



Minutes: Retreat Discussion Meeting

August 15, 2016

Attendance

Claudia Amorim, Susanne Bennett, Kenneth Black, Gail Brager, Harvey Bryan, Alper Harun Caglar, Angeliki Chatzidimitriou, Joon-Ho Choi, Dania Gonzalez Couret, Courtney Crosson, Mark DeKay, Stephen Dent, Daphna Drori, James Erickson, Alfredo Fernandez Gonzalez, Andres Gallardo, Elizabeth Grant, Mary Guzowski, Bruce Haglund, Omar Al-Hassawi, Arlene Hopkins, Mohataz Hossain, Karen Kensek, Helen Kessler, Olgo Kolodiy, Jim Lutz, Alison Martin, Shannon McDonald, Houmam Meliani, Douglas Noble, David Mwale Ogoli, Ulrike Passe, David Pastre, Troy Peters, Mona Doctor-Pingel, Andre Potvin, Yahya Lavaf Pour, Sean Quinn, Ash Ragheb, Parag Rastogi, Alexandra Rempel, Isabel Rivera, Catherine Roussel, Cristina Sotelo Salas, Holly Samuelson, Steven Sandifer, Tania Sharmin, Rupesh Shreshtha, Amer Habib Al-Sudani, Larissa Sudbrack, Jae Yong Suk, Mariana Villavicencio, Don Watson, Aram Yeretian

The meeting began shortly after 9:00am PDT.

1. Discussion of 2017 SBSE Retreat proposals

- a. Edinburgh: No proposal was submitted.
- b. Illinois: No firm date was provided; August was considered too late; schedule was unclear.
- c. Oregon: Strong; Alfredo motioned to accept; seconded; unanimous vote in favor.

2. Location of the 2017 SBSE Business Meeting

- a. PLEA 2017: Edinburgh, July. Discussion reached a consensus that the SBSE should stay involved with PLEA and host an event in Edinburgh, but PLEA is uncertain as a long-term venue for business meeting, and SBSE member participation could be much lower at international PLEA conferences.
- b. Greenbuild 2017: Boston, November. Discussion agreed that November 2017 would be too late, creating an interval of almost a year and a half between business meetings.
- c. ASES 2017: Denver, late September / early October, to coincide with the 2017 Solar Decathlon. Walter clarified that PHIUS will have a session there, but this is not a joint conference with PHIUS. Walter also previously sent a letter from David Panich soliciting future SBSE participation in ASES conferences. Discussion agreed that again, long-term involvement with ASES is problematic, but that SBSE presence at the Solar Decathlon could both support that event and help us gain visibility with the DOE in support of new advocacy efforts. Suggestions were made that the SBSE could support ASES 2017 with reviewers and perhaps a keynote speaker, in addition to chairing of sessions. Alfredo asked Walter to follow up with David Panich indicating our agreement to participate. The consensus was that the business meeting should happen at ASES 2017, but because new information could appear that would change this decision, no vote was taken yet.

3. SBSE support of PLEA 2017

- a. Scholarships: Discussion generally agreed that the SBSE should propose multiple PLEA scholarships, in addition to Cook scholarships; Walter noted that Cook scholarships would be fewer in number in 2017 (4 rather than 8) because extra funds were requested in 2016 due to the US location of the PLEA conference.



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- b. Event coordination: Bruce has been discussing a tool day with Alison (and Alex) and will propose to hold it at the John Hope Gateway at the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh. Bruce knows the architect and engineer and is a member of the Botanic Garden, so the venue is likely to be made available.
- c. Speaker: Alfredo asked whether we should also propose a speaker; discussion agreed that we need to talk with Sue Roaf and ask what kind of help she needs. Alfredo agreed to contact her.

4. Scholarships

- a. Cook scholarships: Four student awards will be available for PLEA 2017 as it will be the second year of the new three-year cycle.
 - b. Reynolds scholarships: Four student awards (totaling \$2000) will be available for either PLEA or ASES, depending on his preferences. Walter agreed to ask him.
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- c. PHIUS scholarships: Walter motioned to roll over two previously-approved but unused SBSE retreat scholarships, at \$625 each, to support student travel to the PHIUS conference in Philadelphia in September; seconded; approved unanimously.
 - d. General scholarship increases: Alex explained that membership funds are accumulating and that the SBSE is keeping money far in excess of annual expenditures, even allowing for sun-angle calculator savings, that could be funding larger or more numerous scholarships. Alfredo agreed to call a scholarship meeting that examines the budget closely in the near future.

5. Community partnership with New Buildings Institute and Rocky Mountain Institute

- a. Background (Walter): Victor Olgyay, the younger, contacted Walter and asked SBSE to collaborate with RMI, initially to fund scholarships to their September Net Zero conference. The NBI scholarship program is in hand, however, and participating wouldn't help get students to the workshop, so Walter declined. However, it could be interesting to join with them as a Community Partner; this would involve no monetary commitment but would place the SBSE logo on the programs and one free corporate admission to the forum. The SBSE simply needs to promote the forum by putting it on our calendar, newsletter, and listserve.
- b. Motion (Walter): To join with the New Buildings Institute and the Rocky Mountain Institute as a community partner for the upcoming Net Zero Conference, in an arrangement similar to SBSE's prior arrangements with ASES. Alex and Ulrike seconded. Walter agreed to communicate with them and send the necessary letter to Alfredo for his signature.

6. Educational Resources Committee Update

- a. Beta testing: Before the meeting, Michael sent the link again to the board so that we can investigate the website thoroughly; input is especially needed on what parts to prioritize and de-prioritize. The goal is to have it go live by Thanksgiving.
- b. Material types: Individual assignments, syllabi, tools, and even entire courses may be uploaded.



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- c. Long-term management: Over time, we need to consider long-term editing of the site and web hosting fees.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am PDT.