Report of the 2010-2011 President

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The Year in Review

In 2010, AIME made a shift in operations. It continued to lead multidisciplinary efforts, but with the challenging economy and reliance on market performance, the Board realized that this might not be the best mode going forward, at least for the near-term.

AIME did execute on the Society’s strategic plan initiatives as follows:

- Led development of and hosting for the Emerging Leaders Alliance training and online community of practice to support young leaders within its Member Societies, SME, TMS, AIST, and SPE, as well as its sister engineering Founder Societies, ASCE, ASME, AIChE, and IEEE. Many thanks to SPE London for hosting a trial international venue in Amsterdam. The team was also successful in receiving funding from the United Engineering Foundation for the 2010 and 2011 programs. For more information, see http://www.emergingleadersalliance.org/.

- Funded participation in the UN’s Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD)-18 meeting May 2010 in New York by delegates from our 2009 multi-disciplinary workshop entitled Engineering Solutions for Sustainability: Materials and Resources (ESS:M&R), designed at bringing technical expertise together with governmental and NGO partners to determine how best to address 21st century societal challenges in the areas of energy, recycling, transportation, housing, food and water, and health. Program committee participants also provided input to the Secretary General’s report at the CSD-19 in May 2011 designed to help shape policy in the mining, transportation, and waste management arenas. The workshop was co-sponsored by ASCE and AIChE (see http://www.aimehq.org/news.cfm for proceedings). Stemming from this effort are also a joint sustainability website hosted by AIChE where a workshop overview (http://efs.aiche.org/content/webcasts) and other sustainability efforts are housed. Learnings are also being published in book form by TMS.

- Partnered with its sister engineering Founder Society, AIChE, to develop a scorecard and share reports from a Carbon Management Gaps and Barriers Workshop that analyzed various technologies in the passenger vehicle and power generation arenas and a Greenhouse Gas Measurement Workshop. Additional information can be found on the groups’ joint website, http://www.aiche.org/FSCarbonMgmt/. The group was also successful in receiving funding from the United Engineering Foundation in 2011 for planning of a Carbon Management Technology Conference to be held February 7-9, 2012 in Orlando, FL (organized SPE). Details are at http://www.carbonmgmt.org/.

- Recognized outstanding achievement in technology, research, production, development, and administration through conferring major achievement awards.

- Granted just over $70,000 in scholarships to young engineers

- Represented the organizations at professional meetings and events via the AIME President, Trustees, and Executive Director

During the August 2010 annual meeting, the Board streamlined its mission and created a vision. Based on this, a subcommittee recommended that overhead should be more closely aligned with income so that AIME’s continued operations are not as dependent on
investment return. And, in years where there were robust earnings, this structure would allow for Member Society Direct distributions to be made to have their staffs help execute on AIME’s mission more efficiently. This was approved in November 2010, and AIME completed the transition to this mode by mid-2011. Former AIME cross-disciplinary foci related with these efforts have been assumed as follows:

- Energy and Environment via Carbon Management (SPE) and ESS:M&R (TMS)
- Education via Emerging Leaders Alliance (AIST)
- International alliances via AAES/WFEO/UPADI (SME)
- Awards and Scholarships (All Societies)

We are excited to have the Member Society expertise assisting AIME in executing in mission and look forward to partnering on other important collaborative opportunities going forward.

What a pleasure and privilege it has been to follow Past President, Ian Sadler of AIST, who started us on this path towards redefining our strategic focus and providing increased value to the Member Societies! Ian was also forward-looking enough to recognize that our young members needed leadership training. He advocated AIME leading the joint Society Emerging Leaders Alliance and actively supported it by presenting at the training sessions. I enjoyed witnessing the 2010 Denver event last November in person. The engineering community as a whole will benefit from its talented, young members having access to this program early in their careers.

It was also a special honor to be able to present AIME Honorary Membership to our Treasurer for the past two years, Barb Filas of SME. Barb has played a key role in making Ian’s vision a reality. She passes her Treasurer duties to Trustee, Randy Skagen of AIST.

A special thank you goes out to all of the Board members for their support and efforts during the year but especially to incoming President, Brajendra Mishra of TMS, who attended several functions for me during my term. It is with extreme excitement for the future of AIME that I turn over the helm to his very capable hands. Brajendra has been intimately involved in both the ESS:M&R and Carbon Management efforts mentioned above. And, given his professorship at Colorado School of Mines as well, I’m certain that sustainable energy, environment, and education will continue to be key emphases of AIME with his expertise and passion to lead them.

Finally, in the spirit of honoring the AIME legacy even as we streamline operations, staff uncovered a gem of a recognition program that we have decided to resurrect in honor of AIME’s 140th anniversary in 2011. At AIME annual meetings in the 1930s and prior, AIME Past Presidents were inducted into the Dead Mackerel Club, receiving a blue fish pin to don at future functions in recognition of their special role within the organization. AIME Interim Executive Director, Michele Lawrie-Munro, presented the last original pin on file to Ian Sadler at the 2010 annual meeting in Colorado Springs, CO. We decided to recreate this tradition and will be sending to each living AIME Past President a new pin and copy of the associated humorous induction script. Many thanks to this elite group that have given so willingly of their time and talent to further the AIME mission!