

Minutes: AOC Board Teleconference

Monday, June 9, 2008

The AOC Board teleconference was held on Monday, June 9, 2008. AOC President Chenghai Yang called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM PST (3:00 PM CST).

There were twelve members in attendance and they were (alphabetically): Yubin Lan, Yanbin Li, Jiqin Ni, Zhongli Pan, Juming Tang, Donghai Wang, Lingjuan Wang, Ning Wang, Shaojin Wang, Chenghai Yang, Naiqian Zhang, and Wei Zhang

President Chenghai Yang inquired about suggestions and comments on the minutes of April 4, 2008 Board Meeting. There were no additional comments and the minutes were approved.

- Annual Meeting and Dinner Planning

- The preliminary program for the 2008 annual AOC meeting activities was prepared by Donghai Wang and sent to all the board members for review. The program included agenda of business meeting, dinner banquet agenda and menu, student dinner party, China Exchange session, and registration form. The restaurant for banquet was selected on the website and confirmed by Xiusheng Yang and was also in walking distance (about 0.7 miles from the AOC business meeting room). About 10 tables were reserved with \$35 each person. Flexibility on total attendees will be asked and confirmed by Donghai Wang, because the number of Chinese guests will be reduced due to the earthquake and some students and professors may attend the IFT meeting instead due to time conflict with the ASABE meeting this year. Considering the relatively high cost of meal, we ask the AOC student members to pay \$5 each for the student dinner party.
- Xiusheng is working on the nomination for the AOC President-elect position and one at-large board member position. He had one candidate for each position. Ruihong made suggestions to prepare the E-ballot quickly to allow members to review the candidates' profiles and cast their votes if they are not to attend the AOC meeting and to ask each candidate to prepare a brief bio, statement and a photo.
- Wei Zhang reported that the SAC is planning to have a similar student gathering dinner during the annual ASABE meeting on Monday evening. SAC selected the same restaurant as AOC did and reserved 6 tables. One speaker from Chinese Consulate in New York will be invited to make a presentation. The dinner party flyer has been prepared and will be sent to all AOC members and published in the IMPACT newsletter.
- Certificates of recognition will be prepared by Naiqian Zhang and will be issued by the AOC President to those board members, SAC members, and IMPACT newsletter editorial team who will be retiring after the meeting.
- This year, we are planning to give five student paper awards, one academic award and one leadership award. Naiqian, Chair of the Award Committee, reported that 10 submitted papers are being reviewed by the judge panel and will be scored by 06/15/08. He had two very good candidates for the leadership award and asked to consider both for this award, which will be determined by the current and past presidents before June 20.

-China Exchange Session

- Zhongli updated the information about the invited speakers. He had difficulties this year because 3 speakers from China cancelled their presentations recently due to the earthquake. Up to now, three speakers from the US are confirmed and one from CAU is proposed. Another potential speaker could be Naiqian Zhang or someone from the Chinese Consulate in New York, which will be confirmed by next week.
- Zhongli proposed to issue a plaque and certificate to acknowledge the speakers. Because this does not cost much and may promote the AOC, each board member encouraged him to do so.

- Fund Raising Activities

- Yanbin Li reported that AOC did not get some expected donations this year because of the recent earthquake in China. Zhongli reported a potential donation from Chinese society for Agricultural Machinery and he will continue to follow this donation and feels optimistic in getting it in September. Yanbin, Zhongli and most Board members agreed to setup a foundation account separately and only the interests from the foundation account can be used to support the operational expenses in AOC meeting activities.
- Yubin Lan reported that a sum of \$4335.53 is available in the AOC account to support the AOC meeting activities.

- IMPACT Newsletter

- Jiqin Ni sent the outline of IMPACT Vol. 7, Issue 4 to all Board members before the meeting and reported the preparatory progress about each column in the next issue. The articles in most columns are nearly ready to be published on June 15, 2008. He still welcomes the AOC members' contributions to News in brief, photo gallery and other columns. Chenghai Yang and all Board members appreciated his excellent job together with his editorial team in publishing the impressive newsletter.

Finally Chenghai expressed sincere thanks to each of Board members for the service and support to AOC. With no other new business, the AOC Board teleconference was adjourned at 2:20 PM PST by President Chenghai Yang.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shaojin Wang
June 9, 2008