

Society Special Board Meeting Report

At the virtual Special meeting of the Board of Directors on March 31, 2022, the following decisions and reports were made:

Report from the Audit and Finance Committee 2021 Draft Audited Finance Statements

The Treasurer, N. Burgwin, reviewed this item noting that the audited financial statements and Audit Report had been included in the board package. The documents were reviewed by the Audit and Finance Committee with the auditors, BDO Canada LLP and the senior management team earlier this week. The Audit and Finance Committee also had a double in-camera session with the auditor. He noted that it was a clean audit which ran well and according to plan. The Audit and Finance Committee recommends that the Board approve the draft audited financial statements as presented.

Auditors for 2022

The Treasurer noted that staff circulated a request for proposals to seven firms at the end of November 2021, and that four responses were received by the January 28, 2022, deadline. The proposal process was outlined in the meeting materials. He noted that following an analysis of the responses, staff recommended moving forward with BDO Canada LLP, and the committee agreed. The Audit and Finance Committee recommends that the Board approve the appointment of BDO Canada LLP for 2022, for ratification by the membership at the AGM.

2022 Awards: Approval Ontario Professional Engineers Awards (OPEA)

J. James noted that the OSPE Awards Committee (OAC) was motivated to seek out nominators and were diligent in their evaluation. They are pleased to present a nominee for every category using the original rules and deadline. M. Frayne noted that he was surprised by the number of academic winners, and lack of industry. B. Shukla noted that of the 29 nominations received, 15 were academic, with 8 in the Research and Development category, and 14 from industry. J. James noted that historically it is common for academia to be a significant portion of the nominations and awardees. The current structure of the nomination process is very long and tedious. The OAC is currently reviewing the process for the future to be more streamlined.

S. Tessier noted that only one winner was an OSPE member and asked what efforts are underway to get more winners to be members. J. James noted that the OAC has started this discussion and had ideas such as giving membership or discounting membership for winners. R. Aimey was impressed with the slate of nominees and the overall connection with current societal topics. She noted that this was a golden opportunity to align the awards and OSPE as important and relevant. She questioned whether a radiological letter had been obtained regarding the Project of The Year to verify that the waste site was nuclear free. J. James noted that follow up regarding the project was not completed, the evaluators only judged what was included in the package. He added that the current process focused heavily on lifetime achievement; however, there is a desire to focus more on the impact on industry in the past year to 18 months

R. Aimey asked how many nominations were received for the Young Engineer category and B. Shukla noted that there were three candidates. S. Perruzza added that the amount of academia is often a criticism of the awards and noted that institutions can use award winners in order to apply for funding. He believes that the culture of the awards can change over time to be able to promote the profession.

B. Shukla noted that the Entrepreneurship and Management categories did not receive any nominations; however, the committee was able to move submissions from other categories. Regarding updating the criteria, he encouraged the OAC to identify the problem they are trying to solve before making changes. M. Frayne suggested evaluating based on the outcome of the impact to public safety instead of individual accomplishments. J. James concluded that the OAC will be presenting recommendations for updating the process at the June Board Meeting.

President's Award

J. James noted that the OSPE Awards Committee (OAC) discussed whether to award the President's Award or to not have a winner for 2022 following the withdrawal of the previous recommendation. The committee agreed that the award was of value, and that Darya was evaluated highly; therefore, the OAC is recommending Darya Duma, P.Eng., for the 2022 President's Award. Discussion ensued.