



WESST Administrative Council Meeting

Date: Thursday, Sept. 3rd, 2009

Time: 8:00 pm Pacific

Location: Skype

Attendees: Shahrzad Pedram, John McDonald (U of C), Jordan Stosky, Madeleine Schaefer (UBC), Andrew Taylor (U of S)

Meeting Start: Pacific

Items on Agenda:	Action Items:
<p><u>Hello and Welcomes</u> Madeleine Schaefer:UBC's address– Engineering Undergraduate Society 9:09 PM c/o Faculty of Applied Science, 5000–2332 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T1Z4</p>	
<p><u>Outstanding Member Updates</u> Shahrzad: 3 schools did not submit member updates. They're not here, so moving on</p>	



WESST Retreat Registration

Shahrzad: Opening Registration mid September, at the same time will send out delegate packages which will include bidding information for Retreat, WEC, and EM. Will also include executive information for those that want to run for 2010 WESST Exec positions. Keep an eye out for future Travel report copies as well. **October 5th registration closes. Past this date you can't change the number of delegates that are registered.** Did everyone see the email about the WESST Jet Discount? Straw Poll: How many are considering using it for WESST Retreat? 2 yes (U of C), (U of S).
John: We usually use West Jet for travel, so... why not?
Andrew: might use a seat sale if we come across it
Shahrzad: trade-off using seat sale vs discount. By all means if you get a seat sale, use it. Just wanted to see interest. Retreat is in **Vancouver (SFU)**, not Edmonton. We are going to **Camp Howdy, in Belcarra Park BC**. Only 15 minutes from SFU. Bus will take delegates to camp and back to SFU, have to provide own transportation to SFU from airport. Hour and a half tops from airport. Skytrain line will be open by then.
John: won't be too expensive?
Shahrzad: Nope, just regular transit fare. All of this information will be in the package.
Madeleine rejoining. Keeps getting disconnected



Outreach Video

-mailing addresses current? See below.

Shahrzad: How many people have seen last year's outreach video? 1 Y (U of C), 1 N (U of S). It was an initiative to get people out and informed about WESST. Just pictures to get people informed about WESST events; really informal. Can use for Frosh events, to go over conferences and go over what the conferences are like. I asked people at WESST retreat if they like the idea; only concern that the pictures were used. Brief nudity not ok for posting on website. Bit more toned down than last year's, also mentioned that I would be making a second version more formal showing a more professional side of WESST. Couldn't make more formal version this year because my laptop crashed and I lost a whole bunch of data. Wanted feedback, and by Friday night and I will make a final version and mail it out to each school on DVD. That's why I asked for addresses, so **please make sure each address is current and correct**. Totally up to you whether you want to use it or not. Probably will be sending a link when the meeting is over.

Madeleine back in again



<p><u>WESST / CFES Regional Agreement</u></p> <p>Shahrzad: was suggested by CFES, and is surprised that no formal agreement was adopted. Independent organizations, but we share member schools. The Québécois region was the first region to come up by an agreement (thought they were misrepresented/under-represented by CFES). So did Ontario, but neither were adopted. Thought that we should present this to WESST, as there have been some concerns as to the value of our CFES memberships (more content, the way the organization is set up, the money invested), schools thought it was not worth it. Great opportunity to create some guidelines to get some value out of our memberships. Will this be worthwhile to draft something like this to see it forgotten?</p> <p>Jordan: Seems like a mission statement of WESST for CFES</p> <p>Shahrzad: Do we really know? Is it a clear line between WESST and CFES?</p> <p>John: This document, is it something we're drafting to say this is what WESST is expecting out of the federation?</p> <p>Shahrzad: Yes, and anything we want it to be. For example, some thing the Québec schools wanted was attendance and events. (i.e. X number of schools attending, and X number of CFES representatives attending). Does that clarify?</p> <p>John: Will make a comment, they find that the only 2 things we get out of the federation – 1 the networking, seeing what they do best, learning from other mistakes and successes, and 2 – the Canadian Engineering Competition, if their member school qualifies. I know there's a lot of politics and discussions that take place that shouldn't, like the 1.5 hr discussion on a letter sent to the government. Clear difference in what CFES member schools want.</p> <p>Shahrzad: A lot of schools agree that CFES lack focus.</p> <p>Andrew: wanted to have a CFES representative in WESST, but we have one, Shahrzad. From what I can tell, is to have more representation from CFES in WESST. I don't think this is even something that we need to consider, because the point is moot, from what I got out of it.</p>	<p>Executive Concil: Draft Regional Agreement before PM</p>
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Shahrzad: Our region is more independent, as our member schools do our own thing, the regional group does it own thing, and the CFES does our own thing.

John: I would agree with Andrew, in that we want to draft anything up. There are issues between WESST and CFES, there doesnt need to be a document stating the differences

Jordan: Would want to see a document drafted, if only to protect the beneficial things out of Congress.

Madeleine: Agree with Jordan, would like to include what we want to see at Congress if something was drafted, to make sure that was there every year

John: Also, in addition to what I said earlier, without the Federation, WESST doesn't have any direct communications with Engineers Canada. In a world without CFES, we would have to do that ourselves. If in a document, we would like to say that we expect that the national executive to communicate with Engineers Canada on our behalf.

Shahrzad: I agree that we might add on the political mess that CFES has, it might come in useful down the line to put it in writing. What stops WESST from directly communicating with Engineers Canada? It's good that CFES deals with it on our behalf, but it's good to consider it down the line if we do not find future value with CFES and want to separate. It's not something that we would lose, but it would be more of a hassle with Engineers Canada to deal with 2 separate organizations. Would also like to see things we don't like about our membership that we would like changed/ added.

John: Agree with that, and it would be beneficial for the member schools to have a document like this. I keep hearing What is the Federation, what are they doing for us? A document we gave our delegates before Congress outlining what WESST is, what CFES is, and what we get out of it, we would have a better understanding on what Congress is. Another document probably would have helped out.

Stosky: Do we want to address this further at WESST Retreat with the entire administrative council?



Shahrzad: I pictured this done before WESST Retreat, but if not one of the sessions at there. CFES wants it done at PM (2 weeks before WESST Retreat), but if we want further discussion, we can delay that and discuss this at WESST Retreat. It will be more beneficial that way. Might do preliminary draft, or might start from scratch at WESST Retreat then present these ideas at congress.

Andrew: want to draft a document on how WESST interacts with CFES?

Jordan got disconnected for 10 seconds

Andrew: Seems fuzzy.

John: This is something we want to pursue to present at CFES?

Shahrzad: Correct, and based on these documents CFES wanted to create a mutual regional agreement. Not much detail on how this will work, but it might be something like they grab ideas out of each agreement vs each region voting for their own agreement. Once I find out more I'll keep you in the loop. At least if we have a document drafted, we can make our expectations clear on what we want out of our memberships with the CFES

Andrew: Will we be talking about this at PM, or will we be presenting about it?

Shahrzad: They want presentations, but we won't be able to unless we have another teleconference. If you feel like that's not accomplishable, then we can drag it out to Congress

Andrew: We can make a first draft on how we already interact with CFES. We don't want to be left out in the dark if other schools get benefits for "signing early" or anything like that.

John: Need the entire administrative council present for opinions for a draft. Either we need full skype attendance, or a session at WESST Retreat

Andrew: Won't all schools be represented at PM for WESST?

John: I guess we could do that too

Shahrzad: Based on what we see here, why don't we start an email thread with all participants?

John: It sounds like it could work. Sounds good to me.

Andrew: Sounds good to me



Shahrzad: To summarize what I got from you guys, memberships get a chance to connect with Engineers Canada (primary industry contact) and the National Council of Deans, member schools see value in CEC for delegates who get the opportunity, and the networking with the other schools is the other valuable aspect. Also, learning from other school's successes and mistakes.

What we don't value is the political stuff, "The Ottawa Declaration" - we don't deem that necessary with the direction the Federation is going. Anything else?

John: Just want to comment on Ottawa Declaration. Document itself was good, but the fact that it was discussed for 2 hours and a no-brainer type thing... There needs to be a lot more control over what happens in plenary. A lot of stupid stuff gets talked about and stuff gets pushed out of the way. National Conference of Women in Engineering should have WAY more discussion than 3 minutes because people were tired and it passed. There was confusion when it was called to question, and should have been more discussion before it was adopted as a CFES Project. That should have been talked about more than some document saying we value our education.

Shahrzad: So you say there needs to be more structure when we do decision making?

John: Yeah, when it's a no brainer. Your opinion matters, but when it's a no brainer, we don't really need to hear you speak.

Shahrzad:How do we clarify that in words that we need more structure?

Jordan: Just need to prioritize time commitment during plenary.

Shahrzad: Hard to do with unproportional representation. Seems to me like we're going back to square one

Lost connection again

Shahrzad: Totally agree with you on lack of structure, but it's a question on how we would address this issue. Any other comments or concerns?



John: I guess there's always the option for WESST schools to send proxy votes with schools that align with their views (e.g. U of C and U of A voted the same 95% of the time).

We could have proxied our vote with U of A and saved a couple of thousand dollars

Shahrzad: What if we addressed that we want an event strictly for networking purposes?

Something like EM, but with more member schools like Congress where there are more people present.

Andrew: Couldn't justify a pure networking conference for funding. Congress is sort of like that as only 1 person needs to sit in plenary.

John: I agree with Andrew in that Congress covers that in the sessions they hold without the week.

Shahrzad: Your feedback gave me a better idea with what you want to see with this agreement.

In the coming weeks I'll be sitting down with Morgan and Jordan. I'll probably email what we get done and get some feedback. Maybe have something done up before PM, either something we can vote on or just discuss among ourselves. We'll see how it goes, and we'll take this in whatever direction we can take it.

John: How long Kyle Ruttan has been President of the Federation?

Shahrzad: 2 years. Was President elect at Edmonton. Year before Edmonton the president dropped out halfway through the turn. The rest of the executive took over their roles, and was elected in 2008, and again in 2009.

Jordan: We need more WESST representation on CFES.

John: got D-Tran, national chancellor.



Shahrzad: On that note, talking with Will Fraser – the National Executive will do whatever they feel is most important based on the fact that they were elected. Need someone from WESST to give some shape or form in the shape that we wanted than pushing people to see CFES the way we wanted. It's all about power here; quite unfortunate. One of the ways we could get out of our membership is having someone from WESST representing. National Councillor cannot do too much. All they have is one vote on the board of directions. Same with the ambassador position; very little decision making power. Maybe the structure of CFES is of concern to some schools (which it is, based on what I've heard). I'm not sure if they would be elected, based on the fact that we're on a minority.

John: I like that to obtain control, you need to be elected based by the ruling majority. We're the little kid in the family.

Jordan: If someone from WESST ran for CFES, would they have western support?

Andrew: If there was confidence in the candidate for the job.

Madeleine: True with the confidence, but I don't see many people doing a shitty job for the position.

Shahrzad: If there is no other discussion, we can start wrapping up the meeting. Any other concerns, questions, comments?

Seeing as there is none...

Andrew: Lets go riders

Shahrzad: Seems as it's time to change our slogan to something more representative of the region. We will have a discussion on our slogan as well, we will bring it up after our discussion on the Regional Meeting

John: We will show up in Chaps and Cowboy Hats

Shahrzad: Do you still do the cowboy thing no more?

John: Yes, but we just give them away now. We'll definitely bring some Schulich Straw Hats, and I'm looking into getting some white ones.

Andrew: Anyone bringing swag to PM or WESST?

John: We are getting low on our stuff, so I'm not sure. Depends on if our communications guy orders more swag or not.



<p>Andrew: we're bringing lanyards, shot glasses, t-shirts, so bring stuff to trade John: My lanyard is awesome, people think I'm from Saskatchewan. Shahrzad: CFES is doing a swag trade shop of some sorts with all of the schools. Andrew: They'll just bring CFES swag Shahrzad:Some people will think it kind of lame. Personal note: who does patches? I want some for my Red. Shahrzad: Meeting's adjourned.</p>	
<p><u>Other updates / questions</u></p>	

Meeting Adjourned: 9:17 PM Pacific



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University of British Columbia

Engineering Undergraduate Society

9:09 PM

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