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BSCES Plus One

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For the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section (BSCES), 1972-73 is the year of decision in which the Boston Society of Civil Engineers and the Massachusetts Section, ASCE agreed to merge; 1973-74 is the year of preparation in which the two organizations planned for the consummation of the merger; and 1974-75 is the year of implementation in which the actual process of merger was carried out to a successful completion. I would like to take this opportunity to review with you briefly the major activities and accomplishments of the past year. I will conclude my talk with some personal observations as to the immediate future directions for the BSCES.

I. MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. *Membership*

The current dues-paying members number 1,605. Comparing to last year's 1,141, the dues-paying members increased by a total of 464.

The Merger Committee estimated for the first year of BSCES a total of 1,350 dues-paying members; the estimate was exceeded by 255. It is gratifying to have this tremendous support from the membership.

2. *Financial Conditions*

The total receipt from membership dues was \$25,254, which exceeded the Merger Committee's estimate by more than \$5,000.

Despite extraordinary expenditures for the merger (including computerization of membership records, legal and auditing fees, etc.), last year's operation required the transfer of only \$1,200 from the income of various trust funds to meet the expenses without drawing on the principal of the Permanent Fund. This is attributable to the transfer of the \$7,200 balance from the treasury of the Massachusetts Section, ASCE. Nevertheless, the budget for the next seven months, to the end of the revised fiscal year, indicates that we will not need to use the principal of the Permanent Fund to meet operating expenses.

Since all the other officers have been serving the BSCES without compensation, the Board of Government voted that the Secretary, Treasurer and Journal Editor will no longer receive stipends beginning next fiscal year.

3. *Office Operation*

By a stroke of luck, Mrs. Charlotte Dalrymple became available when we made a change in the position of Administrative Secretary. Since September 1974, she has put the office operation in an excellent condition.

The membership records have all been computerized.

4. *Program*

The BSCES program was as strong as ever, if not stronger. During the past year, the technical program included 26 Technical Group meetings, four Geotechnical Forums, and one Lecture Series on Deep Foundations attended by more than 200 people. Both the Structural and Environmental Groups are planning special lecture series during the next fiscal year. The Professional Engineer Examination Review Course was again offered in the Fall and Spring. Social events included the Dinner Dance, Student Night and Annual Meeting. A seminar was also presented during the Engineers' Week.

5. *Information Dissemination*

During the year, four issues of the *Journal* and four issues of the newsletter *Forum* were published. Monthly mailings containing meeting notices and other information were made to members.

6. *Public Services*

The Seismic Design Criteria Task Committee prepared the bases for the seismic provisions of the new Massachusetts State Building Code and is continuing assistance to the State Building Code Commission in implementing, interpreting or revising the seismic provisions.

The Geotechnical Group has organized a special task committee to review the foundation section of the new code.

The Environmental and Geotechnical Groups organized a special task committee to assist the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in preparing a manual on subsurface sewage disposal.

7. *ASCE National Representation*

The continuation of the excellent representation on ASCE National afforded by Chan Rogers, one of our members, has been assured, as another one of our members, Jack Cusack, has been elected as the official nominee for the District 2 Director.

8. *Student Activities*

The vitality and enthusiasm of the students are most refreshing. The Northeastern University Student Chapter prepared the excellent New England Employer Survey for Civil Engineers which received national recognition.

At its meeting about two weeks ago, the ASCE Board of Direction awarded Certificates of Commendation to three student chapters in our section: those of Lowell Technological Institute, Merrimack College and Northeastern University. An Honorable Mention award went to the University of Massachusetts chapter at Amherst. It is indicative of the high level of student activity in our Section that four of the eight student chapters were honored by ASCE National.

9. *Disadvantaged Youth Program*

The disadvantaged youth program was reactivated. The program aimed at placing disadvantaged youths for employment by different engineering organizations. Despite the poor economic conditions, the initial attempt was successful in locating seven engineering firms in the Boston area with firm commitments of a job opportunity.

10. *ASCE National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark Designation*

Until recently, there was only one historical engineering achievement in Massachusetts designated by ASCE as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. At its meeting about two weeks ago, the ASCE Board of Direction approved our application and designated the Lawrence Experiment Station as the second such landmark in our area. In addition, the Granite Railway in Quincy has been submitted to ASCE National for designation and the application for the Hoosac Tunnel is being prepared.

11. *Engineering Societies of New England, Inc.*

The Board of Government decided to discontinue the BSCES' membership in the Engineering Societies of New England, Inc. (ESNE). The principal reasons were that BSCES could not effectively utilize the services offered by ESNE and the money for ESNE membership dues could be used more beneficially to finance our own activities.

II. IMMEDIATE FUTURE DIRECTIONS

1. *Finance*

It is very clear that if the operation of BSCES is not modified, deficit spending will be a way of life. Fortunately, BSCES does have some limited resources. The major question is how should the income and principal of the trust funds be utilized. The largest BSCES trust is the Freeman Fund with a current income of about \$4,000 per year. I realize that there are limitations in the trust stipulation. However, I would like to suggest that the Trustees of Freeman Fund consider the feasibility of being more responsive to local needs. In their deliberations, I would further suggest that they keep in mind the following thought: "If the BSCES becomes defunct, what will be the use of the Trust Fund?"

The future BSCES administrations should strive to preserve the principal of the trust funds through conservative and professional management. I suggest that a review of the goals and performance of our present investment management be undertaken to investigate whether improvement in management is possible.

2. *Journal*

The status of the *Journal* was reviewed. In view of the recent merger, the Board of Government decided that the current publication policy should be maintained. However, I would like to suggest that, in the near future, an indepth and broad-based study, including input from the general membership, be undertaken to determine whether it is warranted to commit sizable effort and financial support for its continued publication.

3. *Younger Members*

One of my major disappointments is my inability to get more younger members interested in the BSCES activities. It appears that the only subject of interest to many of them is salary. It is a shame that we have such an active student group but we cannot maintain their enthusiasm after they leave school. Unfortunately I do not have any suggestions. I sincerely hope that the future BSCES administrations can find some solutions.

4. *Salary Guidelines*

Speaking of salary, the implementation of the guidelines appears to be somewhat stalled under the current poor economic conditions. Additional efforts are needed.

5. *Program*

One of the strongest BSCES features is the excellent program being offered to the members. In addition, I would like to suggest that BSCES

consider the offering of some non-technical continuing education programs which are not available from local colleges and universities. Joint meetings with other professional organizations should also be increased.

Because of inflation, the dinners for some of the Technical Group meetings were deleted in order to encourage attendance. The dinners do serve a useful purpose for social interaction and idea exchange among the members. Therefore, I suggest that each Technical Group assess the results of deleting the dinner from its meeting.

6. Membership

Every effort should be made to preserve the current membership, and additional concerted attempts should be undertaken to encourage those non dues-paying members assigned by ASCE National to join the local section.

7. Political Arena and Public Image

The public image of the engineer has been under attack recently. Traditionally, BSCES has stayed away from the activities in the political arena. If we do not do anything about it, the engineer's destiny will be determined by politicians and other non-professionals. In order that engineering can remain as a viable profession, we must be more active in this area.

In summary, the first year of BSCES has been a success due to the efforts of the Section Officers, Board Members, Technical Group Officers, Editors, Committee Chairmen and Members, many other Section Members, and office staff. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for your continuous support throughout the year.