



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SOCIETY FOR LEARNING ANALYTICS RESEARCH

Date: March 7th, 2019 12.15 pm
Location: Tempe, AZ, USA
SoLAR Members attending: Approximately 300
SoLAR Executive attending: Stephanie Teasley, Abelardo Pardo, Oleksandra Poquet, Xavier Ochoa, Vitomir Kovanovic, Craig Thompson, Grace Lynch, Nicole Hoover, Simon Buckingham-Shum, Rebecca Ferguson, Yi-Shan Tsai, Shibani Antonette, Hiroaki Ogata, Maren Scheffel, Shenita Ray, Lean Macfadyen, Srecko Joksimovic, Hendrik Drachsler, Anouschka van Leeuwen (over zoom)

AGENDA

1 PRESIDENT WELCOME – PROFESSOR STEPHANIE TEASLEY

Professor Teasley opened AGM, welcoming everyone to ASU. Professor Teasley expressed gratitude to LAK’19 for hosting such a great conference which has a strong potential for improving learning.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: Approve AGM Minutes from 2018 moved by Leah Macfadyen and seconded by Maren Scheffel. **MOTION: PASSED***

3 PRESIDENT’S REPORT – PROFESSOR STEPHANIE TEASLEY

Professor Teasley thanked LAK’19 organizing team, sponsors, student volunteers, and program and other conference chairs.

3.1 SOLAR MEMBERSHIP

Professor Teasley provided information about current SoLAR membership. Currently, there are:

Individual Members	266	Faculty or Researchers	42%
Student Members	128	Senior Administrators	6%
Institutional	16	Countries	27

- Geographic representation of SoLAR members improved
- North America and Australia strongest in representation

3.2 JOURNAL OF LEARNING ANALYTICS (JLA)

Journal keeps going strong. JLA ranked 1st for citations at LAK conference (up from 2nd place last year). Calls for two special sections and regular issues announced. Members invited to get involved and contact JLA editorial team (Xavier Ochoa, Alyssa Wise, Simon Knight) and submit special section proposals.

3.3 OVERVIEW OF SOLAR FINANCIAL POSITION

Professor Teasley explained that SoLAR is a non-profit organization and presently financially sound. Summary from 2018 Financial Information presented:

- Revenue: 271,576
- Expenses: 288,975
- Balance from 2017: \$163, 235
- Total Available Funds: \$145,836 (+\$25,505 GIC)

Professor Teasley emphasized SoLAR’s strong commitment to supporting students:

- Eric Duval scholarship: \$62,000 provided to support 66 students

- Doctoral Consortium scholarships: \$84,000 provided to support 60 students
- Annual Doctoral Consortium support doubled from \$10,000 to \$20,000.
- Annual LASI student support increased from \$15,000 to \$25,000.

Professor Teasley described doctoral consortium and that travel, hotel, and registration costs are covered by SoLAR. A couple of examples of student impressions of the doctoral consortium were also showed.

3.4 REVIEW OF 2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Professor Teasley reflected on the key activities of SoLAR executive during 2018.

SoLAR by-laws improved. Pending approval by SoLAR members

LAK planning. Formalized planning of LAK two year in advance. LAK'22 announced in Japan.

In-cooperation status. Improved and simplified process of providing “in-cooperation” status for Learning Analytics events. In-cooperation status granted to five global events

Voting on SoLAR by-laws amendments. The summary of changes showed on the screen. Professor Teasley briefly described the key changes. The link for voting in SoLAR member email also mentioned.

*Motion: Approve SoLAR by-laws changes moved by Stephanie Teasley, seconded by Abelardo Pardo. **MOTION PASSED.***

Inclusion and diversity initiatives introduced. New SoLAR executive member Shenita Ray added, chairing diversity and inclusivity portfolio. Activities include:

- Survey about diversity and inclusivity perceptions
- Travel scholarship
- Speed mentoring

Educational chair and committee created. The committee is chaired by Hendrik Drachler, and other members are Yianna Vovides, Ioana Jivet, Dan Davis, and Geraldine Gray. Main tasks:

- Provision of in-cooperation status
- Support for the 2nd handbook of Learning Analytics
- Development of LA curriculum

Alliance membership. SoLAR joined the International Alliance to Advance Learning in the Digital Era (IAALDE). Professor Teasley introduced the alliance, its goals and the list of current members. The key obligations to alliance are the provision of financial support for each Alliance best paper to travel to one of the remaining conferences.

4 NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

4.1 RESULTS OF 2019 SoLAR EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS.

New and re-elected members of the SoLAR executive board are:

- Dr. Vitomir Kovanovic, University of South Australia, Australia (Re-elected)
- Dr. Yi-Shan Tsai, The University of Edinburgh, UK
- Ms. Shibani Antonette, University of Technology Sydney, Australia
- Dr. Maren Scheffel, The Open University of the Netherlands, The Netherlands
- Mr. Craig Thompson, University of British Columbia, Canada

Outgoing members of the SoLAR executive board are:

- Professor Stephani Teasley, University of Michigan, USA

- Professor Hendrik Drachsler, DIPF Leibniz Institute for Research and Information in Education & University of Frankfurt, Germany
- Assistant Professor Chris Brooks, University of Michigan, USA
- Dr. Srecko Joksimovic, The University of South Australia
- Dr. Leah Macfadyen, University of British Columbia, Canada

4.2 2019 OFFICE BEARERS ELECTIONS

Professor Teasley warmly thanked everyone for making the last six years the most rewarding experience in her career. Professor Teasley announced new office bearers.

2019 Office Bearers are:

- **President:** Professor Abelardo Pardo, University of South Australia, Australia
- **Vice-president:** Assistant Professor Xavier Ochoa, New York University, USA
- **Vice-president:** Dr. Oleksandra Poquet, National University Singapore, Singapore
- **Secretary:** Dr. Vitomir Kovanovic, University of South Australia, Australia
- **Treasurer:** Mr. Craig Thompson, University of British Columbia, Canada

2019 Members at Large are:

- Professor Simon Buckingham-Shum, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia
- Professor Hiroaki Ogata, Kyoto University, Japan
- Dr. Rebecca Ferguson, Open University, UK
- Dr. Yi-Shan Tsai, The University of Edinburgh, UK
- Dr. Maren Scheffel, The Open University of the Netherlands, The Netherlands
- Dr. Anouschka van Leeuwen, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
- Dr. Shenita Ray, Georgetown University, USA
- Ms. Shibani Antonette, University of Technology Sydney, Australia (student member)

New president of SoLAR, Professor Abelardo Pardo assumed Chair.

5 NEW PRESIDENT SPEECH – PROFESSOR ABELARDO PARDO

Professor Pardo thanked the outgoing SoLAR executive members: Chris Brooks, Srecko Joksimovic, Leah Macfadyen, Hendrik Drachsler and finally, outgoing president of SoLAR, Professor Stephanie Teasley. Professor Pardo announced that Simon Buckingham Shum will be the new Chair of the Education Working Group.

5.1 KEY INITIATIVES FOR 2019

Professor Pardo announced a list of activities for the next year:

1. Widen participation in the field
 - a. Promote the role of the diversity chair
 - b. Increase the role of SIGs
 - c. Improve presence in the K-12 space
2. Improve SoLAR's communication
 - a. Redeveloping the website underway
 - b. Establish bi-directional communication with SoLAR members
 - c. Develop new communication channels
3. Support for the new generation of practitioners
 - a. Widening training opportunities for students
 - b. Exchange of member expertise



Professor Pardo also described ways of getting involved in SoLAR:

- **Join/establish SIGs.** Contact Shibani Antonette who is SIG coordinators. Currently, SoLAR has two SIGs:
 - LACE SIG (in Europe) and
 - Student SIG
- **Website and communication group.** There are many new things in this area, talk to Vitomir Kovanovic, communication group chair on how to get involved
- **Membership group.** Talk to Oleksandra Poquet, membership workgroup chair on how to get involved
- **Join SoLAR executive board.** Next elections will be in January 2020
- **Start/join an event.** Talk to Xavier Ochoa for the different ways to get involved

LASI'19 announced in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Dr Leah Macfadyen from UBC will be a general chair for LASI'19 joined by co-host Professor Phil Winne from SFU.

6 LAK'20 ANNOUNCED

Professor Hendrik Drachsler announced LAK'20 in Frankfurt, Germany. LAK'20 will be hosted by Frankfurt University but with a broader European effort and will be the tenth LAK.

Organising Committee	Programme Committee
Hendrik Drachsler, DIPF Leibniz Institute for Research and Information in Education & University of Frankfurt	Katrien Verbert, KU Leuven
Christoph Rensing, Technical University of Darmstadt	Maren Scheffel, The Open University of the Netherlands
Nina Seidenberg, University of Frankfurt	Vitomir Kovanovic, University of South Australia,
Nicole Hoover, Society for Learning Analytics Research	Niels Pinkwart, Humboldt University of Berlin,
Grace Lynch, Society for Learning Analytics Research	

The program chairs for LAK'20 spent a whole week discussing a theme for LAK'20. The theme for LAK'20 will be **“Celebrating 10 years of LAK: Shaping the direction of the field”**.

7 OPEN DISCUSSION

- 1) Question: After this many years, SoLAR's position on practitioners is not clear; there is a mixed message signaled to practitioners whether they are accepted at LAK and SoLAR more broadly. A firm position from SoLAR on practitioners is needed.

Response: We have a practitioner's track and ways of engaging practitioners, but are developing a few new ideas on how to improve its relationship with practitioners, and that is something we will be working on to improve over the next year.

- 2) Question: SoLAR's membership is expiring in December, and then elections are held in January and conference in March/April. As such, it often happens that members forget to renew their membership and get left out of all election and governance activities.

Response: This is true, an excellent suggestion to see if we can improve somehow in this regard. For now, the only thing we can say is to be careful to renew your membership on time.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 1.00 pm