors or leaving to pursue other careers. Juniors, seniors, and particularly graduate students, are very likely already committed to following through with their extractive industry majors. LH reminded that freshmen and sophomores are higher risk scholarship candidates because the incidence of their changing majors is indeed higher than for the upper classes.
 - vi. There was a discussion on the 16 MS candidates who expect to graduate in December of 2025. Given that they only will be in school for one semester, compared to the other scholarship applicants who have a full year of tuition to deal with, it was agreed that the Scholarship Committee will allot \$1,000 to those candidates. This would free up money that could be allocated based on reviewers recommendations.
 - vii. There was a discussion that scholarships in amounts less than \$1,000 are not very meaningful. It was agreed that the Scholarship Committee view \$1,000 as the minimum scholarship amount.

d. Other Discussion Items

- i. It was suggested that WAAIME make the “Why do you think you deserve this scholarship” question should be a mandatory entry in the scholarship application.
- ii. Due to the challenges in getting two recommendations, it was agreed that a single reference from a faculty member in the department of the applicant’s major would be required.