

Minutes of Arkansas Academy of Electrical Engineering Business Meeting Saturday, October 8, 2004

The 2004 business meeting of the Arkansas Academy of Electrical Engineering was called to order to Acting President, Bill Plunkett, at 8:30 AM. He acknowledged that there were three charter members present – Charles Dietz, James Manville, and Brian Webb.

Dean Ashok Saxena gave a welcome in which he mentioned his appreciation for Electrical Engineering Department Head, Aicha Elshabini; the involvement of the College of Engineering in the ABET program; the upcoming event of Drs. Vijay and Vasundara Varadan joining the Electrical Engineering Department as of January 1, 2005. Both Drs. Varadan will occupy a chair faculty position. Dean Saxena stated the College of Engineering at the University of Arkansas was rated 111th in universities for the number of undergraduates enrolled (1,600 presently). We have 550 graduate students with a goal of 800. He stated we presently have 17 chairs filled and our goal is 50. Dean Saxena also informed the members of the Arkansas Academy of Electrical Engineering about the black-tie banquet for College of Engineering alumni on April 9, 2005 at which time the following awards would be given: Hall of Fame, Distinguished Alumni, and Youngest Alumni. He requested nominations for each of these awards. He also thanked the Arkansas Academy of Electrical Engineering for their support of the department and college.

The first item on our agenda was the minutes of the 2003 meeting. A copy of the minutes had been passed out to the academy members and Terry Martin, Secretary, requested they read them. He then requested a motion be made to accept the minutes as written. That motion was seconded and carried.

Dr. Martin, Treasurer, also requested they read the financial report attached to the minutes. He stated the first column was the budget of the 2003 year, the middle column was what was the approved budget for the 2004 year and the last column is the proposed 2004-2005 budget. We had an income for \$20,746.63 and an ending balance of \$39,293.94. The endowment fund has a balance of \$176,518.74. Dr. Martin stated that in the proposed budget for 2005 we increased the amount for the banquet, the amount of scholarships, as well as the amount for the Solar Boat project. There is a new item for \$5,000 for recruitment and retention. President Plunkett asked if these increases were based on the income expected from our increased dues and what we could expect for income. Dr. Martin felt that our income should increase by one-third. A motion was made and accepted that the new budget be approved. Discussion was then introduced regarding scholarships and support for the student organizations. An amendment was proposed that the Academy increase the support of the IEEE, CPMT, HKN, and IMAPS student organizations from \$500 to \$750 per year and increase the support of the solar boat to \$3,000 instead of the \$4,000 requested. In that manner each of the groups would be receiving a 50% increase in their support from the Academy. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed budget with those changes and the motion carried. A motion was also made and seconded to accept the financial report. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

President Bill Plunkett requested discussion regarding the black-tie banquet for the College of Engineering to be held in April. He suggested there were four options: 1) continue just like we are – have the meeting next October (anyone who wants to come to the banquet come on their own); 2) have the meeting in October, but also have a meeting in April, but the meeting in April will be with faculty and go to the Dean's banquet; 3) move this meeting to April of next year and have our banquet coincidental with the other academies; or 4) phase into a spring meeting – those who wish will come to the meeting in April, have our regular banquet in October 2005 and move our regular meeting to April 2006. President Plunkett told the new academy members that all the other academies associated with the College of Engineering had their meetings in the April and the Electrical Engineering was the only one to be in the fall. Dr. Elshabini stated that the HKN and IEEE banquet has been held in April for a long time and we would like to invite the academy to come for the banquet. The bylaws would have to be changed inasmuch as there would not be enough time to elect new inductees. A vote was taken on each of these options and option 4 was approved. It was proposed that we phase the change for our meeting by phasing in (have our meeting in April, but it is not our official meeting). We will meet in October 2005 and move our regular meeting to April 2006, which would give us time to adopt changes in the bylaws for next fall. A motion was made and seconded to adopt option 4. The motion was carried. When we have the banquet next year, we will be working on the nominees for April 2006.

Old Business

Ken Brewer, one of our charter members, lost his wife (Isabelle) this past spring 2004.

Departmental Update

Dr. Aicha Elshabini, Department Head of Electrical Engineering, gave a departmental update which is enclosed with the minutes.

The next item on the agenda is the Board of Director's election. We have two seats (those of Gaylord Northrop and John English) to elect on the Board of Directors to be serving from 2005 to 2007. Richard Homard nominated Lee Kittrell for one of these positions and Bob McKinney nominated Mike Russ for the other position. Marion Riggs made a motion to close the nominations, which was seconded and carried. The board then met in closed session. On return, President Bill Plunkett stated he would be serving as President, Charles Cole as Vice-President, Terry Martin as Secretary-Treasurer, Delbert Zimmerly, Janis Minick, Lee Kittrell, and Mike Russ are the remaining members of the board.

Dr. Martin requested that when members make out their checks for annual dues that they be made to the University of Arkansas and down in the memo area write 'Arkansas Academy of Electrical Engineering' or 'AAEE'. Then mail them to Carmen Hamilton, Administrative Assistant, Electrical Engineering, 3217 BELL, Fayetteville, AR 72701. Then be sure and attach your matching funds sheet from your company if their company offers this program.

In regard to the black-tie meeting, President Plunkett requested that we have a board meeting and talk about retention and the curriculum. Everybody is invited. A request that

Carmen e-mail members stating we are doing this and where they could stay. This is not the 'academy meeting'.

The date of the next AAEE meeting will actually be determined after the football schedule comes out. We will look at early and late dates and lean toward the bye weeks for the Razorbacks.

Wayne Chaffin asked regarding the changes in the bylaws and Terry Martin stated the Board of Directors will meet regarding that and it will come as a recommendation to the members and it will be voted on in the next regular meeting. This April meeting, the board will discuss changes so the bylaws can be voted on at the November meeting.

President Plunkett closed the meeting at 10:30 AM.