

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SPECIALTY GROUP OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

2009 BUSINESS MEETING 11:55AM - 12:55PM TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

I. ATTENDEES

Mike Pasqualetti, ASU, pasqualetti@asu.edu
Tingting Zhao, FSU, tzhao@fus.edu
Norman Froomer, MMS, normal.groomer@mms.gov
Marilyn Brown, GTI, Marilyn.brown@pubpolicy.gatech.edu
Johanna Haas, Illinois State, jmhaas2@ilstu.edu
Jack Ma, Univ. of Maryland, jma3@umd.edu
Melinda Harm Benson, Univ. of New Mexico, mhbenson@unm.edu
Paolo Tovar, Spatial Edge, ptovar@spatial-edge.com
William Osei, Algoma Univ., osei@algonau.ca
Michael Heiman, Dickinson, heiman@dickinson.edu
Vatsal Bhatt, Brookhaven National Lab, ybhatt@bnl.gov
Yda Schreuder, Univ. of Delaware, ydas@udel.edu

II. OLD BUSINESS

Katie Miller (who was unable to attend) sent in Last year's minutes. The group accepted the minutes with the following corrections:

The date was changed from 2007 to 2008

The spelling of Dan Luten was corrected for the Dan Luten Award

Someone named Suzi with no last name was placed on the board of directors. We need to try to determine what her last name is.

III. CHAIR'S REPORT

Membership: Yda Schreuder reported that the EESG now has 778 members, which is an increase of 500 from last year. This number is not reflected in the dues received, and thus must largely consist of graduate students. The group requests more detail on the treasurer's report with a count of dues-paying and non-dues-paying members.

Sessions: This year the EESG has sponsored or co-sponsored 16 sessions at the AAG meeting. The AAG program lists many more environmental sessions, but these sessions' organizers are not signing up with our group. We can, and need to, do a better job of getting people to sign up with us to sponsor sessions. At the chairs' meeting, some chairs were concerned that too many sponsored sessions crowd out unsponsored sessions. (Some groups are sponsoring 60+ sessions.)

Internet communications: Concerns about group communication and the AAG's internet message system were expressed at the chairs' meeting as well. There are problems sending messages to the membership, and messages sent through the AAG website are not always received. (Two common problems are members setting the wrong preferences and the issues in fighting spam.) The AAG is spending \$150,000 next fall to upgrade their system. The AAG has scheduled a meeting for new chairs to instruct them how to communicate with their members, but Yda is unable to attend.

Listserv: Some members feel that it is advisable to look into maintaining an EESG listserv separate from the AAG. At this time, technical difficulties seem to preclude this step, but it deserves continuing consideration. Generally, we should look into getting a university to host a listserv through their automated listserv system.

EESG website: Jack Ma is in charge of our website. The site is functioning well, but the BBS is down as it was under attack by spammers. Jack is keeping the website updated, but many members do not seem to know it is there. Additionally, we are not generating enough new information to update the website frequently. Members are encouraged to send website info to Jack (at jma3@umd.edu). Yda is sending an initial message out to all members to contact Jack. (There was some discussion about paying a webmaster, but Jack said he happily volunteers.)

Note to all:

Communications to be emailed to the members need to be sent to the Chair, Yda Schreuder at ydas@udel.edu

Communications to be posted on the website need to be sent to Jack Ma, at jma3@umd.edu

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Developing world membership: Douglas Richardson, Executive Director of the AAG, has requested that specialty groups open an initiative to waive specialty group dues to members from developing countries. Our dues are currently \$6. Another suggestion was made that people who want to join the AAG, but are already members of their own country's association, be given reduced membership fees. Such a structure is already in place for Canada. Some discussion took place over the definition of developing.

Mike Pasqualetti moved that we remove the fee for non-members of the OECD, or for people who fit whatever definition the AAG arrives at. Marilyn Brown seconded the motion. The group passed it unanimously. Yda will communicate this back to Richardson.

Association of Professional Geographers – India: The AAG and the APGI will be signing an Memorandum of Understanding tomorrow morning to begin more collaborative activity between the two associations. Vatsal Bhatt (who is working with the US Dept. of Energy to collaborate with Indian and Chinese cities on energy and the environment) brought this initiative to the

attention of the EESG. We agree that the EESG is an appropriate place for any energy and environment collaboration, creating links between universities, and appropriate geography education projects. Vatsal has agreed to join our specialty group and be contact person / facilitator between the two groups. Currently, an informal relation (that can formalize in the future) seems to be the best working plan. The next steps would be talks or collaborations that establish connections between universities, such as special visits. We need to post something to the website.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Katie Miller sent the following report in absentia:

AAG FY2007 (September 1, 2006 – August 31, 2007)

Dues Collected: \$667.00

Website Fees: \$366.83

Other Disbursements: \$475.54 (awards, guest presenter honorariums)

Final FY2007 Balance: \$2,194.70

AAG FY2008 (September 1, 2007 – August 31, 2008)

Data up to February 29, 2008

Dues Collected: \$608.00

Website Fees: \$134.09

Other Disbursements: \$0

February 29, 2008 Balance: \$2,668.61

An additional \$500 will be used in FY2008 for the two EESG awards and plaques.

VI. AWARDS

The EESG is not giving awards this year. Mike Pasqualetti reported that we did not receive sufficient quantity of applications or papers. We need to establish a date certain for the award applications to be listed in the AAG newsletter. Mike agreed to send in an announcement in time for the August/September newsletter.

VII. ELECTIONS

The group elected Johanna Haas to serve as Secretary / Treasurer, replacing Katie Miller and thanking Katie for her excellent service.

We are currently uncertain who the grad student representative is. Matt Huber appears to be no longer with the EESG. Suzi (the cryptic name from last year) may be the graduate student representative. Yda will speak to Scott Jiusto (the former chair) to see if he knows.