



## **International Society for the Advancement of Emergy Research -- The Emergy Society**

### **Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Saturday, January 9, 2016**

#### **Opening the Meeting:**

ISAER President, **Tom Abel** convened the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of ISAER at 1:00 PM on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2016.

#### President's Address

Tom Abel then delivered the President's address, which traditionally opens all Emergy Society Annual Meetings. In his address, Tom set out his priorities for the Emergy Society in the coming year. Specifically, he expressed his desire that the Society have a real impact in promoting energy to the wider scientific community. While acknowledging the great progress being made in energy evaluation and environmental accounting, he expressed a desire to deepen our members' knowledge of H.T. Odum's primary achievement, Energy Systems Theory (EST) from which the ideas on emergy and transformity are derived. As one priority for ISAER in the coming year, he proposed that we work toward developing training opportunities for scientists to learn more about EST and how to apply it in their research. Next, Tom presented a list of six additional initiatives that he suggested will help ISAER achieve its mission. Tom's Presidential address is given in its entirety on our website, [www.emergysocoety.com](http://www.emergysocoety.com).

#### Secretary's State of the Society Report

Traditionally the ISAER Secretary gives a report on the state of the Society based on events that were recorded during the past year. Our current Secretary Hongfang Lu delivered this report following the Tom Abel's presidential address. Highlights of the past year included the following events the body of ISAER members voted online in January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to accept a revised set of by-laws that established a new protocol for electing members of the ISAER Executive Council among other changes. The Council will have 4 new members elected for 4 year terms every other year. During the same week in January 2015, the ISAER membership voted for 8 new members of the Executive Council following the approval of the new by-laws. Officers were

elected in March, and officially took over running the Emergy Society on July 17<sup>th</sup> 2015. The results of these elections are as follows:

- The Following Council members hold 2-year terms:
  - Agostinho, Feni D. R.
  - Campbell, Elliott T., Treasurer
  - Franzese, Pier Paolo
  - Ingwersen, Wesley
- The Following Council members hold 4-year terms:
  - Abel, Thomas, President
  - Almeida, Cecilia M.V.B.
  - Bastianoni, Simone, President-Elect
  - Lu, Hongfang, Secretary

Hongfang Lu's entire State of the Society report is reproduced on our website at [www.emergysociety.com](http://www.emergysociety.com).

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Elliott Campbell presented an income statement and balance sheet for ISAER as of January 9<sup>th</sup> 2016. He reported \$6605 in revenue for the past year including \$2705 in dues and \$3900 in donations. Expenses related to the Emergy Synthesis 9 conference were \$8711 including \$7653 in travel grants. Additional expenses for running the Society were \$2294 of which \$1854 was a prior commitment for completing our new website. The total on revenues and expenses for 2015 left ISAER with a loss of **\$4400** on the year. The balance sheet showed \$19,164 in assets and \$668 in liabilities for a net worth of \$18,496. The complete Treasurer's report is given in the Members' Area of [www.emergysociety.com](http://www.emergysociety.com).

#### Old Business

**Murray Patterson** – Report from International Conference Committee. Murray Patterson reported that the ISAER sponsored International Conference to be held in Beijing in July 2016 is on tract based on the international Conference organizing Committee meeting held in

December 2015 and reports delivered to the committee by Yang Zhifeng and Liu Gengyuan at that time.

**Don Blancher** – Report from Awards Committee. The Awards Committee received 15 applications for Travel Awards to attend Energy Synthesis 9. Of these 15 totaling \$23024 in requests 12 were students. Of the 12 student applicants, we were able to help 11 attend the conference. The Awards committee also awarded \$500 to recognize the best student posters presented at the conference as prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place and 6 Honorable Mentions.

**Brandon Winfrey** – Emery Society Database Report: There are 135 new users since the last ISAER conference. Of all 274 users, 74 have never logged in after having been granted access. Of the 200 "active" users, only 3 have commented on entries or added transformities. There has only been 1 transformity added since the last ISAER conference.

**Dan Campbell** – Report from the Website Committee Dan Campbell gave a detailed report on the development of our new web site, which can be found at [www.emerysociety.com](http://www.emerysociety.com). In addition, he demonstrated the use of the website and discussed its many features in an online presentation to the assembled ISAER members and guests.

## **New Business**

**Tom Abel** - Welcome Mark Brown as Emery Society Trustee

**Elliott Campbell** (Mark's student and ISAER Treasurer) – Present Mark with Emery Society Memorabilia and verbal tribute.

**Treasurer Elliott Campbell** – Special Thanks to our Major Donors:

Without the generosity of our major donors over the past 9 years the Emery Society would have been a much less effective organization. H.F. William Perk, Hija (Laura) Kim, Mary Odum, Blancher Enterprises, Betty Odum, Past President Yan Maochao, Milford Excelsior Company, Qin Pei, and Cornelius Crane. Special thanks to Don Blancher Enterprises, Yan Maochao, Betty Odum and Milford Excelsior Company (sustainable forestry), who contributed to this year's capital campaign funding student travel to this conference. We would not be able to carry out our mission without donor support.

**Don Blancher and Elliott Campbell** – Announce poster award winners and distribute prizes.

Honorable Mentions: Carlos Cezar da Silva, Kyung-Min Park, Xuechao Wang, Fernando Berrios Robles, Marina Oncken, Daniel Lupinacci

Third Place: Dong Joo Lee

Second Place: Luz S. Buller

First Place: Lucía Zarbá

**Dan Campbell** – Review existing committees, new committees, and ask for new members to volunteer. Communications Committee: Website; Standards Committee; Awards Committee.

Dan Zhu joined the Website committee as a result of this request.

**Marco Rauegi and Simone Bastianoni** – Standards Committee Discussion

Statement: In his presentation, Antonino Marvuglia identified three weaknesses in the energy methodology that prevent its wider and consistent use. 1) Semantic confusion in terms; 2) lack of standardization; 3) low transparency and completeness of calculation procedures. Accepting that these may be fair criticisms should the ISAER standards committee take on the task of producing a document that answers these concerns by establishing best practices with reasoned arguments? This document would be broadly vetted and corrected or issues elucidated within the society before publication.

While not acknowledging that Marvuglia's criticisms were entirely accurate, Marco and Simone lead a lively discussion on this topic. The end result was that the assembled members authorized the ISAER Standards Committee to investigate these concerns and to present a report to the membership at our 2018 meeting.

**President Tom Abel** – Adjourns meeting.