

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SOCIETY FOR LEARNING ANALYTICS RESEARCH

**Date:** April 15, 2021, 5.00 pm New York Time  
**Location:** ZOOM  
**SoLAR Members attending:** 92  
**SoLAR Executive attending:** Abelardo Pardo, Oleksandra Poquet, Vitomir Kovanovic, Yi-Shan Tsai, Craig Thompson, Maren Scheffel, Simon Buckingham-Shum, , Shibani Antonette, Anouschka van Leeuwen, Isabel Hilliger, Rogers Kaliisa, Bart Rientes, Roger Azevedo, Ioana Jivet, Nia Dowell and Grace Lynch

### AGENDA

#### 1 PRESIDENT WELCOME – PROFESSOR ABELARDO PARDO

Professor Pardo opened AGM, welcoming everyone to the second virtual AGM meeting due to the COVID-19 crisis. Professor Pardo expressed gratitude to everyone for attending.

#### 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: Approve AGM Minutes from 2020 moved by Abelardo Pardo and seconded by Nia Dowell. MOTION: PASSED*

#### 3 PRESIDENT’S REPORT – PROFESSOR ABELARDO PARDO

Professor Pardo started with thank you to the hosts and organizing committee for LAK21 and then proceeded to details for the Annual Report for 2020. Despite all the challenges faced with COVID-19 it has been a good year for the Society. Highlights from 2020 to be expanded during the reports from the different areas included:

2020 Google Scholar Rankings, top 10	JLA new open access host and web design
Applied for CORE Ranking for LAK	Working group involvement increased
Managed financial impact from COVID-19	Handbook of Learning Analytics translated in Korean, Chinese
Increased communication avenues	Strong membership in all categories
All LAK proceedings will be open access from now on	New position paper developed and circulated

#### 3.1 SOLAR MEMBERSHIP

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

Individual Members	328	Newsletter	Over 4,500
Student Members	133	Institutional	18

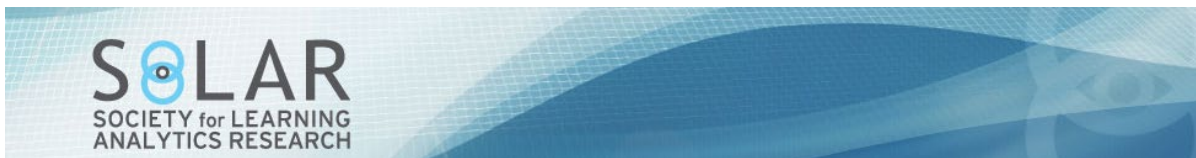
- Geographic representation of SoLAR members increasing with 41 countries represented
- North America, Australia and Europe strongest in representation

#### 3.2 OVERVIEW OF SOLAR FINANCIAL POSITION

Professor Pardo referred to the financial report that had been previously circulated to members. Summary from 2020 Financial Information presented as of 31 December 2020 in CAD:

- Net assets overall: \$270,529
  - Revenue: \$280,255
  - Expenses: \$201,288
  - Net result 2020: \$78,967

The Society significantly reduced expenditures to offset the reduction in revenue due to COVID-19. Thank you to particularly Grace Lynch and the LAK20 team for this better-than-expected result by continuing to work to reduce expenses with vendors, travel claims, as well as generosity of members



declining LAK20 refunds as outlined in the LAK budget overview. This positive net result has been used to offset the project deficit of 2021 of \$50,350. The Society will use cash reserves to ensure critical operational expenses including the Journal and Scholarships will be maintained in 2021.

Professor Pardo emphasized SoLAR's strong commitment to supporting students:

- Eric Duval scholarship: \$85,000 USD provided to support 97 students to date
- Doctoral Consortium scholarships: \$93,000 provided to support 71 students
- LAK conference scholarships: increased from 4 in 2020 to 33 provided in 2021

***Motion:*** To accept the 2020 Financial Report as circulated and presented moved by Abelardo Pardo and seconded by Craig Thompson. **MOTION: PASSED**

Summary of activities from the Working Group included:

#### 4 WORKING GROUPS

- The Journal indexed Clarivate Web of Science and Elsevier Scopus, calls for new Editors in Chief open till 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021
- Inclusion group has implemented number of initiatives aimed to promote, elevate and foster an open inclusive environment including open access LAK proceedings, resource depository and have recruited new members
- Education coordinated new position paper, launched Nexus Blog, approved new programs for in cooperation status
- Membership introduced SoLAR Student Membership Bursary program with 3 successful candidates, future focus on early and mid-career researcher development, senior leadership meet-ups and/or workshops
- Events updated and streamlined event guidelines, two LASI locals were approved – LASI Spain and LALA Conference, hosting a panel during LASI21 on LASI locals.
- Special Interest Groups expanded working group members and now 7 SIGs, new operating and reporting guidelines were introduced.
- Communication expanded working group and produced 11 podcasts, 9 webinars, 8 Nexus blog posts and bi-monthly newsletters
- Website continued redevelopment with LAK conference websites now incorporated into main SoLAR website, improved membership portal and enhancing social media presence
- IAALDE continuing with best paper exchange between societies and joint writing of papers on role of technology in education

#### 4.1 EXECUTIVE TEAM 2021

Professor Pardo thanked everyone for support over the past two years as President and handed over to Professor Maren Scheffel as President. Professor Scheffel thanked Abelardo for his many years of service and introduced the 2021 Office Bearers:

- **President:** Maren Scheffel, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany
- **Vice President:** Yi-Shan Tsai, Monash University, Australia
- **Vice-president:** Simon Buckingham Shum, University of Technology Sydney, Australia
- **Secretary:** Ioan Jivet, TU Delft, The Netherlands
- **Treasurer:** Isabel Hilliger, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Chile

2021 Members at Large are:

- Anouschka van Leeuwen, Utrecht University
- Bodong Chen, University of Minnesota

- Nia Dowell, University of California, Irvine
- Shibani Antonette, University of Technology Sydney
- Roger Azevedo, University of Central Florida
- Bart Rienties, Open University UK
- Rogers Kaliisa, University of Oslo

Maren announced the new Chairs of all the Working Groups and highlighted with thanks all the community members who have been assisting across the various groups. Professor Scheffel presented Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition for Excellence in Service to Retiring Members – Vitomir Kovanovic, Sasha Poquet, Craig Thompson and Abelardo Pardo.

## 5 STRATEGIC PLAN

Professor Scheffel reminded members of the 4 goals of the current Strategic Plan and presented achievements across the goals.

- Increase the diversity and inclusivity of the SoLAR Community
- Expand impact and increase understanding of learning analytics
- Communicate the value of membership to all members
- Increase overall engagement with the SoLAR Community

The 2021 Executive will be working over the next few months to prepare the Strategic plan for the next two years. Reminder that nominations for the Executive open in November 2021.

## 6 LAK22 AND LASI21

Let's try again for face to face LAK22 in Newport Beach California – 19 to 23 March 2022, please note the preconference workshops will take place Saturday and Sunday with the main conference – Monday through to Wednesday. The organizing team is carefully monitoring the COVID-19 situation. The theme is “**Learning Analytics for Transition, Disruption and Social Change**”.

LASI21 is fully virtual from 21-25 June 2021 with 10 workshops and 9 tutorials to choose from beginner to intermediate levels.

## 7 OPEN DISCUSSION

Dragan Gasevic opened discussion on an issue initiated by Chris Brooks who was unable to attend the meeting. There was discussion on why a motion was needed which is an acknowledgement of the commitment and accountability on progressing and reporting on this issue. After discussion on the issue a Motion was brought to a vote:

**Motion:** *Be it resolved that the Society for Learning Analytics Research (SoLAR) recognizes the importance of open, accessible, reproducible, repeatable, and replicable data and analyses approaches. SoLAR also recognizes a diversity of epistemological, ethical, and legal challenges and opportunities which such approaches face. SoLAR will develop a statement that will inform and guide research and practice associated with these approaches. Moved by Dragan Gasevic, Seconded by George Siemens. **Approved***

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 6.05 pm**