

**Minutes**  
**Eastern States Section of the Combustion Institute**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**Date: 31 August 2022**  
**Time: 11:30 AM ET**  
**Location: Zoom**

**Attendees:** Brandon Rotavera, Chloe Dedic, Jackie O'Connor (Program Chair), Mac Hass, Michael Burke, Michael Mueller (Vice Chair), Paul Papas (Chair), Richard West (Secretary), Sang Hee Won, Sili Deng, Steven Tuttle, Wenting Sun (Treasurer), Xinyu Zhao

**Apologies:** Perrine Pepiot (teaching class)

**Agenda:** Draft agenda, not followed precisely. See minutes for actual order

1. Posting technical programs from past ESSCI technical meetings on ESSCI website
2. 2021 USNM revenue split (update)
3. 2025 US National meeting hosting sites
4. Survey concerning negative connotations attached to the word "combustion"
5. Other (Webinar, ...)

**Minutes:**

1. Member survey
  - a. The Combustion Institute (CI) have issued a survey concerning negative connotations of combustion, and would like a response from each section.
  - b. Questions from the CI:
    - i. Have you had the experience that the term "combustion" has a negative annotation among students and colleagues?
    - ii. Would you expect that changing the name of the International Symposium on Combustion or The Combustion Institute would be helpful in attracting young scientists or increasing the chances of successful grant applications?
    - iii. What scientific content should be represented under the umbrella of The Combustion Institute in the future that had previously received too little or no consideration?
    - iv. What are your regional specificities in terms of dependence to combustion?
    - v. Would you be in favor of creating a new Colloquium on "Applications of Combustion Science"?
    - vi. We would like to get inputs from your younger members regarding above items
  - c. Discussion:
    - i. Second point suggests we have a problem attracting young scientists. Where is the data for that claim? J O'Connor says her class is full. B Rotavera says his enrollment is blooming. M Burke said his has doubled.
    - ii. There were some clear shifts in financial emphasis from government, eg. gas flame engines at Sandia, light duty engines at DOE, but we're over-reacting.
    - iii. We're evolving away from internal combustion engines, but that's a small part of combustion research. Electrification is leading to more combustion research anyway – fires of batteries and of hydrogen;

- iv. Changing names to pay lip-service to something we're not will just confuse people. A better word/phrase that maintain focus without overgeneralizing was not forthcoming; most other names don't actually describe combustion.
- v. Instead we should do a better job of promoting the sustainability aspects of what's happening in the field.
- vi. Could keep the name of the institute but broaden that of the symposium, eg. "International Symposium on Combustion and Energy Sciences". But would then need to recruit colloquium co-chairs who know the new topics (eg. catalysis, or electrochemistry, or whatever is added)
- d. **Action (all):** please send Paul Papas an email so he can capture all our thoughts in his letter.

## 2. Revenue

- a. A resolution was passed at the US board meeting in July (Vancouver) to split the revenue from the last (online) US meeting equally among the sections (Eastern, Western, Central). We think the amount is in the range \$55k total but still no precise number from the CI.
  - i. Update added to minutes after meeting: \$51,913.54 total giving each section \$17,304.51 was emailed to the board on September 8, 2022.
- b. Revenue from ESSCI meeting at Central Florida (March 2022) also still unknown.
- c. Frustration was expressed that we had to pay \$200 for the coffee at the ESSCI board meeting at Vancouver.

## 3. Site Selection

- a. 2024 ESSCI Spring Technical Meeting
  - i. University of Georgia (UGA) was selected to host the 2024 Spring ESSCI Technical Meeting
  - ii. 10-13 March 2024. Sunday through Wednesday. Turns out to not be UGA Spring Break, but not a problem; venue has been booked.
  - iii. Will include catered lunch, to avoid people being late for afternoon sessions.
  - iv. Jackie (programming chair) and Brandon (local chair) have already met
- b. Bids for 2025 US National Meeting
  - i. Several possible bid candidates were discussed:
  - ii. University of Virginia
    - 1. Chloe Dedic; Harsha (not interested in leading the bid). There's potentially a nice on-campus venue, if it's ready in time. Chloe will get back to the group in ~1 month to say if she'll put in a bid.
    - 2. Is there someone at Virginia Tech who can help? It's a lot of work for 1 person.
  - iii. Boston.
    - 1. Sergey Dorofeev at FM Global (interested in supporting); Richard West at Northeastern; Sili Deng at MIT; Paul Papas at RTRC.
    - 2. Question is the venue. Maybe a couple hotels. Westin, Marriot. Sili looked a bit more at MIT, venue may be feasible. Boston University's Photonics Center? <https://www.bu.edu/photonics/>.
  - iv. Worcester, MA?
    - 1. but the further you get from a major airport, the harder it is for the whole US.
  - v. North Carolina State

1. Sang Hee Won had conversation with Phil Westmoreland. They are excited about opportunity. We should tell them what's required for a bid. They will put one in. **Action: Paul Papas** will get in touch with Phil.
  - vi. We will collect finished bids before upcoming national meeting (March 2023). **Action: The Site Committee (Mac Haas)** will put together a template of things to address in a bid (where people stay, what venue etc.)
  - c. 2028 Symposium should be in North America.
    - i. Default would be to resurrect the New York bid. Unlikely board will go for it, but if they do, NY will be in the ESSCI. We can do it, but it's a lot of unpleasant work putting the bid together, so would want to know if it might be accepted before trying.
    - ii. Maybe Denver want to do it? Find out if there are others.
    - iii. Bids would need to be presented in Milan 2024.
4. Posting technical programs from past ESSCI technical meetings
  - a. CI office have no objections.
  - b. David Sharbaugh in CI office is helping collect archived PDFs
  - c. After that, **Paul Papas** will let us know if there are gaps.
  - d. Then send to **Richard West** to host on website.
5. Webinar
  - a. There is interest in continuing the combustion webinars
  - b. Wenting and Isaac are looking to spread the load and pass it on. It needs to have someone in charge of corralling people.
  - c. We suggest change the time (not Saturday morning).
  - d. Figure out how to structure it so grad students can run it. Ask grad students to apply; submit resume; etc. open to all sections. They could at least do the hosting.
  - e. Suggest **Wenting Sun** continue for Fall 2022, and **Brandon Rotavera** can help from Spring 2023.
6. Awards committee
  - a. Fennimore best student presentation has been chosen: Haripriya Rajagopalan from Georgia Tech (Advisor: Timothy C. Lieuwen) "NO<sub>x</sub> production from hydrogen-methane blends"
  - b. Markestein best paper award has been chosen: Justin Tavares, Elijah Levi, Vyaas Gururajan, Jagannath Jayachandran from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Argonne National Laboratory for "Radiation effects in hydrofluorocarbon/air flames: Analysis and modeling"
  - c. Awards Committee should email the winners (**Mike Burke**)
  - d. **Mike Burke** will let **Richard West** know when he should put it on the website.
  - e. Some ways to improve the process were discussed
    - i. request session chairs make nominations, in the session chair invitation
    - ii. could suggest 2 session chairs, but Mike Mueller pointed out that already everyone with a PhD was used as session chair
    - iii. personalized emails or printouts (better) given to each session chair, with the options already listed, and a form to complete
    - iv. could have it integrated in a conference app
    - v. nominations need to have comments to be helpful; set expectations for session chairs
    - vi. use specific questions and a standard deviation scale on the nomination forms
  - f. Glassman Award - start thinking about who is eligible? Plenty of time.