

Engineer's Council Board meeting
March 10, 2026

In person: Stephen Guine (President), Jackie Zev (Secretary), Marek Barylak (Treasurer), Sonja Domazet, Chyrl Yeats, Rudy Montalvo

Online: Noelle Saccoccio (Vice President), Ken Davis, Michael Yao, Connor Reyes, Connor Davainis, Melody Wachtel, Justin Diaz

Meeting started 7:18 pm

Action items from past Board meetings

Action items from the April 2024 Board meeting

Sonja to follow up with Florida WRT charitable giving

Action items from the April 2025 Board meeting

Stephen to start a scholarship awardee CRM database

Action items from the May 2025 Board meeting

Ken to send Stephen the history of the STEM educator award

Sonja to tell Chris that he should submit a letter from a society of which he is a member

Action items from the August 2025 Board meeting

Noelle to propose a bylaws change to say that we should analyze our finances every year

Stephen to make it possible for people to pay for and upload an ad using a website

Action items from the October meeting

Marek to connect Paypal to the Bank account –

Marek to transfer funds from Paypal to Bank account

Noelle to create Bylaws wording authorizing Student representatives

Marek to generate a prediction on banquet cost given a number of variables

Action items from the November meeting

Stephen to draft a letter explaining that in addition to the check, EC scholarships represent an opportunity – first draft done

Stephen to add ability to sign up for ads to the webpage

Stephen to add tiers of sponsorships to the webpage

Action items from the January meeting

~~Stephen to recontact charities after banquet~~—OBE

Action items from the February meeting

Noelle to propose a bylaws change vis-à-vis student members that graduate

Minutes – accepted as written

Treasurer's report –

Action: Marek to correct treasurer's report as discussed

Action: Anyone who needs to be reimbursed to submit receipts (Jackie, Sonja)

Action: Marek and Sonja to meet with regard to invoicing

Student Reps –

Students are in finals right now

Students enjoyed banquet and got a lot out of it.

Plans for future: more professional development and networking

Paige has an internship

Connor Reyes is now located in the Bay Area

Connor Reyes spoke to Chaminade to give them feedback on how valuable his scholarship has been

Connors are Interested in expanding the student rep program

Banquet

Team awards

Discussion on some team awards missing team member names in the program

Companies can also print their own certificates for team members who weren't present

Feedback

Only 3 survey responses right after banquet, but more have come in since then

The 3 were all positive

Everything looked really good – room layout was good

Room was on the bright side, but stage lighting wasn't quite right (dark on the left)

Flowed very nicely

People dressed better: there were more tuxedos, and nobody wearing khaki pants

Stephen suggested that we don't obtain a meal for him, because he doesn't eat it anyway

Been getting feedback people (especially young people) that they really liked it

Plus ones weren't bored

Thought Connor spoke well

Was impressed with how accurate the timing was

Thought Jackie spoke well

Liked the black background – thought it looked very professional

There were some lighting issues on the stage

Some people didn't know how to leave the stage – but it didn't matter

Thought the handling of bringing people to have photographs taken went really well

Got compliments on the salmon and the chicken; beef was OK

Air conditioning was problematic after the dinner

Room felt full and energy was good

Students were amazing

Liked that the podium was on the right, so everyone lined up on one side of the podium

but the lighting was problematic

One bar had a dedicated person on the register, and that worked much better than the others

Drinks were expensive

Parking – they had validation stickers at checkin, which was great

Got a validation sheet at the end and handed out stickers
Need to remind people during dinner to get their validation sticker
There was a problem using the validation sticker if you stayed for the after party
It said it was already used.
Had to get an attendant, who wanted us to pay again, but we had already paid
Now that we have more student involvement, we can make the setup and clean up smoother
The students would like to help the people setting up ease the load on the principles
Action: Connor Reyes to write up his suggestions on setup and tear down
Check in went well (once we had names in the app)
It would be good if there could be fewer button clicks
Energy in the room was really good
Shout out to the students!
Felt we had the right amount of students for setup and teardown
Felt speakers were really good this year
Moving the backdrop to the lobby afterwards worked at getting people off the stage
Liked having a wider stage
Stephen blended into the background
Having photographers both at backdrops and also in the room was great
A few tables emptied out near the end of the event
Maybe have company reps give feedback to mgmt to ask their people to support everyone
Possibly have AV sponsor their own award
Volunteers did a great job!
Last year we had a different AV, different setup, so shouldn't compare to last year
This year we went back to the previous year's company, but there was a new contact person
Need to give them material a couple of days in advance
Liked the size of the stage (40 feet)
Did not like that there were no hand rails (which we request and don't get every year)
Sonja worked with company reps to ensure that speakers understood the theme
That worked well
Slides need to be proofed
There was a very small issue with people coming after registration had closed
Maybe have a sign saying "See <name of person> at <table #> after registration closes
Looking into replacing the current 8x20 backdrop with two 8x20 backdrop (or maybe two 10x20s)
No podium cover/drape – hotel doesn't provide one – we should get one with our logo
Photographer had a QR code so you can see the photos right after they've been taken
Should ask him for it and put cards on the table with the QR code
They took almost 2600 pictures – significantly more than previous years
Organizing the companies to take pictures at the end worked very well
Also it encouraged people to stay to the end
Only one award was not given out at the banquet – Educator of the Year award
It was given to a student to take to the professor, so no shipping cost

Charitable Giving

Scholarships

Applications due Friday, 5pm

We only have 8 applications from 6 schools; usually have 2-3 times that at this time

Rudy sent a reminder to the schools

Action: Rudy to send another reminder to counselors

Discussion on whether to extend deadline – decided not to

Discussion on whether to increase scholarships if we don't get the budgeted number of app
decided to defer that decision

Discussion on whether lowering the amount to \$300 affected whether students applied

Mathcounts

Eli spoke of Mathcounts at the banquet

There are extra T-shirts

The budget is now \$3500 – has increased a lot since Eli has taken leadership

Tech Trek

Action: Jackie to send Marek Zelle information for AAUW-SFV

Correspondence –

Digital (Website, Facebook, email, etc.)

Presented EC 2026 Strategic Vision and Ops Plan - outline

Mission Goal

Mission Objectives

Enabling Activities

Store key documents in Annual Folder

Update bylaws

Apply for free/discounted services

Develop "Annual calendar"

Develop Sponsor Acquisition Plan

Develop expanded Banquet calendar

Define Technical Architecture, Services, and data flow

MarCom Refresh

Wants to implement a professional CRM

Wants to update the website –

wants it up by the end of June

content would have to be done by the end of May

Action: Sonja to send Stephen the Mailchimp login

Wants to build an Awards database

Hopefully we can load the programs into AI and have AI generate the data

Action: Stephen to send out the Vision and Plan

Good and Welfare

Happy International Women's Day

Stephen daughter was accepted to Northwestern to get a Master's in Arts management
Rudy's daughter left JPL and is now working for Second Order Effects
Connor is starting Monday at Lockheed Sunnyvale

Correspondence

Got a letter from the Post Office saying that rates are going up, but can renew now at old rate

Action: Marek to renew PO Box through September 2027

Old Business:

New Business:

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 pm

Next Board meeting: April 14, 2026