March 2001

ASEE/SEFI COLLOQUIUM

As mentioned in earlier ASEE Actions, ASEE will hold an international colloquium jointly with the European Association for Engineering Education (SEFI) and with Berlin Technical University in Berlin this fall. This meeting will focus on three major topics: entrepreneurship, national accreditation and global practices, and technology in learning systems. The dates for the meeting are September 15-18, 2001. Prospective presenters are invited to submit an abstract on one of three topics either by email to m.dingman@asee.org or fax to 202-265-8504.

APOLOGY

Plans for this meeting have been underway for the better part of a year, and the Colloquium has been discussed with the ASEE Board of Directors at the last three Board meetings. It has recently been brought to our attention, however, that the final day of the meeting coincides with the Jewish holiday, Rosh Hashanah. We apologize for this scheduling conflict. It was a mistake, and one that occurred simply because no one took a close reading of the calendar before substantial financial commitments were made. For our members who may be concerned about this conflict, we apologize and express regret for any distress or inconvenience. We will make every effort to ensure that this type of conflict does not occur in the future.

ASEE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS AT CIEC

The ASEE Board of Directors met on February 3, 2001, following the ASEE Conference for Industry and Education Collaboration, in San Diego. The Board adopted a number of motions, but the following may be of particular interest:

Outside Banking Accounts: The Finance Committee and the Board of Directors followed the recommendation of ASEE's Auditors who recommended an additional step be taken to ensure protection of the Society and volunteers. The Board approved requiring that the ASEE Executive Director be an authorized signatory on all banking and related financial accounts established by any ASEE unit that utilizes ASEE's tax identification number.

Institutional Dues. The Finance Committee and the Board of Directors approved raising academic and non academic institutional dues to $1,000 effective September 1, 2001. A combined fee of $1,800 would be applied to institutions with both engineering and engineering technology programs. This is the first time institutional dues have been increased since 1988.

Withdrawal from AAES. The Finance Committee and the Board of Directors approved withdrawing from membership in the American Association of Engineering Societies effective immediately. The basis for ASEE's withdrawal was a series of changes in the voting structure of AAES's units that appears to marginalize ASEE's representation in those units.

Approval of ASEE's Audited Statement. The Finance Committee and the Board of Directors received and approved ASEE's Audited Financial Statement.

MARCH PRISM HAS BALLOT

The March issue of Prism Magazine should hit your mail box in the next couple of weeks. Enclosed you will find your ballot for the ASEE 2001 national elections. Frank Huband, ASEE Executive Director, in his March editorial in the magazine, reminds us that, "This ballot and this election represents the opportunity for ASEE members to have a say in the future of their
organization....If you have a vision or an opinion on where ASEE should be going, this ASEE election is your opportunity to express it." He urges you to not only vote, but to carefully read the ballot which has the most up-to-date information about the candidates. Also, please remember that you must sign the ballot envelope and put your membership number (can be found on your Prism mailing label) in the return address corner. It is always sad to receive carefully filled out ballots that cannot be counted because members have failed to sign their ballots. Ballots must be returned to headquarters by March 31, 2001.

NSF/SRC INTERNSHIP

The NSF/SRC Engineering Research Center for Environmentally Benign Semiconductor Manufacturing is offering summer research internships for undergraduates who want to participate in research in semiconductor manufacturing. The program will place undergraduate engineering and science students in research labs at the University of Arizona, University of California (Berkeley), Stanford University, MIT, Arizona State University and Cornell University for 10 weeks from June 4 to August 10, 2001. Students will participate in research progress teleconferences with industrial mentors and receive feedback on their research progress. A student stipend, housing and travel costs will be paid. Applications are due March 15, 2001. For more information (including application forms), see: http://www.erc.arizona.edu/education/reu/reu.html or email Sally Clement at sclement@erc.arizona.edu.

PITTSBURGH/AUSTRALIA COURSE OFFERING

The University of Pittsburgh, is offering a 12 credit Certificate Program in "Energy Today - Energy Tomorrow" for undergraduate engineering students in conjunction with the University of New South Wales. Engineering students will explore current U.S. energy technologies for four weeks (May 7 to June 8) at the University of Pittsburgh campus, then travel to New South Wales, Australia for six weeks (June 14 to July 30) to explore energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. Field trips are a large part of the latter portion of the program--the areas of Darwin, Cairns, the Great Barrier Reef, Sydney and the true outback, Central Australia, will be visited. Applications for Summer 2001 are accepted on a rolling admissions basis until March 30, 2001. For more information see: http://www.pitt.edu/~stdyabrd/engineers/programs.htm or contact Larry Shuman, at E-mail shuman@pitt.edu.

Editor's caveat emptor. I occasionally include items, not specifically related to ASEE, that I think may be of interest to members or their students. The last two items above are examples of this. In response to a recent inquiry, please know that inclusion in ASEE Action does not constitute endorsement by ASEE.

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