

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Vancouver, CA  
**Attendance:** SoLAR Members at AGM (approximately 175)  
**SoLAR Executive in attendance:** Dragan Gasevic; Stephanie Teasley; Xavier Ochoa; Alyssa Wise; Leah Macfadyen; Abelardo Pardo; Hendrik Draschler; Drew Paulin; Srecko Joksimovic; Caroline Haythornthwaite; Rebecca Ferguson; Vitomir Kovanovic; Sasha Poquet; Chris Brooks and Grace Lynch

**President called the meeting to order at 12.30 pm.**

**1. President's Welcome (Dragan Gasevic):**

- Again, another record breaking year with many conference attendees at their first LAK conference.

**2. Approval of Minutes from AGM 2016, 28 April 2016, Edinburgh, UK**

- Moved by Caroline Haythornthwaite and seconded by Xavier Ochoa. Minutes approved as circulated.

**3. President's report (Dragan Gasevic):**

*i. LAK17*

- Thank you to organising host of LAK17 Simon Fraser University, in particular Phil Winne, Alyssa Wise and Grace Lynch. Also the Programme Committee Inge Molenaar, Xavier Ochoa and Shane Dawson. Thank you to our Sponsors, Student helpers, Workshop Organisers, Reviewers and Authors.

*ii. Why SoLAR?*

- The primary purpose of SoLAR is to advance the field of learning analytics in the technical, pedagogical and social domains including developing doctoral students.
- The major events for SoLAR includes this annual conference and the learning analytics summer institutes (LASI). The first LASI was 2013 at Stanford, followed in 2014 at Harvard. 2015 LASIs were a distributed model with many local regions hosting their own events. 2016 saw a central event coming back at the University of Michigan in June, which will be repeated later this year in June 2017.
- SoLAR deepened our support for Doctoral students through the DC during LAK of \$12,000 CAD and the Erik Duval Student Scholarships (\$13,142) in honour of dear colleague.
- The SoLAR website was redeveloped with an online registration system created for LASI
- Handbook of Learning Analytics was created and published and I must thank Charles Lang and Alyssa Wise for their amazing efforts in managing this huge undertaking.
- Journal of Learning Analytics had three issues published, a significant increase in publication, signed service hosting agreement with UTS ePress, improved branding and service improvement. This was also the first year of change in the editorial team with retiring editors: Dragan Gasevic, Shane Dawson, Negin Mirriahi and Jelena Jovanovic. The new editors are: Alyssa Wise, Xavier Ochoa, Arnon Hershkovitz and Simon Knight

*iii. Statement of financial position*

For 2016 the closing balance was \$153,841 CAD. The major transactions include membership and conference revenue, GIC for credit card security, administrative expenses, Journal, student

scholarships, website and communications, professional and legal fees. It is important to keep a balance at approximately this level in case there is a major catastrophe which would necessitate cancelling the conference to enable the Society to continue to operate and not declare bankruptcy.

*iv. Membership*

SoLAR membership grew in 2017 to 340 members including 90 students. Members come from 29 countries, 140 different universities, 20 different companies and 15 Institutional Members. But we still need more of you to get involved in the Executive Committee. Our key goals are to broaden participation and amplification through connection. Benefits of individual membership include discounted registration fees, investment in the field, voting and governance, eligibility to participate in LASI's and student scholarships. Improved benefits for Institutional members saw two briefs produced and distributed and the first Institutional Member Briefing during LAK.

**4. 2017 Executive**

I am excited to announce the new incoming 2017 Executive and I would like to thank you all for making the last six years the most rewarding experience in my career, in fact it has changed my career. The whole field helped me to raise that understanding and learn to better communicate.

Office Bearers		Members at Large	Retiring Executive Members
President	Stephanie Teasley	Srecko Joksimovic	Caroline Haythornthwaite
Vice President	Abelardo Pardo	Drew Paulin	Philip Long
Vice President	Xavier Ochoa	Hendrik Draschler	Dragan Gasevic
Treasurer	Alyssa Wise	Rebecca Ferguson	
Secretary	Leah Macfadyen	Vitomir Kovanovic	
		Christopher Brooks	
		Sasha Poquet	

**5. Getting Involved**

Incoming President Stephanie Teasley

I am excited to be undertaking this opportunity and sorry to see our retiring Executive Members leave, but it is an opportunity for new growth and strength to emerge. I hope to encourage and support the field and individuals. All voices are welcomed and there are many opportunities to be involved with SoLAR and SoLAR events including special interest groups. Everyone is encouraged to offer suggestions and these will be formalised as they arise.

**Questions from the floor:**

1. How can we move beyond the ACM paywall for accessing to LAK papers?
  - We are working on that issue while at the same time ensuring that academics promotion opportunities are not disadvantaged. We have put all the papers on a Flash drive and every participant received one in the conference bag. We have made a commitment to ACM and while we need to continue to publishing through their website we are exploring what else can be done.
2. How can we are graduate students be more involved?
  - We have the scholarships for LASI as well as the DC and can create a SIG specifically for students. Robert Bodily volunteered to organise and chair this SIG
  - There is a SoLAR branded series of MOOCs that enable micro credentials and stacking

***The President officially called the meeting to a close at 1.56 pm.***