

**Arkansas Academy of Mechanical Engineering**  
**Annual Board Meeting Minutes 2011**  
**June 10, 2011**

The June 2010 AAME Board Meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM CDT by President Jack Murders. The meeting was held in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Attendees in person were Jack Murders, Don Caple, Keith Bradshaw, Dr. Matt Gordon, Bob Harrison, Mac Hogan, Russ Rasnic, and Lamar Pettus. Attendees via teleconference were President Elect Zane Boatright, Mike Hays, Melynda Hart, Past President Cristine Wolf, and Dr. Rick Couvillion.

The minutes from the April 2011 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved by the Board.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mike Hays presented the Treasurer's Report. He noted that the funds currently in the AAME account are lower than they should be this time of year, even though the dues collected at the Annual Meeting have been credited to the account. Those assembled discussed the potential of again sending out a letter soliciting contribution. The costs of the Annual Meeting should be posting to the account soon - approximately \$9,000. The attendance of the annual meeting was down slightly to about 35 members.

**Financial Committee Report:** The finance committee report was reviewed and discussed.

**Conduct/By-Laws & Constitution Report:** Zane Boatright presented the committee report. The latest approved version of the by-laws is posted on the AAME website.

**Membership Report:** Membership Committee Chairman Mike Stewart was unable to attend and President Murders presented his report. A number of potential members, including two who were unable to be inducted last year, are known and being pursued by the Membership committee. President Murders will work with Membership Committee Chairman Stewart to solicit members for nomination.

**COE Awards nomination:** Dr Rick Couvillion noted that two to three candidates are being evaluated for the Distinguished Alumni award.

**Newsletter Report:** It was discussed that Richard Roberts has stepped down from his post as Newsletter editor. The Board wants to express their appreciation to Richard for his years of service in this role. It was noted that a lot of members do not realize that the newsletter is posted on-line, and thus it is not widely read. It was agreed that we need to address this issue – preferably by using a notification email with link to the newsletter. Russ Rasnic volunteered to serve as the new Newsletter Editor, and he was immediately approved

unanimously to chair the newsletter. Russ will work with President Murders and the Department for format and content. The next edition should be out soon and the board agreed to attempt to publish a quarterly edition.

**Fundraising Committee Report:** In Chairman Chris Weiser's absence, the report was presented by Mac Hogan. A lot of effort has been made to simplify giving. Forms were created for cash, stock and IRA contributions. Those forms were to be posted on our website after review. Mac also discussed the potential for those members age 70.5 or older to make contributions from their retirement accounts. Mac discussed the rules and requirements of making such donations.

**M.E. Department and Special Projects Report:** Former Interim Department Head Dr. Matt Gordon introduced the new MEEG Department Head Dr. Jim Leylek. Dr. Leylek provided some background information on himself and presented his goals for the department. Dr. Leylek has BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his Ph. D in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign. Dr. Leylek has many goals for the department. He is anxious to increase corporate participation in the programs. He also is committed to improving economic development and research, and he is committed to partnering with industry to help develop 'job ready' engineers. Dr. Leylek is quite excited to meet our membership in person.

Dr. Gordon's dedication and service to the department were recognized and that appreciation is reflected in these minutes.

**Lifetime Lump Sum Dues Proposal – Update:** The proposal for Lifetime Membership was discussed, and a number of pros and cons were reviewed. It was emphasized that we should look at how this will affect funding in future years.

### **New Business –**

- A) **Honoring deceased members – request from member:** It was agreed that we list an 'In Memoriam' section in the Annual Program to acknowledge deceased members. It was also requested that we consider having a 'lost contact' or 'need info' section in the program as well in hopes that attending members can provide additional information.
- B) **Strategic Plan:** Zane Boatright is going to put together a committee of Board Members to create a draft AAME strategic plan. They will conduct a separate telecom from the regular Board Meetings.
- C) **2012 Annual Meeting:** The 2012 Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2012 with the College of Engineering banquet scheduled for the following evening. It was agreed that we will plan on using the U of A Alumni House as a venue for the 2012 annual meeting. Alternatives for lodging were discussed and will be firmed up later.

D) **Banquet Speaker Ideas:** Cristine is working on a speaker idea for the 2012 meeting. 'Local' options were also discussed and this will be firmed up later in the year.