



Council  
21 April 2006

Draft Minutes  
April 21, 2006

**IACEE Council Minutes  
April 21, 2006  
Vienna, Austria**

Council Members Present: Mervyn E. Jones, President  
Feng Changgen, First Vice President, VP Special Interest Groups  
Frank Burris, VP Membership Development  
Gerardo Ferrando, VP Projects  
Yuri Bocharov  
Edward Borbely  
Andy DiPaolo  
Flemming K. Fink  
Hajime Fujita  
Leizer Lerner  
John Lorriman  
Philip O'Leary  
Franz Reichl  
Katriina Schrey-Niemenmaa  
William Wepfer

Staff Members Present: Frank Huband, Secretary General  
Hans J. Hoyer, Director for International Programs

1. Presence and Quorum

Mervyn Jones called the meeting to order. Quorum was established for the meeting.

Flemming K. Fink was welcomed as a new Council member.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Alfredo Soeiro, Louk Fennis and Colin Leung. Three Regional Leader Organization representatives have not communicated to the Council about their absence: Kwesi Andam; Anwar Alyatama and Javier A. Paez Saavedra.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.



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4. WCCEE: Forward look to the 11<sup>th</sup> WCCEE in Atlanta in 2008 and a reflection on the 10<sup>th</sup> WCCEE in Vienna.

The goal in Atlanta is to attract 250 participants. Personal contacts are important for potential speakers. Promotion will occur during ASEE Annual Conference in Chicago and the GCEE in Rio de Janeiro. The question was raised whether there should be any adjustment to the planning of the Atlanta meeting given the learning coming from the recently completed Vienna experience? Bill responded that there will be some “tweaking” of the schedule. There will be panel sessions as well as plenary speakers and poster sessions. Suggestions for content are still highly welcomed according to Bill.

Franz shared his reflections about the preparation for the Vienna meeting and suggestions for future meetings:

- The two years for planning the event were very tight.
- There was a decrease in participants compared to the Tokyo conference
- Three days for a meeting appear to be too long.
- There was good representation from the US, Latin America, China and Europe but participation from other regions was disappointing. Franz referred especially to lack of participants from Eastern Europe and that we should attempt to recruit representatives from that region.
- Invitations were sent out widely but had limited responses.
- There was a small data base.
- It was agreed that the direct mail approach appears to be promising. It was suggested that materials be sent to one point person in a region who then subsequently mails materials to individual contacts.
- There were multiple problems related to email, website and on-line registration. The process was described to be “cumbersome.”
- There was a call to simplify the registration process.
- Vienna organizers were not successful in obtaining sponsors. The need to reach out to industry was considered essential for future meetings. This would be for both material support as well as papers presented by industry representatives. However, it was also stated that industry representatives usually do not present papers.
- Visibility of the conference needs to be increased significantly. It needs to address the fundamental question: “Why should I come? Is there something here for me”?
- Comments were made that the \$700 fee for Atlanta appears to be high, especially for representatives from developing nations. Bill commented that he is required to charge this fee in order not to lose money.
- Consider having a workshop before the actual conference with highly visible experts.



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- The question as to “how best to reach deans” was discussed and the experience of ASEE and its Deans’ Council was cited as a successful model of collaboration. It is necessary to send out conference materials to the deans in different countries.
- Fundamental question: How do we attract groups that we are not reaching? This point refers to an earlier discussion during the first Council meeting that made it clear that IACEE does not have a marketing strategy and that it needs to “segment” its potential customers.
- Should we/can we attract some leaders who really grab peoples’ attention such as Thomas Friedman or some other “super star”?
- Bill Wepfer requested an updated roster of Council members and the list of newcomers to IACEE.
- It was suggested that for the Atlanta meeting a book of abstracts be prepared as well as a CD for complete papers.
- A commitment was made that the proceedings of the Vienna meeting be placed on the website in one week and that a CD ROM version will be completed.
- Mention was made that IACEE tried to produce a journal in the past and that it was not successful. IACEE should not compete in the journal producing business. Papers should be presented to SEFI or ASEE.

The entire Council expressed their appreciation to Franz and his colleagues for organizing the entire Conference.

5. Cooperation with other organizations and networks. The International Federation of Engineering Education Societies (IFEES) and The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)

Frank Huband briefly described the role that ASEE is playing in creating IFEES. An initial planning meeting was held in Sydney, Australia in 2005 (as part of the ASEE Global Colloquium) and 32 organizations participated. By-laws were written during that meeting and a strategic planning process was begun to identify how this new organization can contribute to provide value and be of service to the engineering education societies globally. He proposed that IACEE become a member of IFEES and contribute toward defining what specific activities IFEES can and should engage in for the short term and long term. No membership fees would initially have to be paid to join. The proposed structure is considered to be straightforward and it will include representatives from industry, university groups, organizations of deans and other organizations interested in engineering education. Details are still to be worked out. The first official meeting is proposed to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil prior to the ASEE Global Colloquium in October, 2006. ASEE will distribute the bylaws to the Council members of IACEE. Hans J. Hoyer will begin to update Council members on the evolution of IFEES.



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Bill Wepfer made a motion that IACEE become a member of IFEES. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Leizer Lerner informed the Council that the WFEO recently elected a new chairperson. Russ Jones is leading the sub-committee related to capacity building and, in that work, is closely coordinating with ASEE. Leizer urged that IACEE be involved in WFEO. Council members expressed their approval.

6. Executive Committee Election

IACEE President Mervyn Jones nominated the following four Vice Presidents to serve on the 2006-2008 Executive Committee and sought endorsement from the Council:

Frank Burris, VP Membership Development  
Feng Changgen, VP Projects – The China Project  
Gerardo Ferrando, Special Interest Groups  
Colin C.F. Leung, World Conferences on CEE

Mervyn Jones moved that these four individuals become Vice Presidents. The motion was adopted unanimously.

The Council voted unanimously that Gerardo Ferrando become IACEE's First Vice President.

7. Open Discussion/Other Matters

(a) A lively discussion related to accreditation followed. Mervyn Jones felt strongly that accreditation is a global issue and that it is essential for IACEE to have a position/point of view regarding this important subject.

Some Council members expressed the view that accreditation in CEE, compared to that of bachelors, masters and Ph.D. programs in engineering, is “a jungle.” They felt that IACEE has a unique opportunity to think about how to accredit CEE activities, departments and institutions.

An interest was expressed that a working group on Accreditation be formed in IACEE and that the group be chaired by Patricio Montesinos with Markku Markkula as co-chair. It was proposed that this group “take a blank sheet of paper and develop guidelines for what we mean by accreditation and return to the Council with a written proposal delineating how institutions can be accredited.”



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Frank Huband shared with the Council the news that ABET may be entering the arena of CEE and that they are planning to work internationally and beyond the Washington Accord. They will most likely be a competitor.

Andy DiPaolo cautioned the Council to be careful because it takes much time and effort to undertake such work. He mentioned that USDLA had already done much work in the area of distance learning and that IACEE would not need to start from the beginning. It is important that information be gathered about the work of other institutions regarding this issue. There is much that we still need to learn. In reference to China, it was mentioned that we are talking about a process and that, at this point in time, we really do not yet know what an accredited institution is. In the discussion it was mentioned that we want to create an accreditation process that is the same for all countries and that it is different from the China project. It was stated clearly that we do not yet know how to do an accreditation in CEE and that this is a difficult and long process comparable to entering a “dense forest.” We should look at a time frame of 4 to 5 years and be aware that there are complicated legal implications.

Mervyn Jones, however, was strong in his conviction that “we should still look at this issue. We may subsequently decide to let ABET do it after all. However, we need an official position on accreditation.”

(b) A discussion was held on the opportunities to enhance the IACEE website and newsletter. Mervyn Jones felt that as expense inhibited the publishing and disseminating printed information it was important to ensure that the website could serve this role. It was agreed that it is essential to identify a small group to work on this issue. What are the materials that should be posted on the website? We have an average of 777 hits per day. Over this past year 56,000 individuals visited the site and 46,000 more than once. Average visit duration: five minutes.

The following group was suggested to identify the ways in which the IACEE website could be developed. These are:

Flemming K. Fink, Phil O’Leary, Katriina Schrey-Niemenmaa. The group would be led by Katriina Schrey-Niemenmaa. .

In the discussion it was suggested that the group invite Cath Polito (University of Texas, Austin at [cpolito@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:cpolito@mail.utexas.edu)) and possibly also Akramolmolok (Aki) Lahijanian from the Center for Environment and Energy Research and Studies ([Lahijanian@hotmail.com](mailto:Lahijanian@hotmail.com)) to participate.

Concern was expressed about the content of the Newsletter and that Council members need to submit content. How can we improve the Newsletter? It was suggested that an active group develop an appropriate system such as calling up



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individuals to submit short articles of 200 words and decide what should go into a Newsletter. It was suggested that the group should interface with ASEE/ HQ: Hans J. Hoyer and his associate.

The following individuals agreed to provide leadership:  
Andy DiPaolo; Leizer Lerner, Louk Fennis (chairperson?), Hajimi Fujita; Yury Bocharov.

Mervyn agreed to send an email to these two groups.

The question was raised to approach Russ Jones to submit CEE news items for the IACEE newsletter

There was a brief discussion about developing a DISCUSSION FORUM. Mervyn agreed to catalyze this initiative.

A motion was made and passed unanimously to drop the idea, for the time being, of developing a database of experts. However, Mervyn will contact Alfredo Soeiro to let him know that, if he wishes, he should continue to work on the project by himself.

#### 8. Future Meetings

The Executive Committee of the IACEE Council will meet in Palms Springs, California, USA in February 2007, adjacent to the ASEE CIEC.

There will be a Council meeting in mid-May 2007 in Singapore. There should be one full day for presentations, keynote speakers in addition to the Council meeting.

No date was established for a potential ASEE Global Colloquium in Singapore in 2010. The Advisory Committee will need to work with Colin Leung.

Ed Borbely, Phil O'Leary and Patricio Montesinos have agreed to work with Colin Leung in regards to the 2007 Council meeting in Singapore. Mervyn will send a note to Colin to offer assistance for 2010.

A motion was made and accepted unanimously to adjourn.