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American Institute of Chemical Engineers

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MINUTES

Separations Division Planning Meeting
American Institute of Chemical Engineers
2011 AIChE Spring Meeting

Sunday, March 13, 2011

Noon to 5:00 pm

Hyatt Regency Chicago (Grand Ballroom B)

Attendance:

Benny Freeman
D.B. Bhattacharyya
Nicholas Urbanski
Isabel Escobar
Tarun Poddar

Mark Pilling
Neil Yeoman
Scott Husson
Sharon Robinson

Linda Wang
Atanas Serbezov
Mike Resetarits
Seyi Oduyungbo

Board of Directors (BOD) Report (Andre DaCosta)

Financials. The Institute had a very good financial year in 2010, mostly due to the return on its investment portfolio. However, the institute still needs to grow its operating assets.

Membership. Professional membership dropped 0.7 %, less than what was projected.

Graduate Student Awards (Nick Urbanski)

This was a continuation of the discussion started at the 2010 planning meeting in Salt Lake City. It is recognized that the current financial model for the awards is unsustainable. Most of the industrial sponsors have dropped their financial support for the awards. A document, distributed by Nick via e-mail prior to the meeting, shows that currently the Division is losing \$3,200 per year under the current arrangement.

The situation can be resolved by increasing the sponsorship and/or by decreasing the expenses.

Action items:

D.B. Bhattacharyya pledged to arrange \$500 from an industrial sponsor for the 2011 graduate awards.

Linda Wang will approach Air Products and will ask for financial support for the graduate student awards.

The industrial members of the Division Council will approach their companies for sponsorship of the awards.

There will be no plaques for the advisors, starting in 2012. Nick will investigate if this can be implemented in 2011 as well.

The amount of the awards will be reduced to \$200 (from \$300).

Programming

Honor sessions increase the attendance. Areas are encouraged to consider honor sessions in their programming.

Topical Conferences

2011 Spring:

- University Research for Industry (Division)
- Henry Kister Symposium (2a)

2011 Fall:

- Water Technology for Developed and Developing Countries

2012 Spring:

- Distillation Topical

2012 Fall:

- Separations for the Energy Industries (the meeting is in Pittsburgh)

2013 Spring:

- Henry Kister Symposium (2a)

2013 Fall:

- Bio related topical (the meeting is in San Francisco)

There was a significant number of speaker “no shows” in SLC without any prior notice. Tarun Poddar had proposed that speaker “no shows” be held responsible. The idea is good, but it is not clear how to implement at the Division or Institute level. The issue was left at the discretion of the individual programming areas.

Division Web Page

The new Division web page is set but content is needed. The content of the Division web page needs to be discussed further. The web address is <http://aiche-separationsdiv.org>.

Membership (Scott Husson)

A Division advertisement slide is available for session chairs to project prior to the start of each session. Scott Husson has been sending this slide to session chairs.

Scott contacted everyone presenting a poster on separations research to make sure that they knew AICHE had a Separations Division, to tell them why they might join, and to tell them how to become a member. One student wrote back immediately and said that he would join.

At the 2010 annual meeting, the Division approved sending out a member-get-a-member letter to current members with a list of tangible benefits to members. This list, however, has not been finalized and this is why the letters have not been sent yet.

A letter addressing the young professionals (YP) has been created. It explains the benefits of the Division membership and invites the YPs to join. This letter will be distributed at speed networking sessions organized by the YP forum.