MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SOCIETY FOR LEARNING ANALYTICS RESEARCH

Date: March 6 2025, 12.30 pm GMT
Location: Dublin Royal Convention Centre
SoLAR Members attending: 250
SoLAR Executive attending: Bart Rienties, Blazenka Divjak, Ioana Jivet, Olga Viberg, Rogers Kaliisa, Mohammad Khalil, Abhinava Barthakur, Lisa Lim, Namrata Srivastava, Catherine Manly, Mladen Rakovic, Guanliang Chen, Maurice Boothe Jr., and Grace Lynch

Agenda

1 President Welcome – Professor Bart Rienties

Professor Rienties opened the AGM, thanking everyone for attending the conference.

2 Approval of minutes

Motion: Approve AGM Minutes from 2024 as circulated moved by Bart Rienties and seconded by Ioana Jivet. ***MOTION: PASSED***

3 President's report – Professor Bart Rienties

Professor Rienties thanked the hosts and organizing committee for LAK25, the SoLAR community, authors and reviewers and then proceeded to details for the Annual Report for 2024.

3.1 Solar Membership

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

Individual Members	291	Newsletter	Around 5,700
Student Members	164	Institutional	14

- Two new Institutional members: TU Dublin (IR) and University of California, Irvine (USA)

3.2 Overview of SoLAR financial position

Professor Rienties referred to the financial report that had been previously circulated to members. Summary from 2024 Financial Information presented as of 31 December 2024 in USD. Since USD are a more recognized global currency than CAD the financial reports going forward will be in USD.

- Net assets overall: $135,991
  - Revenue 2024: $400,291 (budgeted: $278,415; projected budget 2025: 345,304)
  - Expenses 2024: $408,196 (budgeted: $292,290; projected budget 2025: 372,600)
  - Net result 2024: -$7,905

While 2024 is the second year that SoLAR has shown an operational loss this is primarily due to costs for LAK25 brought forward to 2024. The projected budget for 2025 has taken into consideration the actuals from 2024 in estimating expected revenues from memberships, conference and sponsorships. Professor Rienties emphasized that SoLAR must be sustainable in the longer term and we need support from the community such as sponsorships for major events. Professor Rienties outlined SoLAR's strong commitment to supporting students and early career researchers to date with a total of $337,605 USD:

- LASI Eric Duval scholarship: $124,605 USD provided to support 149 students to date
- Doctoral Consortium scholarships: $173,800 USD provided to support 128 students
- LAK conference scholarships: $32,950 to support 121 recipients

- SoLAR membership scholarships: 118 recipients for a total of $6,250 USD

Motion: *To accept the 2024 Financial Report as circulated and presented moved by Bart Rienties and seconded by Abhinava Barthakur.* ***MOTION: PASSED***

3.3 Journal of learning analytics

JLA submissions have almost doubled in the past two years, with the acceptance rate remaining relatively stable and has a good standing among international journals. Gratitude was expressed to the JLA Co-Editors and reviewers for assisting this growth while maintaining high quality academic standards. The newest Co-Editor Professor Oleksandra Poquet was welcomed.

3.3 future of LAK proceedings

Results and analysis from the recent survey was presented and there was general agreement to continue with ACM for at least 2026 with the following provisos:

- Explore template options with ACM in order to maintain the same template/format from submission through to camera ready
- Provide additional upskilling options to support individuals through the TAPS process
- Explore with ACM maintaining the new reduced APC fee for LAK26
- Continue to explore proceedings options beyond LAK26

4 Goals for 2025 and onwards

4.1 Strategic Goals 2023 to 2025

Progress against goals include more support for local/regional LASIs, new 24 hour virtual event LAP, new SIG strategy, record number of submissions on the practitioners and the leadership academy. We still need to increase engagement with industry even with the small grant for a Tools competition, increased NEXUS blogs and webinars.

It has been 15 years since learning analytics was defined and it is timely for a review to see if it still holds true with all the changes and growth over this time. A small taskforce has been created to gather input from the broader community as well as original authors or the definition, institutional members, senior leaders, etc. In the short term it will provide input for the LAK26 call for papers regarding what is in and out of scope as well as determining if this is the first step in a longer discussion about the future of Learning Analytics.

4.2 Awards Committee

The Awards Committee works from LAK to LAK, sets-up awards and corresponding nomination processes and eligibility criteria. For 2024/2025 awarded two Emerging Scholar Awards: Sonsoles Lopez-Pernas (Europe) and Vanessa Echeverria (Australasia). The Community Work Award was presented to Shane Dawson.

Reviewer Awards from LAK PC Chairs:

- Best Senior Reviewer Award: Hendrik Drachsler
- Best Reviewer Award: Elizabeth Koh

JLA Reviewers from JLA editors:

- Outstanding Senior Reviewers: Roberto Martinez-Maldonado, Ryan Baker
- Outstanding Junior Reviewers: Stanislav Pozdnyakov, Conrad Bochers

4.3 Executive team 2025

Professor Rienties introduced the 2025 Office Bearers:

- **President:** Bart Rienties, The Open University, UK
- **Vice President:** Blaženka Divjak, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- **Vice President:** Mohammad Khalil, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden
- **Treasurer:** Abhinava Barthakur, University of South Australia, Australia
- **Secretary:** Namrata Srivastava, University of Pennsylvania, USA

2025 Members at Large are:

- Kathryn Bartimote, University of Sydney, Australia
- Marie Reid, EduLearn Connect, Bahamas
- Mladen Raković, Monash University, Australia
- Andrew Zamecnik, University of South Australia, Australia
- Guanliang Chen, Monash University, Australia
- Catherine Manly, Fairleigh Dickinson University, USA
- Maurice Boothe Jr, New York University, USA (Student Representative)

Professor Rienties presented Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition for Excellence in Service to Retiring Members –Ioana Jivet, Rogers Kaliisa, Olga Viberg, Lisa Angelique Lim. Next Nominations are in November 2025. Interested members are encouraged to approach current Executive Committee members.

5 Open Discussion

MEETING ADJOURNED at 1.30 pm GMT