WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Rob Manning, President, welcomed members to the meeting and read out the apologies for absence. He drew attention to the Chief Executive's report, which had been circulated but would not be presented to the meeting due to the quantity of other business.

Rob Manning went on to introduce Professor Rao Bhamidimarri, Executive Dean of the Engineering, Science and Built Environment, LBSU, and invited him to address the meeting.

THE FUTURE OF LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY

Professor Rao Bhamidimarri addressed the meeting, focussing on the issues of LSBU which were of most interest to the Institution. He referred to the heritage of the University and the long connection with CIBSE, although most staff were relatively recent. LSBU had four faculties, each of which was a large enterprise, with Building Services residing within Engineering, Science and Built Environment. LSBU had recently taken a new direction, with a new Vice-Chancellor, Martin Earwicker and senior team, and with the need to deal with changing expectations and financial challenges.

The LSBU corporate plan for 2009 to 2012 was built on the principle of ‘students first.’ Universities were now having to operate with the disciplines of a business, and needed to work closely with the professions. There were many challenges, including funding: limits on home student numbers and uncertainty over overseas student numbers; increased competition; impact of the credit crunch on part time students; increasing student expectations; continuing uncertainty over HE policy; and inflexibility of the sector.

Reference was made to the decline in student numbers in Engineering and Technology in the last ten years, which was a considerable challenge; this may reflect the much wider variety of courses available. Part time student numbers had also dropped, reflecting the economic circumstances. However, increased student and government focus on employability provided opportunities for LSBU, as did the focus on the importance of applied research.

LSBU was committed to widening participation, even though this did not help with league table placement, and it was important to strike a balance with the maintenance of standards.

The Urban Engineering department included Building Services and Civil Engineering, and saw opportunities for development in Facilities Management, Asset Management, Maintenance Engineering, Environmental Engineering and other areas. It was felt that there would be more and more investment in maintenance and refurbishment compared with new build, and there would also be opportunities in transport. The Building Services programme would continue to be a critical component of the engineering portfolio, being the best recognised programme within it. He expected that there would be a focus on energy research and development, and numerous opportunities for multi-disciplinary developments including IT, materials, water and waste.

There were many opportunities for continued LSBU / CIBSE partnership working, including CPD, overseas training, knowledge transfer programmes, professional engineering Masters, consulting, conference organisation and industry focussed publications. There was also scope for collaboration on applied research.

He concluded by saying that Building Services Engineering remained a key component of the department, and LSBU valued the strong bond with CIBSE.

In response to questions, Professor Bhamidimarri confirmed that postgraduate numbers had also decreased in recent years, particularly in terms of home students, with an increasingly percentage of overseas students.
Whilst overseas students were welcome, there was concern about developing skills within the home student population. It was suggested that postgraduate study was not valued in the UK, and was not perceived by students as improving their employability.

It was noted that in the last two or three years there had been some increase in engineering students, following twenty years of slow decline, however this increase was concentrated in particular areas. It was also noted that building services engineering students at LSBU had increased its numbers since 2000, contrary to the general trend.

It was noted that whilst Building Services Engineers were well placed to deal with society’s needs, there remained a shortage of students, and many employers did not seek to employ graduates with first degrees in Building Services Engineering. It was also pointed out that the large majority of building services students were part time student, which brought knowledge into the department, and LSBU would welcome input from the Institution on the industry’s needs.

Rob Manning thanked Professor Bhamidimarri for his contribution, and invited Alan Tulla of SLL to address the meeting.

REPORTS FROM CIBSE SOCIETIES

Society of Light and Lighting

Alan Tulla addressed the meeting, thanking his predecessor and HQ for resolving the budgetary position of the society over the last year. SLL had just celebrated its centenary year, which had commenced with an event on Good Lighting with less energy which involved UK and overseas speakers. SLL had also hosted the CIBSE Annual Lecture at the Royal Institution, and held its Centenary Dinner at the Criterion, where the first event of the Illuminating Engineering Society had been held.

Reference was made to the Young Lighter of the Year award, which had been presented in February, with more entries than ever received. Many entrants were from overseas, and there had been considerable breadth of subject matter. The Lighting Design Awards were also mentioned, as was the Ready, Steady, Light event at Rose Bruford College which generated much enthusiasm.

The success of the SLL handbook, which had sold 500 copies, was also noted. It was noted that one of the issues for lighting was that there was no alternative to using energy, and the big challenge was to produce good, safe lighting whilst minimising its environmental impact. It was not possible to make light fittings much more efficient, and controls would be a key element in future energy saving, as would daylighting and the design of facades.

Society of Public Health Engineers

Chris Northey addressed the meeting, drawing attention to the aims of SoPHE to support the wider public Health Engineering industry and to promote good Public Health Engineering design. The structure of the Society was noted, and the classes of membership offered. SoPHE has 172 members, and also had an Industrial Affiliates scheme to involve the industry. Membership included overseas members, and the website was attracting more interest from overseas audiences. The work of the Education Working Group was noted, with successful Young Engineers awards run in 2008 and 2009. The 2010 Award would be for innovation in Public Health Engineering. The Group had also been involved in developing the Public Health Engineering / Water Degree at the University of Greenwich. Distance learning was also being considered in partnership with others.

Regarding technical development and support, the regular newsletter was noted, as were the technical seminars run in CIBSE regions. Advice was also provided to government panels. The Industry Working Group was a key source of technical support and information, and actively supported SoPHE’s activities. There were a number of SoPHE regions, and it was hoped to develop this regional activity further.

Within CIBSE itself, SoPHE sought to support Regions, Groups and other Societies, to work with HQ to raise awareness and profile, to participate on CIBSE Council, and to provide technical input on industry guidance and standards, including CIBSE Guide G.
Sustainability was now a key part of Public Health Engineering, and practitioners were more and more involved with this. SoPHE would try to provide leadership in identifying appropriate solutions. The 8th Annual Dinner would be held in November, and the Society would continue to support Water Aid.

Outside relationships included a large number of industry bodies, with whom SoPHE worked to raise profile and standards in the profession. It was hoped to build on this in current years, whilst continuing to grow the membership, develop regions and promote education.

**Society of Façade Engineering**

Ant Wilson addressed Council, in place of Mikkel Kragh. The Society had 225 members, almost 40% of whom were based outside the UK. Performance based design of Facades had prompted the creation of the Society, which held regular technical events mainly in London, and at events promoted by other organisations. A conference had been held in 2009 in Dubai, to promote growth here, and a Summer Walking tour held in London viewing Facades prior to a number of talks. There was a regional steering committee in Hong Kong which was developing activity there. The AGM for 2010 was held at RIBA, and was following by a debate on the challenges and opportunities for the discipline and the Society. Attention was drawn to links with RIBA, IStructE, universities and the industry.

Particular attention was drawn to efforts to strengthen SFE internationally; the need to reach out to other Institutions, possible developments of Membership classes with CIBSE membership, and the need to look at operating budgets for coming years.

Rob Manning introduced Professor Doug King, University of Bath RAEng Visiting Professor of Building Engineering Physics.

**ENGINEERING A LOW CARBON BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Professor King addressed the meeting, introducing his report ‘Engineering a Low Carbon Built Environment.’ He referred to the importance of Building Engineering Physics, pointing out the likely shortfall in global oil supply of up to 25% in the future. The UK’s targets for carbon emission reductions were huge, and examples were given of the measures that would be needed to achieve them through renewable energy. There was a huge opportunity for engineers to make an impact, however the industry suffered from skill shortages. The Arup Foundation Report in 1999 had identified the need for increased numbers of Building Services graduates, however there continued to be a great shortage of courses; only 3 MEng Full Time courses in Building Services engineering existed in the UK, compared with 100 for Civil and Structural Engineering. The Royal Academy Scheme for visiting professors in Building Physics Engineering was set up to introduce BS Engineering to the brightest Civil and Structural engineering students at the best universities and to encourage uptake of careers in BS Engineering. The Visiting Professors had been established at the Universities of Sheffield, Cambridge, Bristol and Bath. Bath had the only combined department of Architecture and Civil Engineering in the country, with a common syllabus in the first year. Bath was rated 1st for Architecture and 3rd for Civil Engineering in the country, with no recruitment problems and high entry standards. He described the integrated approach in the education of Architects and Engineers in the department, however the industry continued to work in separate silos. He argued for an overlapping field of Building Physics, which he believed should be within CIBSE’s sphere of work. In terms of the design and construction process, this discipline would fill the gaps that existed in terms of good systems design, including performance specification and post occupancy feedback.

It was noted that 15,000 copies of the report had been distributed in print with many more electronically, and much feedback had been received. The RAEng had endorsed CIBSE as the Professional Institution of low carbon, despite CIBSE’s low representation in the RAEng. The Chief Scientific advisor had endorsed the report, and recommendations were included in the Low Carbon IGT report to Government. CIBSE was considering funding for an additional VP post, and RAEng would match any further industry funding for VPs post for post.
Bath and RAE were preparing an economic case for Centres of Excellence, based on skills shortages in the sector. RAE would also be lobbying government to fund Centres of Excellence in BEP, which could produce 300 to 400 graduates per year, as well as PhDs and research. Bath was planning to develop a Centre for Low Carbon Integrated Design, a model which could also be applied at Sheffield and Cambridge, with an emphasis on teaching holistic design across the board.

The economic case needed to quantify the immediate skills gap in BSE & Low Carbon, in terms of both breadth and depth, forecasting requirements for 5, 10 and 20 years and establishing likely uptake.

He expressed an ambition for CIBSE to be the “Chartered Institution for Building Science and Engineering.” He felt CIBSE had lost its way as a learned institution, citing the output of the CIBSE conferences of 10 years ago compared with those of today. CIBSE should be at the forefront of Low Carbon knowledge, research and education.

Members discussed the issues, and it was suggested that BS needed to appeal to the ideals of young people in attracting them to the industry, by making the connections with low carbon and environmental issues. It was also pointed out that there was a skills gap at non-degree level, with the former polytechnics no longer addressing this, having become universities and being driven by research assessment and degree education. It was noted that this was included in identifying the breadth and depth of the skills gap.

Issues of building quality were discussed, as this area was a problem with cost having been squeezed out at every level. It was suggested that CIBSE should be helping to expose bad practice and competitive in-fighting that resulted in poor value for the customer.

Rob Manning thanked Doug King for his presentation, and summed up the meeting output. He believed that CIBSE could make a contribution to the development at LSBU, and referred to the input received from the three Societies, and to Doug King’s contribution. Stephen Matthews invited further feedback from Council members, stressing the need to develop interaction with the Council.