

IFEES Informal Meeting
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., June 24, 2008
Room 331, Convention Center, Pittsburgh, USA

Present:

Cristina Amon
Claudio Brito
Melany Ciampi
Xaiver Fouger
Alan Jacobs
Pete Janzow
Ramiro Jordan
Jim Melsa
Lueny Morell
Maria Petrie
Charrell Petty
Jose Carlos Quadrado
Sarah Rajala

Secretariat Staff:

Frank Huband
Hans J. Hoyer
Spencer Potter

Welcoming Address by IFEES President Claudio Borri

Hans J. Hoyer called the meeting to order in the temporary absence of President Borri, and had those present give a round of introductions. Jim Melsa asked to add an agenda item about charging fees for IFEES. Claudio Borri then arrived and welcomed all members to the meeting.

Update on Second IFEES Summit in Cape Town, South Africa

Maria Petrie and Jose Carlos Quadrado reported on the progress in the planning of the Cape Town IFEES Summit, which will take place on the campus of Cape Town University in October 2008. A US National Science Foundation-sponsored workshop on Africa is planned for October 17-18. From October 19-20 the IFEES Summit will take place, and this will include three panels, a workshop presented by the World Bank Institute, and roundtable sessions. The IFEES Assembly of Members will occur from 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. on October 20. There will be two Executive Committee meetings: the first on October 18, including the Executive Committee members whose terms will be expiring in October 2008; the second Executive Committee meeting is on October 20, and will include the newly-elected IFEES Executive Committee. Student activities will span the duration of the meeting. The fee for the IFEES Summit is \$100, but this amount will be subtracted from ASEE Global Colloquium fees for all full-paying Global Colloquium attendees who also attend the IFEES Summit.

Borri reported on the need for speakers to address the Cape Town IFEES Summit. It was suggested that the Summit co-chairs contact Al Soyster at the US National Science Foundation as a possibility.

Petrie mentioned that a group of Latin American IFEES colleagues have informally decided to attempt replicating the IUCEE Summer Leadership Institute model and hold a similar meeting somewhere in Latin America or the Caribbean.

Hoyer reported that the ASEE Global Colloquium will take place from the evening of October 20 to the evening October 23. IFEES Member Engineers for a Sustainable World will be putting on a workshop immediately following the meeting, on October 24-25, and they expect to bring approximately 150 participants.

Update on IUCEE Summer Leadership Institute in Mysore, India

In the absence of IUCEE Executive Director Krishna Vedula, Lueny Morell reported on the IUCEE Summer Leadership Institute. She gave a brief description of the event, its history, and the possibility of expanding the initiative in the future. Hoyer mentioned that each of the sessions at the Summer Leadership Institute have been videotaped for future use. ASEE has secured the intellectual property rights to these presentations and will eventually make them available to all IFEES members.

Update on Global Engineering Deans Council Executive Committee Meeting - May 8-9 in Paris, France

Cristina Amon reported on the Global Engineering Deans Council Executive Committee Meeting, which took place in Paris, France, from May 8-9, and gave a description of the reasoning behind the formation of the Council. The GEDC Executive Committee plans to meet in Cape Town in October. Amon also reported that the GEDC Executive Committee has been invited by the US Engineering Deans Council to attend the ASEE Engineering Deans Institute, which will take place in Boston, USA, in March 2009.

Update on Third IFEES Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, in May 2009

Borri reported on the Third IFEES Summit, which will take place in association with the Russian Association of Engineering Education (RAEE) in St. Petersburg, Russia, in May 2009. The Third IFEES Summit will be co-located with RAEE's annual meeting, and will include a student forum. The dates for the meeting are May 19-23, 2009.

Borri asked that IFEES leadership move forward quickly on the planning of the Third IFEES Summit. Morell reported that there are four major goals for the meeting: to learn about engineering education in Russia; (2) to broker partnerships between countries and among stakeholders; (3) to support the Russian Association for Engineering Education (RAEE) in the themes of their annual meeting; and (4) to expand on the four areas of IFEES focus.

Discussion of Formation of a Global Corporate Membership Council

Alan Jacobs reported on the possibility of establishing an IFEES Corporate Membership Council, and gave a brief description on the status of the idea. He mentioned that a few months ago he reported to the IFEES leadership that he did not think IFEES had a coherent or collected idea of what they wanted in their CMC. Jacobs expressed a general hesitancy about moving forward on this initiative before consensus on its aims and structure has been reached.

Frank Huband reported on the history of the Corporate Membership Council in ASEE, and mentioned that the ASEE CMC did not have a clear vision and mission when it began, but it was able to survive nonetheless. Since its inception the ASEE CMC has grown into an effective leadership body of corporate engineering education stakeholders.

Lueny Morell and Alan Jacobs suggested IFEES ask its membership for details on what they are seeking in a Corporate Membership Council. Frank Huband suggested that the corporate members of IFEES define a list of what they would like to see in a CMC. Jacobs agreed to take the lead in contacting the IFEES corporate members to begin creating this list. Hoyer agreed to get Jacobs the contacts for these corporate members.

Discussion on Whether IFEES Should Charge Fees to its Members

Borri pointed out that IFEES is not yet a legal entity, and challenged the group to determine whether it is yet time for IFEES to seek a legal personality and collect fees from member societies. He also announced his worry that IFEES' more resource-constrained members will terminate their memberships if charged a fee. Jim Melsa proposed that IFEES begin charging a fee nonetheless, citing that IFEES member ASEE is currently paying a large annual sum to provide the IFEES Secretariat. Xavier Fouger made the point that IFEES member societies should not be taken by surprise on this issue, and should be given fair warning that a conversation about fees has taken place. It was agreed that an email should be sent out to membership to let them know that charging membership fees is under discussion.

Jacobs reported that the corporate membership of IFEES would rather have a substantial fee at the beginning of their budgeting cycle than receive random requests for funding throughout the year, even if the initial fee amounted to a greater sum than these cumulative requests. Pete Janzow agreed, and made the additional point that he would like to know the details of how IFEES will spend these revenues. Xavier agreed to develop an initial concept paper by mid-July on a potential membership fee scale, which would then serve as the basis for discussion during the forthcoming IFEES General Assembly in Cape Town on October 20, 2008.

Adjourn

President Borri called the meeting to a close at approximately 12:10 p.m.