Opening:

The regular meeting of the Coal and Energy Division Executive Board was called to order at 9:00 am on February 15, 2015 in 2015 SME Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado by Nikky LaBranche.

Present:

See last page.

A. Approval of Agenda

Nikky LaBranche made a motion to approve the agenda, motion carried.

B. Approval of Minutes

Rich Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes, motion carried.

C. Open Issues

Introductions were made, and an attendance list is attached.

- Discussion of the Minutes of the Mid-Year Meeting
  Manoj Mahonty inquired about the ad hoc committee for succession. Ms. LaBranche indicated there was nothing to report from that committee. Tom Novak inquired about the status of the Health and Safety Committee. Jürgen Brune gave an overview of the issues – essentially, whether the Health and Safety Committee should be granted division status, with the concern that they might attract members and programming from other divisions. The Coal and Energy Division has traditionally had excellent programming in health and safety. Joe Zelanko indicated that he was present at the Structure and Governance Strategic Committee meeting yesterday and indicated to that committee that creation of this new division could negatively impact the Coal and Energy Division. Division status will be recommended to the SME Executive Board.

- Division Finances
  Ending balance is up this year and finances of the division are healthy.
OLD BUSINESS

- **Scholarships**
  Bob Kudlawiec reviewed the scholarship recipients. Dan Alexander indicated that we may want to consider giving more scholarship money as the guideline indicates 5% of the fund can be awarded, which is equal to $31,000. This year approximately $26,000 was awarded. George Luxbacher suggested that committee consider supporting the new SME PhD Fellowship and Faculty Career Program. Mr. Kudlawiec indicated he felt money available should be allocated to scholarships. Michael Trevits indicated that some of the money donated to the Foundation should be earmarked for the PhD program.

- **Discussion of the Technical Program**
  Sukamar Bandopadhy indicated that 22 sessions and 121 papers are included in this year’s program. Standard format letters were eventually sent to international authors. This issue was a problem that was discussed at mid-year meeting. Mr. Trevits indicated that the new program chair, Drew Schaeffer, should reach out to the Research Council Chair, Abani Samal, to help coordinate Research and Development/Innovation sessions.

- **Ms. LaBranche reviewed the plans for the upcoming Coal and Energy Luncheon including sponsors and the speaker.**

- **Ms. LaBranche** indicated that this year, the goal was to have program area chairs with session chairs under them. Dr. Bandopadhyay indicated that it needs to be tweaked some, but generally worked well. Additionally, there were some Abstract Central issues that caused additional problems. Gary Buchan expressed that communication with chairs was not timely. Susan Bealko stressed the importance of recruiting young and inexperienced co-chairs. Ms. LaBranche and Mr. Wagner spoke to the importance of also working with the Young Leaders Committee to ensure that they have opportunity to contribute to the technical session, and to avoid overlap between relevant sessions. Dr. Mahonty requested information about the technical programming committees of which there are six. These are included in the bylaws.

- **Open Committee Positions**
  Ms. LaBranche reviewed the open positions in the blue book. She indicated that the nominating meeting is this afternoon, and she welcomes expression of interest prior to that.

- **Discussion of the Health and Safety Committee/Division was taken out of order previously.**
• **New SME Website**
  Heather Gravning reviewed changes to the website, and she indicated that members will be able to choose two divisions and two sections. The launch is scheduled for March 9th. Profiles will come from the new database which will allow direct input from members. Members will also be able to give feedback on the new website. The conference café in the exhibit hall will be demonstrating the new website.

D. **New Business**

• Ms. LaBranche announced the passing of Dr. Chris Bise, Department Chair, Mining Engineering, West Virginia University. A moment of silence was observed. His contributions to the Coal and Energy Division were recognized. Mr. Trevits, Dr. Brune and Dr. Bandopadhyay suggested a moment of silence be observed at the luncheon, and that a photo be provided. **Dr. Bandopadhyay proposed that a scholarship be started in his memory.** There was general agreement. Tom Novak motioned that Dr. Bandopadhyay investigate formation of such a scholarship, motion carried. An ad hoc committee was formed with Dr. Bandopadhyay as chair, Ms. Bealko as member, and Dr. Brune as member.

• Ms. LaBranche discussed her involvement with AusIMM and asked if there were any **ideas for collaboration between the Coal and Energy Division and AusIMM.** Dr. Mahonty suggested collaboration in the technical sessions. Mr. Trevits mentioned the Queensland Safety and Health Conference has requested that we invite one (or more) of their award winners to our conferences and that they would reciprocate. The Innovation Award winner from that conference will be announced at the SME Banquet. Dr. Brune mentioned that John Hayden should be involved in these efforts.

• **Steve Tadolini was recognized for donating his ground control award this year to the scholarship fund in the amount of $5,000.**

• **John Marsden, 2015 SME President, visited the meeting and discussed changes to the industry; soft commodity pricing as well as permitting and regulatory issues.** He also addressed health of the society: SME membership is relatively flat and publication sales are dropping. These are indicators of the challenges faced by the industry. SME has an operating surplus this year, has finished paying off debt, and remains healthy. This year marked a successful congressional fellowship, and onemine.org continues to grow (CIM has joined). The education sustainability program is moving forward and will involve funding up to 12 PhD Fellowships and CAREER development grants for new faculty. He also acknowledged the huge contribution that SME, including the Coal and Energy Division, make to scholarships.

• **Steve Gardner, 2015 President Elect, also addressed the group.** He intends to continue ongoing initiatives, including education sustainability, raising the stature of health and safety within SME, and mining and sustainability. He acknowledged two concerns from the membership: public perceptions of mining and perceived disconnects between SME
and the local SME sections. He has appointed an ad hoc committee to examine local section relationships. He aims to also engage other mining groups toward a unified strategy in improving public perception. Finally, global outreach remains important. There was some discussion with Dave Kanagy, SME Executive Director, about local section outreach. Also, there was a discussion with Mr. Kanagy, Mr. Gardner, and Mr. Marsden about the Health and Safety Committee.

- **Dr. Bandopadhyay moved that $2,500 be contributed the foundation with the following distribution: $500 to MEC, $1,000 to PE, and $1,000 to ABET. Motion carried.**

- Discussion of a contribution to the PhD/Faculty development fund is tabled to the mid-year meeting when more details are available.

- **Dr. Bandopadhyay moved that $10,000 be contributed to establish an endowed scholarship fund in memory of Dr. Chris Bise. Motion carried.**

- Next, the coal room refurbishment at the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum was discussed. They are asking for $5,300. Dr. Brune offered to collaborate with them in upgrading the display and contributing educational content. Steve Tadolini motioned that **$5,300 be donated to the effort. Motion carried.**

### E. Agenda for Next Meeting

- Discussion of a contribution to the PhD/Faculty development fund is tabled to the mid-year meeting.

- Follow up on the creation of the Dr. Chris Bise Scholarship Fund.

### Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am by Nikky LaBranche. The next general meeting will be on September 10, 2015 in Lexington, Kentucky.

Minutes submitted by: Kray Luxbacher

Approved by: Nikky LaBranche
Attendees:

Kray Luxbacher Virginia Tech
Mike Myers Baldo Electric
Robert P Kudlawiec EarthTech Inc.
Susan B Bealco GMS Mine Repair
Jurgen Brune Colorado School of Mines
Steve Tadolini Orica - Ground Support
Vaibhav Raj University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Rich Wagner Corsa Coal Corp
Matt Furniss Corsa Coal Corp
Tom Gray Tetra Tech
George Luxbacher -
Manoj Mohanty SIU, Carbondale
Tathagata Ghosh UAF, Alaska
Paul Conrad Montana Tech
        Xtraction Science and Technology
Michael Trevits Technology
Gary Buchan URS/RCS Contractor - NIOSH
Joe Zelanko Rosebud Mining Coo
Y P Chugh SIU, Carbondale
Vladislav Kecojec Wvu
Dragon Bogunov North American Coal Company
J D Wientjes Komatsu America Corp
Charles Beasley Drummond Coal/Perry Supply
Royce J Watts WVU
Dan Alexander University of Pittsburgh
Anthony Iannacchione University of Pittsburgh
Sukumar Bandopadhyay University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Tom Novak University of Kentucky
Jacob Carr NIOSH
Barb Arnold Prep Tech
Nikky LaBranche -
Heather Gravning SME staff