

- All participants agreed that paper proceedings are desirable.

There was a discussion of the most appropriate paper review process.

- Peer reviewed abstracts with comments provided authors for paper revisions would provide an adequate level of “peer review” and would not overburden organizers.
- There was a discussion about whether the paper needed to be submitted in advance of the conference so the proceedings would be available at the conference. If revisions are made post conference (or by the end of the conference) additional changes can be made to reflect comments made during paper sessions.
- A question that did not come up specifically was whether the person needed to attend the conference and present the paper in order for it to be published in the proceedings.
- Submitting full papers for peer review with comments was discussed. My sense was that people believed this might limit the number of participants.
- Reviewing the abstract and providing comments then reviewing the paper and providing comments provides a good level of peer review, but would create quite a lot of work and coordination for the conference organizers and reviewers.

Other suggestions included:

- Having fewer, more selective papers reviewed for publication
- Doing Pod casts from the conference
- Actively solicit/encourage calls for sessions, etc.

I spoke with several people who were unable to attend the focus session and will add their names to the list of those who completed the survey

Results of Survey

There were 19 respondents to the survey.

15 respondents expressed an interest in participating in the 2009 Conference as presenter, session organizer, etc.

Two people indicated they were interested in the possibility of being webmaster: Mate Thitisawat from Florida Atlantic University, and Terri Meyer Boake, University of Waterloo and current president of SBSE. Both presented papers at the Conference. Diane followed up with both people later at the conference.

Two people indicated they are interested in serving on the board of directors, and two as an officer (one at some time in the future).

Richard Hayes, representing AIA, indicated his interest in sponsorship of BTES or symposium.

BTES Focus Session Notes

3/27/08

ACSA National Conference

Houston, TX



19 attendees at focus group, 4 additional personal follow-ups

Diane Armpriest led a focus session for the BTES and provided an update on BTES activities to date. The power point is available on the yahoo site. There continues to be interest in the new organization, and many of those who attended had participated in the 2006 Symposium and/or are already on the list serve. Pat Tripany, who continues to host the Yahoo listserv, took cards from several in attendance to get them on the list serve. All participants were also surveyed and the results of the survey are provided at the end of this report.

Copies of the flyer were also made available at the ACSA table. It would be advisable next year to try to schedule the focus session mid conference so more people are able to attend.

Some of the ideas for the organization are to:

- Provide Links to firms/sponsors/mentors. Some of the names suggested are ARUP, Bollinger (BNG engineering), Buro Happold, Permasteelisa, Webcor, Mortensen.
- The group should be a complement to ACSA, and advocate for technology education. This might include getting a session at ACSA called "Best of BTES" at ACSA
- There was a comment that the group should try to maintain focus and avoid getting spread too thin.
- Christine Theodoropoulis suggested that BTES might be a good group to re-energize "The Connector". She doesn't have enough time to work on this, but there are resources for publication. Perhaps have a BTES Co-editor.
- Could this take on a Newsletter function? Comments that this might not be timely for some announcements and the list serve could provide more immediate response for things such as job announcements.
- Attendees liked the idea of having the btes.org web site
- Some resources BTES could facilitate – new faculty mentorship, test banks

After the meeting and during subsequent sessions, Diane talked with a number of people who were unable to attend, and provided them with copies of the flyer. In addition, she identified a number of paper

Some ideas for the next symposium/conference:

There seemed to be universal support for holding the 2009 conference. Diane solicited input by asking a series of questions of participants (see powerpoint)

- Make sure not to provide too many limitations on attendance and participation.
- Have several methods for participation: presentations, peer reviewed papers, posters or teaching gifts, Interactive sessions/workshops
- Nomination/recognition process for best paper, etc.
- It would be good to have invited sessions led by people with lots of contacts. This would be a good way to spread the word as well as provide a level of focus to the conference.