

PEER PSA Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2000

Submitted by Charles H. Hamilton

This meeting was held at Student Day 2000 at the PEER Year 3 Site Review. The attendees consisted of the SLC and approximately 60 members of the PEER Student community.

The primary purpose was obtain feedback from the students at large as to their perception of how well the SLC/PSA was working, what the SLC could do for PEER students as a group, and general feedback on PEER.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Various methods for encouraging students to be more active in the PSA/SLC were discussed. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- Link the PSA more closely with existing student groups, especially EERI, so that students don't feel many **different** time pressures, but can focus on a few activities of related nature that interest them
- Talk to PEER about funding EERI membership dues to encourage this closer association
 - Fund only for campus SLC Representative and Alternate Representative
 - Fund for both core and affiliate schools
- Offer supplemental funding (for research) or other compensation to students who are active in the PSA/SLC
- Provide local activities for PEER student researchers and other PEER-related students (e.g. EESC participants)
- Offer additional funding for PEER Mission-oriented seminar series' at PEER campuses

STUDENT DAY FEEDBACK

Student Day was hailed as a great success by all who participated. Weaknesses were in the presentations on the five thrust areas, which began late due to late arrival of students, and were thus shortened substantially. It was suggested that future sessions be run on time, regardless of the number of attendees.

Students asked for better advance notice of the requirements for the poster session and for a schedule of when posters would be displayed. It was also suggested that a students-only conference be hosted, at which students could present their findings in conference-style talks. Debate ensued regarding duration, ensuring sufficient time for all to participate, and whether or not to include non-PEER research which is related to PEER research goals. The SLC took these suggestions under advisement and planned to discuss them with the Education and Executive Committees.

OUTREACH & NEWSLETTER

Comments from students suggested that they would be interested in receiving copies of the quarterly PEER Newsletter. Efforts will be made to encourage PEER to distribute the Newsletter to all registered PEER students, as well as to all PEER campuses, with the suggestion that the

Newsletter be posted in the relevant academic departments (e.g. civil and environmental engineering, geophysics, public policy).

MENTORING

Students liked the idea of the mentoring program, and were interested in participating as mentors. A list was passed around for new mentors to sign up. This list will be used to update the web page in the upcoming term.

University Consortium for Instructional Shake Tables (UCIST)

It was suggested that the mini-shaketable experiments include streaming video over the network, so that students from other campuses could participate, and even direct, these experiments. Discussion concluded that while this was an admirable goal, it was premature at this time for the SLC to pursue the idea. It will be addressed to the Education Committee for consideration.

NEXT MEETING: August SLC retreat. Suggested venue: Monterey, CA

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED: Review of bylaws and standing policies, planning for upcoming academic year activities. Students who will be leaving in the Fall semester should bring their replacements with them. SLC reps should consider what positions they would like to hold.