



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SOCIETY FOR LEARNING ANALYTICS RESEARCH

Date: March 24, 2022, 5.00 pm New York Time
Location: ZOOM
SoLAR Members attending: 83
SoLAR Executive attending: Maren Scheffel, Yi-Shan Tsai, Simon Buckingham-Shum, Isabel Hilliger, Shibani Antonette, Anouschka van Leeuwen, Blazenka Divjak, Rogers Kaliisa, Bart Rientes, Roger Azevedo, Ioana Jivet, Nia Dowell, Paul Prinsloo and Grace Lynch

AGENDA

1 PRESIDENT WELCOME – PROFESSOR MAREN SCHEFFEL

Professor Scheffel opened AGM, welcoming everyone to the third virtual AGM meeting due to the COVID-19 crisis and outlined the what to expect from the meeting today.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: Approve AGM Minutes from 2021 moved by Maren Scheffel and seconded by Ioana Jivet. **MOTION: PASSED***

3 PRESIDENT’S REPORT – PROFESSOR MAREN SCHEFFEL

Professor Scheffel started with thank you to the hosts and organizing committee for LAK22, the SoLAR community, authors and reviewers and then proceeded to details for the Annual Report for 2021. Highlights from 2021 to be expanded during the reports from the different areas included:

2021 Google Scholar Rankings, top 10 (tied)	New communication opportunities for Institutional Members
CORE Ranking A for LAK	Working group involvement increased
Managed financial impact from COVID-19	Strong membership in all categories
Increased communication avenues	Ad-hoc group on Open Science from AGM 21
LAK proceedings are open access	Strong achievement against goals in Strategic Plan

3.1 SOLAR MEMBERSHIP

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

Individual Members	368	Newsletter	Over 5,400
Student Members	199	Institutional	18

- Geographic representation of SoLAR members increasing with 42 countries represented
- North America, Europe and Australia strongest in representation and slowly increasing numbers in Africa/Middle East, and South- and Central America.

3.2 OVERVIEW OF SOLAR FINANCIAL POSITION

Professor Scheffel referred to the financial report that had been previously circulated to members. Summary from 2021 Financial Information presented as of 31 December 2021 in CAD:

- Net assets overall: \$269,476
 - Revenue: \$253,815
 - Expenses: \$217,366
 - Net result 2021: \$36,449

Due to previous years and managing the COVID-19 situation as best as possible, SoLAR has secured a strong financial position to sustain it over the coming years. The true impact from COVID will be felt for years. More detail will come in the next slides on the Restricted Liabilities which was a cancellation fee for LAK21 which was significantly reduced, thank you to Grace Lynch and the LAK22 team for managing



a difficult situation. The Society will use cash reserves to ensure critical operational expenses including the Journal and Scholarships will be maintained in 2022.

Professor Scheffel emphasized SoLAR's strong commitment to supporting students to date:

- Eric Duval scholarship: \$85,000 USD provided to support 97 students to date
- Doctoral Consortium scholarships: \$93,500 provided to support 78 students
- LAK conference scholarships: \$10,000 to support 90 recipients with 43 conference scholarships awarded for this year from India, Morocco, South Africa, Turkey, Poland, Pakistan, Honduras, Columbia, Brazil, Chile, China
- 7 DC student scholarships
- SoLAR membership scholarships: 3 recipients in addition to the 90 LAK conference scholarships

Motion:** To accept the 2021 Financial Report as circulated and presented moved by Maren Scheffel and seconded by Isabel Hilliger. **MOTION: PASSED

Summary of activities from the Working Group included:

4 WORKING GROUPS

- The Journal indexed in both Clarivate Web of Science and Elsevier Scopus, new Editors-in-Chief appointed in Nov21 and Mar22 with a third to join in Sept 22 deadline for applications 29 April 2022
- Inclusion group recruited number of new members, hosted a Panel at LAK21, presented a SoLAR Podcast, reviewed and awarded 43 conference scholarships for ECR to attend LAK22
- Education updated ethics requirements for In Cooperation status, launched PhD Thesis Hub in conjunction with Student SIG, collated 6 free OERs that will be released in April 2022
- Membership established Institutional Members Google Group, started workshop series for Institutional Members, increased number of student, individual and institutional members
- Events hosted a panel a LASI2021, approved in-cooperation status events for 6 different events with over 2100 participants
- Special Interest Groups expanded working group members and now 8 SIGs, new operating and reporting guidelines were introduced including annual reports for SIGs
- Communication expanded working group and produced 4 podcasts, 6 webinars, 16 Nexus blog posts and bi-monthly newsletters
- Website continued redevelopment with improved membership portal for better functionality
- IAALDE continuing with best paper exchange between societies and joint writing of papers on role of technology in education

4.1 EXECUTIVE TEAM 2022

Professor Scheffel introduced the 2022 Office Bearers:

- **President:** Maren Scheffel, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany
- **President-elect:** Bart Rienties, The Open University, UK
- **Vice President:** Yi-Shan Tsai, Monash University, Australia
- **Secretary:** Ioana Jivet, Goethe University Frankfurt/DIPF, Germany
- **Treasurer:** Isabel Hilliger, Pontificia Universidad Catholica de Chile, Chile

2022 Members at Large are:

- Anouschka van Leeuwen, Utrecht University
- 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
- Paul Prinsloo, University of Pretoria
- Blaženka Divjak, University of Zagreb

The Chairs of Working Groups were announced and all the community members were recognized and thanked for efforts on the various groups. Professor Scheffel presented Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition for Excellence in Service to Retiring Members – Bodong Chen and Simon Buckingham Shum.

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 2022

5.1 EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS GRANT

New annual grant of \$10,000 CAD, plus complimentary LAK and LASI registration to support promising early career researchers by enabling a research initiative around the 2022 theme of supporting inclusive learning with learning analytics. Applications now open with deadline of 2 May 2022.

5.2 2ND EDITION HANDBOOK OF LEARNING ANALYTICS

The second handbook has been released and the panel was just prior to this meeting. Thank you to all the editors for their hard work.

5.3 AWARDS COMMITTEE

It is 10 years since SoLAR was incorporated and it is time to establish a process, criteria and awards committee to give out awards on a more regular basis to recognize the work in LA for early, mid and senior career researchers.

5.4 LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD

A SoLAR Lifetime Member Award is a prestigious award that recognizes the significant service and/or sustained contribution of a member to the Society. Lifetime Member Awards are the highest recognition of achievement made by SoLAR. Lifetime members have complimentary membership in SoLAR. It is my great pleasure to present the Lifetime Member Award for 2022 to Dragan Gasevic.

6 LAK23 AND LASI22

Let's try again for face-to-face LAK23 in Kyoto, Japan – 6 to 10 March 2023. The theme is **“Toward Trustworthy Learning Analytics”**.

LASI22 is fully virtual from 21-25 June 2021 with 10 workshops and 10 tutorials to choose from beginner to intermediate levels.

7 OPEN DISCUSSION

Dragan Gasevic acknowledged that he was humbled by the award and suggested something the SoLAR Executive could consider was to include certificates not only for all the best papers, but for all the nominees as honorable mentions similar to other societies. It is a significant achievement to be shortlisted and could be more formally acknowledged.

The President thanked DG for the suggestion and said it would be formally considered by the Executive.



MEETING ADJOURNED at 5.55 pm